

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of a meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Cabin

Present: Alex Bienfait (Chair), Ann Courtness, Linda Webb, Peter Whitestone, Colin Steere,  
Joanna Winston, Anna Picken (Minutes Secretary)

Item		Action
1.	The meeting opened with prayers led by Alex Bienfait.	
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Catherine Wilson and Mark Clixby.	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2015 which had been circulated were approved by the PCC, proposed by Ann, seconded by Peter and signed by the Chair.	
4.	Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: There were no matters arising.	
5.	Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✈ Linda asked the PCC if Chris Cox could have the six wooden chairs which are usually at the back of the Church in the North Aisle in return for a donation to the church of £20. The PCC agreed.</li> <li>✈ A cheque for 50 US dollars had been received from a recent visitor.</li> </ul>	
6.	Correspondence: The PCC were asked to sign a Fit and Proper person declaration – a statutory requirement by HMRC to ensure that charities that benefit from tax relief (particularly gift aid) are managed in such a way that they can be confident that the tax relief is spent appropriately. The PCC were alerted to the police surgeries taking place over the next few months. No one was aware who had organised these.	
7.	Rector's Report Summer months: A normal pattern of services is anticipated during July and August as Alex is not taking holiday until September. A decision will be made in due course as to whether Evensong should take place during August. There will be no Active Church in August. Christmas and Epiphany booklets: These are almost finished. Active Church: Numbers remain small. Following the success of the Epiphany party there was discussion about alternative timings, ie mid-week after school. Alex thought that a weekly programme, for perhaps a term, in association with John Mayne school might be offered. However Alex and Catherine will first want to consult with current Active Church families, and helping team. The Epiphany party was a great success with 38 children attending with their parents. There are currently 3 families interested in the parenting course. Alex hopes to run this once he is able to secure some time in his diary. Assemblies: Andrew Littlewood is unable to take assemblies at present due to ill health. Confirmations are taking place on 8 February. A burial will take place in All Saints' graveyard next week, the first for nearly two years. Alex is concerned about the ground conditions. The grave digger will be responsible for removing any excess grave spoil.	AB

	<p>Alex suggested that the PCC start to think about what next to do for the 2016 Mission Action Plan. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.</p> <p>A PCC member queried why there was no Eucharist on two Sundays in January. Alex confirmed that on one Sunday each month in both Biddenden and Smarden there was no Eucharist. This month has a fifth Sunday, and while we might normally had an 8am BCP Eucharist this was not offered as we have a special evening Candlemas service, and attendance at 8am has been not so good.</p>	
8.	<p>Finance</p> <p>A treasurer is still needed to replace Mark. An examiner will also be needed to audit the accounts. Alex will ask Ray Sherman. Alternatively a company could be approached. Smarden have found a company who do not charge for this work.</p> <p>The PCC were happy with the proposals and plan for the two 2016 charities that Mark had prepared in his absence.</p> <p>Peter asked if we were members of Friends of Kent Churches?</p>	
9.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>The First Aid box still needs updating.</p> <p>Joanna asked that the Welcomers are kept informed as to the location of the fire exits, accident book and the keys for the emergency door.</p>	AC
10.	<p>Churchwardens'/Fabric Report</p> <p>The Quinquennial inspection is due to take place this year. However, it was suggested that this was progressed slowly. George Denny will be asked if he wishes to carry this out although it is felt that he may decline. If not, an alternative architect would need to be found and it was anticipated that the fee would increase from the previous charge of around £600. Smarden are considering using Jonathan Gale who is approved by the Diocese and charges in the region of £1,000.</p> <p>An electrical inspection is also due this year.</p>	
11.	<p>Church cleaning</p> <p>Linda had met with Julie Hills who was happy with the new cleaning arrangements. Linda has prepared a new contract under which Julie is now considered a contractor rather than an employee and which sets out terms and conditions of work and a timetable of work to be carried out. Linda is to send this to Alex to approve. The PCC were happy with the new arrangements.</p>	
12.	<p>Events</p> <p>The Events Committee report was handed out to the PCC.</p> <p>Alex expressed his thanks once again to the Events Committee who have clearly been very busy planning many events for 2016. The PCC agreed that the Lent soup lunches should go ahead on the dates that have been suggested by the Events Committee. Anna will confirm this to Julie Lupton.</p> <p>A request had been made to borrow the coconut shy for a wedding reception. The PCC agreed to this and suggested that a donation was invited.</p>	AP
13.	<p>Deanery Synod</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
14.	<p>John Mayne school</p> <p>The Church Inspection of the school had been carried out in November 2015 and they were judged to be outstanding. Melanie Williams the</p>	

	headteacher will speak on Education Sunday, 24 January.	
16.	Future Meeting Dates:	
	8 March, 19 April (APCM), 3 May, 21 June (combined) 5 July, 6 September, 4 October (budget), 22 November (combined), 6 December.	
	The meeting closed with prayers at 8.30pm	