

## Minutes of St Andrew PCC Meeting held in the Narthex 11th July 2017

Present: Andrew Horn (Chairman/Churchwarden), Jeanette Horn (Acting Secretary), Jenny Batelen (Churchwarden), Robert Thornton (Churchwarden Emeritus), Sheila Banyard (Interim Rector), Gill Oldfield, Tony Checketts, Edward Stearn, Anita Stearn, Stuart Larnder, Judy Baer and Liz Hooper.

### 1. Opening Prayers

Were led by Sheila Banyard and remembering St Benedict and his monasticism and how- to live as Christians, welter\*coming everyone and asking for wisdom and guidance.

2. Apologies; Sally Rees, Meg and James Martineau, Fiona Davies, Louise Robinson, Angela Randle and Lynne Larnder, Michael Griffiths.

3. The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017, having previously been circulated in advance by email, were taken as read and Duly signed as a true record.

### 4. Matters Arising

- Christian Aid Total – the envelopes raised (including Gift Aid) £1100.

- Cathedral Girl Choristers Concert – this had been an excellent evening well received by everyone. There were approximately 100 people in the audience and a total of £800 was raised. It is hoped that the Choristers would consider giving another concert in St Andrew ?2018. After discussion, it was proposed that St Andrew could approach any other young musicians or singers who may like to use the church as a venue for a concert or the church be considered as a possible venue for a future Three Choirs Festival.

- Benefice Reps - Rectory – There was report issued by the Archdeacon that we should “test the waters” when looking for an alternative location for the Rectory. Preferably in Cutnall Green or at a different location in Ombersley, off the Main Road. A time limit of September has been decided to deal with this.

- Sound System – The system was now up and running, but there was a concern amongst those who use the microphone that it was not being used properly and users need to appreciate that the microphone should be placed at the central chest position to be

used effectively. Although it was noted that if you moved your head to one side then voice amplification faded! It was decided that all users should be instructed in correct use of the whole system. A date would be set for this later. ? after one of the Sunday morning services when many users would be available.

### 5. Forthcoming Service/Events

- Family Service – various formats have been tried to see which works best for this service and some positive feedback has been received though more ideas or help etc would be appreciated.

- Ride and Stride – this will again be held on 9th September and it was noted that there is also a wedding on that day.
- Harvest Festival Service – this will be at 9.30 am (lay led) on 24th September.
- Proposed Charity Cycle Race to be routed through the village and the road closures involved (Holt Fleet Road/ School Bank) on the same Sunday as the Harvest Festival. Talks were ongoing between the Parish Council and the organisers, but Councillors say no decision about this has been definitely reached yet.
- Andrew Horn will write to the organisers with objections and suggestions about this on behalf of St Andrew and the possible disruption to the Harvest Festival Service.
- Harvest Supper – this will be held at the Memorial Hall on 29th September. Possible entertainment will be John Davies and his ukulele band.
- Harvest Breakfast – this will also be held at the Memorial Hall on 8th October at 9.30 and all are welcome.
- Little Owl Farm Park (run by Jim and Mandy Howell) have offered to hold an event at the farm park. ? Pet service, or a Nativity in one of their barns. Tony Checketts will liaise with them about this possibility.
- United Benefice Service will be held at 10am on July 30th at St Andrew.

## 6. Baptisms

Jenny and Sheila had been to a very inspirational training day for Baptisms and enthused about the possibilities of improving each baptism with suggestions -

The emphasis being on welcome for the families.

The possibility of the congregation joining forces to make a shawl for the child being baptised – this could then be wrapped around the child as he/she would be wrapped in the love of God.

Services are to be held at 12.30pm instead of 1 pm in future.

A small prayer card will also be produced to be given to each of the members of the congregation on the first Sunday before the baptism so prayers can be said for the child/children being baptised.

Jenny offered the idea of having a ‘Triptych’ on show in the Narthex, with each of the three sides being labelled Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The triptych will show photographs (with consent ) of the children baptised, the brides and grooms married and the deceased for the year. This is intended to celebrate all who pass through the church for whatever reason over a period of twelve months.

## 7. Bishops Order on Marriages

Sheila told the PCC that Ombersley and Doverdale have had this Order in place for many, many years, but as both churches were now part of the united benefice of seven churches, the Order is to be reviewed to enable couples who wish to marry in the Benefice could do so at any of the churches if they so wish. After general discussion and any concerns answered, the PCC agreed unanimously to this. Proposer – Jenny Batelen, Seconder – Liz Hooper.

8. There were discussions around ongoing maintenance and health and safety issues concerning the building.

#### 9. Finances

Stuart said that he had now received the accounts from James and had conducted a review that enabled him to confirm, as reporting Accountant, that the accounts were in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations and the Charities Act.

A full, signed, set of accounts in the form of an Income Statement, a Statement of Affairs and accompanying Notes had not yet been circulated and so the discussion was confined to the papers to hand. The PCC decided not to approve the accounts for submission to the Diocese until full pack circulation had occurred and could be considered allowing James time to respond to any questions that may arise.

In the absence of James, Stuart reminded the PCC of the schedules prepared by James earlier this year pointing out the probable medium/ long term pressures on the bank balance arising from the ongoing increase in Quota, undischarged liabilities and “events”. Stuart acknowledged that it is easier to raise project funding than resources to support running costs but felt it would be advantageous to try to accelerate general giving so far as is possible.

Stuart would talk to James ( has happened) about early circulation of the full Accounts pack.

#### 10.Safeguarding Review

The secretary had inadvertently sent out the wrong safeguarding policy. Jenny said that she would like to add some extra bullet point to the original statement as we need to safeguard ourselves as well as others. There is also a ? that we should have a safeguarding leaflet outlining our policies available for anyone to read.

Gill Oldfield raised her concerns about bullet point No7 on the policy, regarding the church supporting any person who had been involved with hurting children, returning to the community. Sheila commented that the PCC would need to take advice on this aspect if it was known that an offender was located locally. Jenny will look into this and report back to the PCC.

#### 11.Fete Report

The fete had raised £8,000+

The general opinion was that this has been an exceptional fete with the printed programme singled out as a very useful tool on the day. Mrs A Podmore and Mr R Brett were to be thanked officially for all their work on this.

A letter was to go to each stall holder to thank them for all their efforts and hope that they would return to do the same thing next year!

After the fete Bill Arnold and his helpers had removed everything except the wall steps and it was felt that these needed to be removed too as the steps needed to be reviewed for some work to take place on them to improve their safety.

#### 12.Parish Magazine

This item was deferred to a later date.

There were a number of suggestions as to the size, content and availability of the magazine etc, but the Chairman agreed that as this was a large item to be discussed then it should be allocated to another meeting when there was more time available to do it justice.

#### 13.Any Other Business

Tony Checketts mentioned a letter written by the Bishop of Worcester printed in the Worcester News recently, telling of a study that was undertaken which found that there were more younger people practising as Christians in newer buildings!

14.Closing prayers were said and the meeting ended at 9.20pm.