

Minutes of St Andrew's PCC Meeting Held on 30th June 2016 @ 8pm.

In Attendance: Paul Adams (Treasurer), Diane Balchin, Sarah Bankhead, Debby Barnes (Church Warden), Sharon Blackshaw, Stephen Blackshaw, Wendy Busby (Secretary), Carol Fuller, Gay Howard, Ian Jurd (Church Warden and Chairman), Betty Plant and Sue Stiles.

1. Opening Prayer : IJ opened in prayer

2. Apologies for Absence from Pat Mitchell, Patrick Busby and Adrian Barnes.

We have 4 new members wishing to join the PCC. Diane Balchin, Sue Stiles, Sarah Bankhead, and Sharon Blackshaw who were all proposed by IJ. **All were in favour.** The nomination forms were signed at the meeting. IJ has met Ed and Margaret Pruen. They are settling in well, but would prefer to have some time to concentrate on setting up their new home before getting fully involved with benefice activities. The Licensing service is on Tuesday 19th July.

3. Church Hall : The Church hall report was read by IJ. Pat reports that only 3 out of a total of 4 hours of bookings would have to be cancelled for the renovation of the hall's floor. There now are a couple of slots free during the week for regular users. Pat has put a small free advert in the Villager. **DB** suggests paying for a larger half page advert in the Villager, Four Marks News or Medstead times. The PCC wished to know why the 'Line Dancing' group had stopped booking the hall. It was suggested that after 20 years of booking the hall they have now decided to move on to a different premises. **WB** will let Pat know what we have decided.

4. Minutes of last PCC meeting and Matters Arising: All were happy with the minutes. The Minutes were signed and agreed by IJ. He has been looking into the matter of the hall tables raised by the art group. He has seen similar tables to the ones we have but smaller. The art group have found the current ones quite stiff and hard to put up. It would cost us approximately £500 to get the extra tables required. The PCC were concerned that there was inadequate storage available for the extra tables. IJ was not keen to take this any further as in general the current tables are very effective and manageable with 2 people setting them up. It is not worth the investment for just one group. **DB** suggests that Pat Mitchell writes to Art Club regarding this issue. **WB** will advise Pat of the PCC's decision. **DB** had raised the issue of the '*freehold property*' mentioned in the last financial statement. **PA** has confirmed that the freehold property is the Church Hall. The Karamoja collection taken on the 1st May raised £442.50. A cheque for this amount was signed on 15th May. David Hayward has now stood down from his position on the PCC and his duties as our Karamoja Representative. IJ has thanked David for all his hard work over the last 9 years. A Thank You card is to be signed by PCC members and sent to the Haywards. IJ will also send a letter of thanks on behalf of the PCC.

5. Correspondence: An email has been sent to various members of the Church by musician Joanna Lewis, who wishes to give a 'free concert' in return for board and lodging. It is part of a musical pilgrimage between London and Wells. The concert would have taken place on either the 19th or 20th July. The PCC felt that although a very appealing idea, this would clash with Ed's Licensing service, and would be more appropriate for another time. **WB** will inform Joanna of the PCC's decision and thank her for contacting us.

6. Reports

6.1 Finance. PA had no report available but can confirm that as of the 3rd June, the amount in general funds was £24, 226 in credit. **PA** wanted to raise subject of the Parish Share. We have been moved to Band G by the diocese. They have asked us to tell them if we disagree with the decision. We will continue to pay the same as last year. We have not yet replied yet to the diocese, though

the deadline for appeals has now passed. **PA** reports that we will continue to pay the same amount as previously as our congregation's disposable income does not meet band G's standards. The Affluence rating depends on income and house value. The other parishes of Shalden, Lasham, and Bentworth have agreed to be listed as band G. We will be in deficit as we have decided not to pay the increased amount. **DB** says that in order to appeal against the new rating, we need to supply the diocese with documentation providing evidence of the disposable income of our parishioners, or current house values. **PA** is very happy to liaise with the diocese but he is firm in the opinion that this is a voluntary contribution. We will however pay an increase linked to inflation. **PA** says that there should be no invasion of people's privacy and they should not be forced to divulge any data. **DB** says £11 per week per person is current donation. This amount will have to increase if we are to meet our target. **PA** says that there are only a couple of donors who give significant amounts. If they stop those donations, we will be in a vulnerable. There is a lot of pressure put on too few. One of Ed's challenges will be to get more parishioners attending services. **IJ** wanted to know the actual increase. **PA** confirmed that the share will go from £47,000 to £52,000. We currently pay 50% of the benefice share. **PA** proposes that we come to a decision about the parish share at the next meeting. He will circulate a report in the meantime. **WB** will send out the finance report. **DB** is concerned about St Andrew's position regarding the Parish Share as this is Anthony Smith's department. **IJ** says that we will send a letter to the diocese to confirm that we will be discussing this issue at our next meeting. **PA** is also happy to send an email confirming this.

6.2 Fabric. **IJ** informs us that the church room is coming along well. All the new windows have been fitted, and a new kitchen has been put in. One toilet has been taken out to become a new store cupboard. New plug sockets, down lighters and a new carpet are still to be installed. **IJ** says that they are still looking for extra help with the renovations. It was suggested that **IJ** contacts David Stiles or Nathan Smoothy. The cost of the renovations will slightly exceed the £4000 budget. We have an agreement with diocese for a 7 year lease – free of rent, provided that we pay for renovations. The cost will be split between the other parishes. Shalden is currently exempt from making any contributions. The reason being that they feel it is unfair due to the fact that they only have 20 or so parishioners and very few Baptisms, Weddings, or Funerals. They are capable of handling all the administration on their own. It has been decided that no further action will be taken for the time being. There are now only 3 churches contributing to the costs Involved with a ratio of 50% from St Andrew's and 25% each from Lasham and Bentworth. The new facility will be known as 'The Benefice Hub', which is also where the new Church Administrator will be based. We have yet to work out how many hours will be needed and therefore the cost of wages. This will be decided once Ed takes up his duties. The extra cost incurred will mean that we will have fewer reserves available to carry out the maintenance on the Church Hall. **IJ** feels that we should suspend the renovation work on the hall floor until next year. **DB** agrees that this would be a sensible option. Our current cleaner is doing a great job of maintaining the hall's floor. Sharon Blackshaw was concerned about the ongoing problem with the lack of hot water as it is unfair to users. **DB** also confirmed that the provision of hot water is a legal requirement. **IJ** says that we could continue to look into this, but he will need help with sorting out the installation of a water softener to fix the problem of the lime scale build up. Stephen Blackshaw is happy to find a plumber, and liaise with David Hayward who has plenty of experience with choosing water softeners. We would be looking at costs of around £1200 to carry out the work needed. Manufacturers Harvey's or Kinetco have been previously suggested.

6.3 Social. The report from the last Social Committee meeting on 19th May was read out by Sharon Balckshaw . The Flower festival raised approximately £1600 in total. A highly successful event, which made £1200 after the expenses had been paid for the flowers. **DB** reports that buying flowers has got more expensive now that Sainsbury's are no longer passing on their older stocks of flowers to the arrangers. **DB** suggests putting an extra £200 into the flower fund. This would help to cover the cost of flowers incurred by the arrangers. Many don't claim expenses, and pick flowers from their own gardens. They should be offered to be reimbursed especially out of season, when more supplies have to be purchased and for important festivals such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Sharon proposes that Marion Slater should be contacted regarding a flower budget as there is no restricted fund at present. **DB will let Marion know that there will be a fund which can be accessed for expenses incurred by the flower arranging team.** The next event planned by the Social Committee is the Annual Hog Roast moved to 30th July. There is a 'Murder Mystery evening' Planned for 1st October, followed by the November Jumble Sale, Annual Recital and Christmas Tree Festival. **PA** wished to know if the 'Carols on the Green' event would be happening again? We believe this will take place again this year, and the Committee will be careful not to arrange any events which may clash.

6.4 Karamoja : The situation will be reviewed with Ed at the next meeting. **WB** will ensure that everyone gets a copy of David Hayward's last report. **IJ** says that we need another member to go on link committee to act as our Karamoja Representative if other churches have not replaced David already. **GH** said that deanery talked about this, and they have confirmed the need for another person to help. **DB will ask AB to put an advert into the pew sheet.**

7. Open the book. Carol Fuller updated the PCC regarding the work she has done with with Wilma Hainsworth and Sarah Bankhead. Carol goes into Medstead Primary School every Wednesday. The Head teacher made a useful comment regarding the bibles given to year 6 leavers. It was felt that a more modern and up to date version may be preferable. The Head suggested the 'Action Bible' which she has personally used. The Action Bible devotional is more interactive and offers a year's programme of activities and games to take part in. They cost £5 as opposed to the £13 we currently spend. **PA** wanted to know how quickly could we get them? Carol is happy to order a sample now to review. There will be 31 pupils in year 6 class this year which would cost the Church £155 to buy all the bibles needed. On Friday 1st July year 4 pupils from the school will be coming to St Andrew's for a special service in the evening which Carol will be officiating at. She has liaised with Church key holders to make sure the Church is accessible. **IJ** will get the keyboard out of the vestry for Carol's use. As there are only a few weeks of term left, Carol would like to purchase the bibles as soon as possible. She will leave a sample copy at the back of church for us to approve, and It would be worth mentioning this to Ed.

8. Safety policy and risk assessment. **IJ** reminded the PCC about the need to address the policy on child protection and safeguarding. There is no safeguarding officer for St Andrew's since Yvonne left. The new administrator could be the safeguarding officer for the benefice. **PA** says disabled access needs to be addressed for wheel chairs and parking spaces for disabled. We are liable for any injuries, and we need to have something in place. **IJ** says we need an up to date safety policy and risk assessment. **DB** does not think that Logan Colbeck is interested. Ecclesiastical Insurance have models that are adaptable.

9. Deanery Synod. GH reports that on 20th June, she attended a talk on the rebranded Children's Society. Their focus is on the 10 -18 year group as there is inadequate provision for this age range. Problems facing these individuals range from runaways and drug problems, to grooming and exploitation. Their aim is to raise enough funds to get project workers in problem areas over the next 5 years. Alton Deanery report that they have over 1000 children at risk. 3000 are living in poverty. The Synod also heard a talk by Bishop Raymond from Karamoja during his trip to the UK. They discussed the possibility of funding 9 bursaries required for the 16 students who will be studying at the training centre this year. It was reported that almost all of the parishes in the Deanery did something to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. In Bentley, they held a 4.30 pm service with sandwiches and cake. This was a very good model for bringing in children. All the families were given a personal invitation. Finally GH reports that they have a new incumbent installed in Holybourne.

10 Website. PA confirmed that he can help to maintain our website. He has had a look at the work involved but does not think he can maintain it in its present form. The Website can be developed so it is static and individuals can update items themselves. PA has the information required from Andrew Jackson. His expenses will amount to approximately £60.00 per annum. **All were in agreement**

11. Forthcoming services. DB liaising with the other parishes regarding the Harvest Festival on 16th October. We are proposing to hold a harvest Lunch after service on that Sunday in the Church hall. We may get a better attendance, and we would ask people to bring salads and puddings. The PCC will organise meat and bread. **IJ says this should be advertised in the Medstead Times.** He suggests an additional advert to the page reserved for Church events. This needs to be a ticketed event. **DB** has emailed the other PCC's in the benefice regarding the Nine Lessons and Carols. **DB** suggests we have Saturday 17th December as the other parishes have all asked for the 18th. Ed can't do all the parishes on the same day. Sue Stiles was concerned that it may interfere with Christmas shopping and Carol Fuller reminded the PCC that there is a big event in Alton on the 17th which may clash (The Wonder of Christmas at Alton Maltings). It was suggested that we could ask Anthony Smith to help us. 5pm on 18th preferable as 6pm is too late. Ed has requested that 24th July be a benefice service so he can speak to everyone at Lasham.

12. AOB GH wanted to discuss gift aid. She suggested that donations raised from the Flower Festival could be claimed under '*small donations*'. Some of the gift aid envelopes have been filled out incorrectly. **PA** advised Gay to put whatever she could through the gift aid scheme. **GH** wanted to know if we have a Pro Forma available to make things easier. She is happy to produce one. **All were in agreement.** Some Church Hall table cloths are still missing. We had 10 but now only have 6. Sharon says that they are looking worn. She has asked if we can buy new table cloths, or buy material to make them. **DB suggests putting up a sign saying that they have gone missing.** They were last seen at the Lenten Lunches. **IJ proposed that Sharon be given permission to buy new table cloths, and invoice the PCC.**

Date of next meeting : Thursday 15th September.

IJ closed in prayer at 10pm

