

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, KEMPSEY, HELD IN ST MARY'S HOUSE ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Mr A Plowman (Chair), Mr D Anfield, Mrs M Childs, Mrs S Cook, Mr P Fitzjohn, Mrs S Fitzjohn, Mrs R Frank, Mrs R Garratt, Rev P Holzapfel, Mrs E James, Mr A Kelly, Mrs H Kelly, Mr P Kemp, Mr D Smith, Mrs M Walters, Mrs G Warfield.

**1. OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Duncan. Jennifer will lead at the next meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Mr C Bursnall, Rev D Hassell, Mr D Lowe.

**3. MINUTES:** Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010, having been circulated, were signed as being a true record by the Chair.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

**a) Update on the sound system:** This has been sold for £900, less than hoped for but better than nothing.

**b) Reservation of burial plot:** Alan reported that Sue Hedge's application is going through. Ray Allen and his wife, who have just moved out of the village, have requested reservation of a double burial plot. This was proposed by Arthur Kelly, seconded by Gill Warfield and unanimously approved.

**c) Update on votive candle stand:** Duncan said the matter was in hand with nothing further to report at present.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Due to David Hassell's absence, the main report was deferred until the next meeting. Alan reported that there was an ongoing problem with moles in the churchyard. It has been suggested by David H that a contract is set up with Red Kite pest control to deal with the problem. The cost will be £375 per annum which would be met from the churchyard fund. It was proposed by Rosemary Frank, seconded by Margaret Childs and approved by a majority decision that this contract is taken up. There were five abstentions. A Budget Meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at St Mary's House starting at 7.30pm.

**7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:** Libby was pleased to report that the Kitemark Bronze Award has been achieved and Sue F was thanked for her help in putting together a portfolio of work for this. They are now working towards the Silver Award. The St Mary's School Clubs are running smoothly and Open the Book was very well received by the school children. Sue Fitzjohn has been invited to be a trustee of Open the Book. Little Angels was moving from strength to strength and Vision 33 is a very committed group of young people. Libby mentioned an all inclusive Family Service at which refreshments would be served from 10.15-10.45am followed by the service from 10.45-11.30am. It was proposed by Paul Kemp, seconded by Libby James and unanimously agreed that we move forward with this. The service will be publicised and should be supported by everyone.

## **8. FABRIC OF THE CHURCH:**

**a) Update on new wiring & lighting:** Mark Harrison has been asked to complete the work by 6<sup>th</sup> December. We are moving slowly forward to improve the lighting in the nave. Alan has placed a notice in the local paper and the public have until 10<sup>th</sup> December to register any objections. Light bulbs in St Andrew chapel will be replaced before Christmas.

**b) Update on North Aisle & Lady Chapel:** Work on the floor is now complete. The pews will be removed from the Lady Chapel in the new year, and again a notice has been placed in the local paper. The removal of the front pew in the nave has been put on hold for the time being. A faculty may be required for the laying of carpet in the Lady Chapel – this was proposed by Peter Fitzjohn, seconded by Jennifer Romer and unanimously approved.

**c) Update on Tower appeal:** A list of grant organisations who might give their support has been discussed. English Heritage has been approached for a 5% increase in their grant and we are in the early stages of raising funds to cover the cost. Tower work will take place before the bells project commences.

**d) Handrail for lectern:** A sketch had been emailed out and copies were circulated. Following discussion, Alan will contact David Hawkins regarding an alternate design and it was agreed that the final choice will be left to Alan, Jennifer and Duncan.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a) Mission:** Sheila reported that a meeting would take place tomorrow with regard to Mission giving. New rules are being laid down by the Charities Commission and a Mission statement is awaited to explain what the church's aims are. More information will be presented to the PCC after the budget meeting.

**b) Social:** Libby gave a list of forthcoming events. The Baptismal tea party had been a lovely occasion which was very well attended.

**10. MUSIC IN CHURCH:** Discussion took place regarding a music group – at present it appears there is limited instrumental talent that is known of, but there is no reason a group could not be formed and led by David Anfield as and when people come forward. A notice will be placed in the newsletter and Parish Magazine. The choir is much appreciated by everyone and should be more visible to the congregation. David suggested that on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Family service, the choir sits on chairs near the chancel step and does not robe and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday morning service they robe and sit in the choir stalls.

**11. EVENING SERVICES:** Numbers at Evensong continue to decline and the congregation has been asked if they were happy for just one Communion service to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month during the winter months from October 31<sup>st</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> March. 99.9% were happy with this arrangement. It was proposed by Peter Fitzjohn, seconded by Sue Fitzjohn and unanimously approved that this arrangement starts from the beginning of January.

**12. CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** Details are in the Parish Magazine. Carols will be sung on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at The Lawns instead of walking around the parish. Refreshments will be served after the carol service on 12<sup>th</sup> December and crib service on 19<sup>th</sup> December. The Christingle service will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm.

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

\* The loop system is not working properly because improper cabling was used when the system was originally set up. The cost of installing a new system will be looked at. Cables have been moved during building work and may not have not been put back in the same place. David Anfield will work out a way forward and report back at the next meeting.

\* There has been some difficulty with the use of the microphones and a training session to explain reading using a microphone will be held in the new year.

\* Libby suggested that maybe we could hold more frequent but shorter PCC meetings.

\* Jennifer asked the PCC to give permission for her to present the church with a table to be used as an altar at the bottom of the chancel steps. This was approved and will be tried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday morning service.

\* A local farmer is kindly donating a Christmas tree which will be cut by Henry, Arthur, Alan and Duncan on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Cox is giving money to Fiona Harrison to sponsor the Carol Service.

## **17. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

Budget meeting                      Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 7.30pm in St Mary's House.

Full PCC meeting                    Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30pm in St Mary's House.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm