

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 12th December 2007 at 8.00pm.

- 1) The Chairman welcomed all members and opened the meeting with prayers.
- 2) Apologies were received from: Jonathan Andrew, Abby Briggs, Adela Foddy, Margaret Hicks, Deborah Lock, Michael Lumley-Kelly, Tony Skrzypecki, and Lynne Watson.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November were signed off with no amendments.

4) Chairman's notices and announcements:

- Renewal of License - Permission to Officiate for Adela Foddy.
"The PCC of St. Peter's Hersham supports the vicar, the Revd. Nick Whitehead in his request that Mrs Adela Foddy be given Permission to Officiate to continue with her Reader ministry. "This was proposed by Bob Garnish, seconded by Sara Langley and accepted with many thanks and enthusiasm by the rest of the PCC.
- Surrey Brass. The overall response was positive that in principle we would like to welcome Surrey Brass later in the year. However the suggestion of Fireworks after the concert has not been warmly received. Sarah Tourell to confirm the date of 1st November 2008 with Adrian Warren and also our request that the concert start earlier perhaps 7.00 or 7.30pm to allow younger people to attend, and perhaps families. The programme was also discussed with some input from us i.e. perhaps some James Bond themes, or lighter options.
- The Chairman gave an overview of the Multi-Faith Centre project at the University of Surrey. The PCC has agreed to help support this project in its early stages by donating a £1000 to their start-up funds. This was at the suggestion of the Mission Support Team and the donation is coming from the MST budget (money not spent in 2007). Post meeting: full details of the project are available on the university website www.portal.surrey.ac.uk

5) Property Stewardship / Away day Update:

We will meet on Saturday 9th February from 0930 to 1300 the venue is still to be determined as most places we would like to visit are booked up. More details to follow.

6) Risk Review Items / Health and Safety Report Update / Geoff Trickey.

Not available at this time.

Ian Rose stated that there had been a meeting earlier in the month, and people had been assigned to the duty of Fire Warden. There will be improved signage

to help people evacuate the Church in an emergency. Bob Garnish drew everyone's attention to the memo re "No pushchairs and buggies at the crib service". There will be a gazebo to the right of the Church entrance to leave them and someone will need to ensure they are secure. There will also be no chairs at the back of church for the crib service - it will be standing room only. The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback.

If you're free Saturday morning 15th December, you'd be very welcome to come and help decorate the Church.

7) 2008 Budget / Financial Matters / Tom Calder

Tom thanked everybody involved in the budget preparation for their very timely contributions, and said that certain items had been adjusted upwards. Talked us through the Final Surplus (deficit) and stated that we did a lot better than we'd budgeted for. Broadly speaking Stewardship was successful with a net 12-14% (gross 25%) increase in giving. Discussed the Church Hall and the planned slight rental increase. This year the income is lower than budget because we lost three regular slots, although Carol Rose has managed in a short space of time to fill two of them. Tom reiterated that the Hall is one of our most important lines of income. Bob Garnish praised Carol for everything she does and Sarah Tourell will arrange a proper thank you on behalf of the PCC to reflect it's appreciation of her commitment and dedication. Andrew Strong asked about the higher budgeted figures in the weddings column - and was advised that we had approx 9 weddings in 2007 and already have 14 booked for 2008. Ian Rose expressed his thanks to the Treasury Team and said we're very lucky to have them. With an 18% increase in parish share over two years to still predict a lower deficit in 2008 is very impressive. Superb!!!

Bob Garnish asked what money is put by, available to spend on: Vauxmead gate, Vauxmead perimeter, Church roof, Hall Roof, Hall Redecoration etc. etc. The Chairman stated that all these issues would be addressed after our PCC away day on Saturday 9th February when our overall requirements would be discussed. The Chairman stated that we already have a quote for the repair of the Church Hall roof (whether we go ahead will depend on the outcome of our away day - but we're in a position to start should we need to), and suggested we get a similar quote for the interior decoration of the main hall (and possibly kitchen). Sarah Tourell will discuss with Geoff Trickey - any comments you have re redecorating the interior of the hall should be channelled through Sarah.

The 2008 budget was proposed by Sara Langley, seconded by Andrew Strong and adopted by all present.

Suzanne Barrett gave a brief update on Stewardship stating we had a gross increase of 25%. Taking into account those who have left planned giving the net result is an increase to £88, 000 which is a rise of 12%. Those already in giving increased their contributions -by 17% so the congregation responded well. Overall we have a net three new givers and the full results will be available in January. The Chairman praised the Stewardship Team for all their hard work

and was delighted that as a result we have a core team who will look at Stewardship on an annual basis.

8) Team Report from Ministry Team

The Chairman advised that Sue Gray is half way through her OLM training. The Local Training Group is meeting again this week to support Sue in her second year. Sue will be doing a placement at Send Women's Prison (she's done a visit already). She will deliver an assessed sermon at Oxshott in the spring term and Mary Beth Hawrich from Oxshott will be coming here to deliver an assessed sermon on the 29th January. Mary Beth will be in Church this Sunday so please do all you can to make her feel welcome.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Parish Office and Lorna Espenhahn for everything they have done to produce all the new service sheets in the past few weeks.

9) Members' notices and questions

Sarah Tourell asked on behalf of Georgina Francis if the PCC would consider an art exhibition of Georgina's work to be held in the Lady Chapel in the summer of 2008. The idea was accepted in principle, with a donation being made to the PCC (Georgina's art will be for sale) and Sarah will discuss expectations with Georgina. E.g. Dates & times. More importantly, will Georgina expect it to be exclusive or should it be a day for anyone within the congregation to sell their crafts etc.

The Chairman gave us details of Anne Clements's lectures. Anne is an art expert who lectures at the National Gallery. She has agreed to give a lecture next year in Church $\frac{1}{2}$ social, $\frac{1}{2}$ discussion evening with a view to raising funds for the Mission Support Team. Her time will be free and we will sell tickets (approx £8.00) to include a glass of wine and nibbles. The Chairman will confirm our agreement with Anne-Marie Humphrey who will co-ordinate dates with Anne.

Suzanne Barrett thanked everyone involved, especially Rosemary Strong for the catering at the Confirmation Service.

Lorelie Staines raised the issue of security in light of the recent burglaries to Churches in the area. Our local police are well aware of the issues and our floodlights are now working.

The Chairman and Lulu Button gave the lovely example of "quiet christian witness" with the Mums at GEMS. I.e. when the advent candles were blessed this year, three of the people in the room had been given confirmation candles the previous evening and the chairman was able to make reference to this. He also stated that there was a good post confirmation meeting on Sunday and the use of Art was well remembered by the candidates.

David Mealor raised an issue for discussion: Do all the confirmees have to stand? In doing so this year the people who came to support couldn't see their family member/friend. Nick will email Bishops Ian and Christopher suggesting they don't.

Lulu Button felt the confirmation candles we gave out let us down - The Chairman agreed and said that rather than a reminder of baptism/confirmation

these candles have become far more significant to people in recent years. New and improved candles will be ordered for 2008 confirmees.

The Chairman also stated that there are words in the service which can be used for those who have attended the course but have already been confirmed. This was an opportunity for us to include those people next year.

Bob Garnish advised that the notice boards outside the Church advertising the Christmas Services would be available from Saturday morning.

Ian Rose stated that Christmas was the busiest time of year for a lot of people, especially Jonathan and Nick and asked that if anyone could help with the Crib or Carol Service it would be much appreciated.

We finished at 9.30pm with prayers

1. Date of next meeting: Saturday 9th February 2008, $\frac{1}{2}$ day away
day
0930-1300. Venue to be advised.