

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting
Held in the Church on Wednesday the 11th November 2015**

The meeting opened with a reading and prayers

Present:

Reverend Richard Reade (chairman); Bob Ball; Pat Brewster; Geoff Crapper; Kath Cummings; Mary Eatherden; June Greatorex; Russell Lane; John Rigarlsford; Val Rigarlsford; Hazel Slack; Jean Turner; Alan Wilson and Richard Parkin (secretary)

In Attendance: Reverend Adrian Smith (Methodist Representative)

15/5.13 Apologies for Absence

Chris Windle

15/5.14 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on the 9th September 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2015 having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record of that meeting and were duly signed by the chairman.

15/5.15 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

- Chancel spotlight: the difficulty contacting the electrician continued but the matter was being pursued. Once contacted the repair of other non-working lights within the church would be included and advice sought on the installation of a light to illuminate the side path to the back gate.
- New Notice Board: The design of the board had been agreed and the wording would be decided at a meeting of the Standing Committee, whence an order would be placed.
- Refurbishment of Porch Notice Board: The firm Bi-office had been contacted and a new surface would be fitted; the colour was to be green.
- 175th Anniversary: the celebration had been a happy and successful occasion attended by a large congregation; the presence of the schoolchildren and their singing added to the joy of the Service. A vote of thanks was extended to the chairman for the inspiration and work involved, together with the help he received from John Poulson, Lay Reader. The newly signed Covenant is shown within the church

15/5.16 Correspondence

- Simplification Task Group Monkey Questionnaire: this questionnaire seeking views on how various procedures might be altered or simplified had been circulated for individual attention
- Diocese of Derby Clergy Conference: this would be attended by the chairman.
- Letters of thanks and appreciation had been sent to the manager of Elliot Carpets and Mrs Horsley for their donations, also, to the chairman of the Parish Council for its assistance in the cost of maintaining the church clock, which cost it had met in full.
- There was no further correspondence

15/5.17 Health and Safety

- The Faculty for the hand rails for the front-entrance was nearing completion but the DAC was requiring a sketch to be provided. It was such unforeseen demands that has slowed the process and taken time to address; the re surfacing of the path was non- controversial and Archdeacon's permission has been applied for in order for work to proceed as soon as a reliable contractor has been appointed. No local authority regulation will be contravened.
- Safety Measures on the Organ Loft Stairs: several measures were proposed and discussed having regard to the need not to impede the use of the stairs by others than organists.
- A letter from Mr Denys Gaskell, parishioner, urged the council to complete the safety measures as a matter of priority. The council acknowledged the need and fully recognised its responsibility in regard to Health and Safety. However, it also recognised that in the present litigious age the days of 'just getting things done' were past; proper procedures and precautions had to be followed. A special meeting of the Standing Committee was to be held on the 1st December to address all outstanding issues.

15/5.18 Financial Report

- The Financial Report was presented and is attached to these minutes. The difference between income and expenditure of some £1101 was slightly less than last year and largely offset by recent expenditure on church fabric. The present balance, together with reserve funds, showed the financial state to be sound and one favourably comparable to other churches in the Diocese. The combination of gas and electricity under a dual- use arrangement had resulted in a considerable saving. However, a new formula for the Common Share was to be introduced in 2017 and would likely result in an increased contribution. Common Share request from the Diocese for 2016 was £13878 (£13606 in 2015).

- It was tacitly accepted that to facilitate decisions taken by the forthcoming Standing Committee involving costs such costs would be approved retrospectively.

15/5.19 Churchwarden's Report

- It was reported that a new Hoover was needed. It was agreed that a suitable model was to be researched and purchased.
- An oil- stock was needed. It was agreed one was to be selected from the brochure provided and purchased in memory of Ray Howsley.
- The need for publicity literature and posters to promote forthcoming events such as the Christmas Tree Festival, to be opened with the Cromford Community Band, Christmas leaflets and Christingle was raised and would be addressed

15/5.20 Deanery Synod Matters

- A briefing on the latest Wirksworth Deanery Synod had been distributed to all members. It covered an illuminating and thought-provoking talk given by Canon Dr Alan Billings entitled "Lost Church – Why we must find it again" and issues such as: reorganisation and elections; the amalgamation of Deaneries; staffing and pastoral issues; finance; safeguarding of officers; treasurers and churchwardens.
- Following from the above, concern was expressed that the increasing emphasis being placed by the church on reorganisation and restructure, giving rise to larger groupings and attendant support structures, could be ignoring the importance of the parish, in which Anglicanism is rooted. Assurance was given that these concerns had been raised at Deanery Synod and Clergy Chapter meetings.

15/5.21 Mission Action Plan

- Parish Policy on 'Communion before Confirmation': a formal letter of approval had been received from the Bishop authorising the Parish Policy. It stipulated the requirements to be followed. A copy was to be put on the website and also held in the church's log book.
- Pastoral Group: the nucleus of a Pastoral Group had been formed. It was still on a 'word-of-mouth basis' but it was hoped to put it on a more formal basis in due time, possibly following the form of the Methodist Pastoral Register

15/5.22 Ecumenical Matters

- Messy Church: church attendance continued to grow and the initiative to thrive; the next church was to be held on the 2nd December and be based on a Christmas theme.
- It was noted that the Tansley Times Prayer List was now included in the Methodist Weekly News in the spirit of Tansley Churches Together.
- A vote of thanks was extended to the Reverend Smith for kindly accepting to lead the Service of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday. In acknowledgement he mentioned that the Methodist church, in its own moves for reorganisation, was experiencing in part some of the concerns expressed in the last paragraph of 15/5.20 above.

15/5/23 Any Other Business

- Gift Day: it was noted this would now be held on the 14th November because of conflicting dates.
- Licence of Mr John Poulson, Lay Reader: the renewal of the licence was approved unanimously.
- Vintage Tea Party: a letter had been received from April Saunders offering to organise a EasterVintage tea party on the 19th March in aid of church funds.. This was welcomed and help would be given. The availability of the Village Hall was to be ascertained and a letter of appreciation sent.
- Churchyard Tree: the road-side fir tree was becoming overgrown, crowding out the adjacent cherry tree and endangering the wall with its roots. A letter was to be sent to Derbyshire Dales District Council requesting its removal.

15/5.24 The date and time of the next meeting was to be on Wednesday the 13th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Proposed Dates or 2016

(All Wednesdays at 8.00pm)

13th January; 9th March; 13th April (APCM); 11th May; 13th July; 14th September and 9th November.