

## Highlights for the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in the Church Hall on Thursday 8th November 2007 at 8.00pm.

- 1) The Chairman welcomed all members and opened the meeting with prayers.
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September were signed off with no amendments. Matters arising: Section 9) Item 3.8 re outside lighting. The floodlights now seem to be working properly. **[Post meeting - floodlight has failed again]**
- 4) Chairman's notices and announcements
  - **Date for your diaries: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008.** Bill and Sylvia the husband and wife team that make up **Theatre Roundabout** have offered to do a performance of C.S.Lewis's **Shadowlands** in the Church. They previously performed Canterbury's Burning and Shadowlands will be your last opportunity to see them before they retire.
- 5) Report from the Standing Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October was previously circulated agreeing to increase the TAG budget for 2007. This increase should be reflected in the budget for 2008 and this was agreed. Congratulations were given to Lulu Button and Deborah Lock for their commitment to TAG and the increase in the numbers of young people attending.
- 6) Church Quinquennial Report Update / Health and Safety Review Geoff Trickey. Geoff is still waiting for Hughes to look at the transept roof. Details to follow.
- 7) Creativity Weekend Update. Attendees weren't counted but it was noted that 70 people signed up for lunch. Praise was given for the very moving session on Movement and Dance. Congratulations from the Chairman were given to everyone involved. Jonathan was keen to point out how much talent we have within the congregation and that we still have a "lot up our sleeves for use later on". The Chairman reported that in 2008 our Songs of Praise will move from the evening to a morning slot and perhaps young and old can choose hymns together. The question was asked, Do we want a Creativity Day on the Saturday of our Patronal weekend, or indeed does it have to be Patronal Weekend? The Chairman suggested that as the All Age Worship schedule is set for 2008 we could have something very focused based on a particular service. He also enlightened some of us explaining where the names from Keystones, Keyclub and Pebbles originated from, this could be a service in itself.
- 8) Stewardship Update: Initially the Stewardship Campaign had a good result. The Chairman stated that to maintain our numbers is a good result given the amount of people who have moved away in the last 18 months. He also reflected whether

geographically people move here to retire or do they move away - this will have an effect on our ability to keep our planned giving numbers up. He stated that he thought that people had done the best they could, and for that we are very grateful. He also advised us that the Stewardship Team have set a date for their next meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and they will keep us moving gently along. Encouraging legacies will also be a feature of their on-going work.

9) Property Stewardship. The Chairman confirmed what had taken place to date and confirmed that our half day awayday on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 would be used to investigate possibilities further.

10) Financial Matters. We are currently in good shape, and note that although the money in the budget for Property Maintenance has not yet been spent by Geoff Trickey it may be carried over into 2008. Weddings/funerals is lower than budgeted. There are ups and downs but overall we are in a comfortable position and it will be interesting to see what effect the Stewardship results have on these figures. The **deadline for the team budget preparations is November 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

11) The 2008 PCC Meeting Schedule was agreed

12) Members' notices and questions:

The Chairman advised that the Communications Team had disbanded. Richard Espenhahn continues to run the website very effectively. Since there is no longer a broadsheet (after some eight years) we have three options: recover the Broadsheet at some point in the future, have a Church magazine, or do nothing. We then had a discussion and agreed to feedback to Richard.

There are two schemes the Scouts are running that require our support: local deliveries of letters within the Parish, they would like a post box in Church/Hall. Fundraising by selling, delivering and recycling Christmas trees. Please support them and we'll advertise what they're doing in the newssheet.

Layout of the newssheet was brilliant. (Thank you). Hersham Churches Together delivery of the Christmas Cards is still planned.

Help is needed to prepare, produce and distribute food for the confirmation service. The Parish Office will advertise for support in the newssheet in the next few weeks. The Chairman advised there will be approx. 30 candidates.

Support our local headmaster from Bell Farm School by attending the first of our November Sermons on Sunday evening.

An update was given on the activities of the Local Training Group (LTG) in supporting Sue Gray with her OLM Training. They had a meeting in Sept. with other LTGs and they are going to conduct another survey this time outside/externally looking at our community.

Congratulations were given to the Chairman on being awarded his degree. Well done Nick!!!!!!!

The Chairman gave an overview of the Advent Wreath design and hopes that it will be in place by the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th December (budget meeting). Unfortunately this is the same night that we've been invited by Waitrose to sing carols at their shopping evening, but it's too late now to change our meeting.

We finished at 9.35pm with prayers