

St Mary's Parish Church, Newick, E. Sussex

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2011

Present: Rev'd P Francis, Mr I Reekie, Mr B Hay, Mrs P Bailey, Mrs J Wood, Mr A Mallinson
Mrs C Francis, Mrs S Mansfield, Mr G Clinton and Mrs P Greenfield

- 1 **The meeting** opened with prayer
- 2 **Apologies** for absence were received from: Mr J Burdett, Mrs D Thrower, Mrs C Sclater and Mrs G Horsfall.
- 3 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 12 September were signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 4 **Matters Arising** – None

5 **Treasurer's Report**

Brian Hay had previously circulated by email Accounts to 30 September, balance sheet and fabric fund details.

General Fund – Good result due to two legacies, five fundraising events, wedding and funeral fees Also lower Parish contributions and other controlled costs.

Fabric Fund – various projects progressing – depending on outcome of roof expenditure, any possible grants etc., fund may need supplementing by General Fund at the end of the year.
The following financial issues were discussed:

Archdeacon's Loan – Brian stated the loan could be paid in full once the bills on Tower and roof have been finalised. This was agreed by all present at the meeting.

Parish Contributions – Brian suggested an amount of £42,500, being 75% of total requested. If St. Mary's has a successful year he recommended an increase on this amount.

Brian Hay asked the Rector if a fundraising co-ordinator had been appointed.

Peter Francis – Person approached stated they did not want to take on the role. Previous person asked said they did not have time. Not so important to have an organizer.

Suggested a list for 2012, month by month, at the back of the church requesting people to volunteer.

Ian Reekie – Too much of a burden on already overloaded shoulders. Discouraging not to receive thanks for any help given – even Men's Supper.

Other parishes, Chailey and Ringmer, have good ideas and very successful. Request the Rector contact and meet with Chailey fundraiser for guidance. Peter Francis willing.

Kate Francis – Suggest all PCC members organize an event or be a team leader – lead by example.

Patsy Bailey – Should establish the strength of each individual.

Brian Hay – Disappointed a need to go outside the parish for ideas – agree with list in church try for 2-3 weeks, announced by Peter Francis from pulpit – meeting agreed.

Suggest Peter Francis for January 2012 to start the initiative.

Peter Francis – Will check with Norma Francis.

6 **Fabric Update – Ian Reekie**

Roof

Agreement for a faculty dispensation was given by the Chancellor shortly after the last meeting subject to "sacrificial lead" being laid in the valley gutter and to the work being supervised by our architect, Patrick Crawford.

Work started last month, mainly on the North-facing roof, and is due to be finished in the next few days. This will be followed by replacing damaged tiles on the other roofs including the Barn Centre.

25% of tiles were damaged – quotation was for 20%.

Roof timbers were generally in good condition, only one section needed to be replaced.

Unfortunately all of the coping stones are loose and require fixing urgently. Quotation from Tilley's has been accepted and work will commence shortly.

This additional work £1,400 plus the additional tiles (£500) and timberwork will increase the overall estimated cost to £14,000-£15,000.

Good news – since the last PCC meeting we have been given a £4,000 grant from the Sussex Historic Churches Trust increasing the amount raised to £9,000. Also awaiting possible grants from Garfield Weston & Headley Trust.

Windows

The damaged Sclater window in the Chancel has been removed for repair by Clifford Durant & Son. They have examined the Chancel north two-light window which has four broken panes and have quoted £462 plus VAT to either strap or repair them. Similarly the single light to the west of the porch also with four broken panes would cost £381 plus VAT.

Interestingly they advise that all of the glass within the church is by James Powell & Sons dating from 1888-1908 according to the Powell order book, with the exception of the Sclater two-light window (artist unknown) and the Cox & Barnard (north). Burne Jones was associated with James Powell as a designer but mostly with William Morris. It is therefore unlikely that the north aisle single-light window is Burne Jones.

Maintenance

The pricing for the careful cleaning of the internal etched glass both sizes, to include all access equipment, materials and labour will be £388.44 plus VAT. The Friends kindly offered to pay for a window cleaner but it was found to be impractical. Sally Scott's advice is being sought.

A further supply of the wall cleaning material has been obtained for cleaning the vestries and other remaining areas. Work is due to be done next week.

7 Church Security

The church is particularly exposed to the risk of theft of lead whilst scaffolding is in place.

Insurance cover on this is suspended until the scaffolding is removed and the Standing Committee agreed that all roof work should be completed as soon as practically possible. We also have the advantage of using the existing scaffolding with some additional sections required.

All new leadwork has been protected by SmartWater which is now a condition of insurance cover. Existing sections should already be marked.

Our insurance cover is however limited to £5,000 which is the maximum available. The leadwork in the valley gutter would cost £20,000 to replace, hence the advisability of the additional leadwork.

Furthermore, water damage to the inside of the church could be extremely costly to repair, costing one parish church £500,000.

The opinion of the police is that we are not particularly vulnerable but the need for alarm protection is increasing according to the DAC.

A local church similar to St Mary's recently had a alarm installed at a cost of £3,000.

It was agreed that this be discussed with insurers and if necessary quotations be obtained, and report at next meeting.

8 Glass Cleaning – Included in the Fabric Update.

9 Architect

Ian Reekie – The Quinquennial is due in early 2012.

The current architect, Patrick Crawford, is believed to be approaching retirement as he is no longer a partner and now works part time.

As agreed at the last PCC we have examined the possibility of a replacement in time for the 2012 Quinquennial. Enquiries have been made with other Parishes, and discussions with DAC.

Ian proposed to further investigate and will produce a shortlist – possibly to include a surveyor. Not essential to have an architect, Ian will clarify the options. All agreed.

Geoff Clinton – enquired if we need, as a church, the services of an architect.

10 MAP

Jo Wood – Linked to the five-year plan – await the result of the meeting with Richard Jackson. Suggest courses for spiritual growth – run by house groups. Jo mentioned three courses run in S. Africa:

The cup of your life, The return of the prodigal son, Prayer – does it make a difference?
 Also A life worth living – which is a follow-up to Alpha.
 More house-groups suggested – maybe daytime. New Christians – need to grow spiritually.
 Ladies' supper – suggested January as December may not have good attendance.
 Breakfast Bunch Club – now giving a talk to the mothers after the children's activity.
 Pastoral Care – Giving help to care for Sylvia – next of kin contacted. Befrienders also help with support for Social Services.
 Gloria Horsfall to design and produce cards for sending to those in need – will reduce cost.
 Peter Francis – Gloria working on information pack throughout the winter.
 Kate Francis – need to cover her costs for equipment and work.
 Brian Hay – Costs so far – materials and stationery.
 Ian Reekie – Has A3 printer – if using for church work need to assist with costs.
 Kate Francis – Propose to offer payment for A3 printer and printing costs.
 Proposed – Kate Francis Seconded – Peter Francis For: 9 Abstention:1
 Kate Francis – Suggest Peter Francis name people in magazine.
 Ian Reekie – Include all those at annual meeting.

11 Future Dates – see separate list

Mission Gift Day (Wycliffe Bible Translators/KatyBarnwell) – Sunday 4 March – moved to Sunday 25 March
 Kate Francis – Harvest Festival – receive a number of tins from the school – suggest giving to Family Support Work rather than locally.
 Peter Francis – Next year ask for non-perishables and give to Knowles Tooth.

12 Correspondence

Brian Hay – letter passed from Paddy Cumberlege, received from Baroness Andrews, re VAT recovery – suggest we write to the Church Buildings Commission. PCC decided against this. Also letter from Jeremy Burdett – re Parish contributions – suggested any excess income to Diocese. Brian will produce a schedule for church giving, and submit to standing committee.
 Kate Francis – notice of meeting to express views on next Bishop of Chichester.
 Peter Francis – Deanery Synod – report re finances. Request for 100% from Parishes now 2015 not 2012.
 Peter Francis gave thanks to Brian Hay for all his work, including VAT.
 Also thanks to Ian Reekie for his continued hard work.
 Kate Francis – Suggest St. Mary's host Lent course next year. Ask younger people their thoughts and invite other parishes to join.

13 Any Other Business

Geoff Clinton – Evening choral services have taken place recently and enjoyed by all who attended. Suggest we continue with four a year, one with readings.
 Peter Francis – Suggest mulled wine after the Carol Service – Agreed by all. Kate and others to arrange.
 Ian Reekie – Suggest monthly report in Parish News on church update – Fabric/Fundraising etc.
 Patsy Bailey – Keep fighting fit for chaps – successful. Further three sessions planned in the Barn Centre for the New Year – advertised in Health Centre.
 Also request to run knit'n'natter group January/February 2012, and relaxation group in future.
 Christmas Eve service – Patsy handing over next year – assisting mothers this year.
 Dancing for Fitness and Fun – received £800 from PCT. Wednesday class full, Friday class increasing – very successful.
 Peter Francis – Thanks to Patsy for all she does.
 Ian Reekie – Consultations – received 57 replies ahead of meeting on Saturday 26 November.
 Anthony Mallinson – Query Carol Service on 23 December 2012.

14 The meeting closed with prayer.