

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of a meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Cabin

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

Item	Action
1. The meeting opened with prayers led by Alex Bienfait.	
2. Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Joanna Winston.	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016 which had been circulated were approved by the PCC and signed by the Chair.	
4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: 1. Adrian Lidgett of Biddenden Parish Council was responsible for organising the police surgeries and the venue change from the post office to the church (due to need for more space) was welcomed by Alex as it promotes good relations between the church and village community.	
2. The PCC agreed that we should become a member of the Friends of Kent Churches and Peter Whitestone is to investigate how we can join the organisation.	PW
3. Mark Clixby signed the Fit and Proper Persons 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). Alex confirmed that our Ecclesiastical Parishguard Policy included personal liability cover for PCC members arising from errors and omissions when performing their duties.	
4. It was agreed that no Evensong services would take place in August.	
5. The First Aid box still needs updating.	AC
5. Open Forum 1. Peter mentioned how much he had enjoyed the recent Film Evening, where the film <u>Welcome</u> was shown, attended by 7 people.	
2. Mark informed the PCC that the church held just over £900 in War Stock which the Government had redeemed. Anna Picken signed the authority to transfer the redemption monies to the church's bank account.	
3. Linda expressed concern that an article in the March magazine alluded to the Cameo Tea party being held in the church. She expressed concern as this would need to be a PCC event, and support from the PCC has not yet been formerly sought. She expressed concern about food hygiene and lone working policies. Alex is to speak to Barbara Bridgeman to ensure that the event involves tea and biscuits only and no other food and Paul Webster is to be asked to alert us to any further mention of it in the magazine.	CW

4. Alex informed the PCC that publicity for the Gordon Jones playground refurbishment (our second project for the Lent Appeal) is now available. The amount needed to be raised is about £8,000 towards the total contract price of £66,000.

5. Catherine updated the PCC on the imminent arrival of a Syrian refugee family to Smarden. A successful recent appeal for furniture means that the house is fully furnished but Catherine felt gifts of food would also be welcome. The PCC agreed and also mentioned whether gifts of money and/or toys might be useful. Catherine is to ask Jan Barnes and to check what dietary requirements the family might have. Alex pointed out that the decision for the family to move into this accommodation still rests with Ashford Borough Council. CW

6. Correspondence:
There was no correspondence to mention.

7. Rector's Report

1. Alex asked the PCC's approval to switch the service times around on 12 June to enable Smarden Church to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with an 11am Eucharist followed by a picnic. The PCC agreed and so Biddenden's Eucharist will take place at 9.15am that day.

2. Discussions, thought and prayer are still needed for the future of Active Church Biddenden. A successful Active Church had taken place in Smarden in February, which was attended by many Biddenden families. Ann suggested that Saturdays were not easy days for families to commit to church activities.

3. The Bishop came and led a confirmation service in Smarden on 8 February for two candidates, from the Benefice. One candidate from All Saints.

4. Mission Action Priorities for 2016 are to include Active Church, the formation of Christian nurture groups and the ongoing search for a new treasurer and finance team. The financial situation is also a priority as Mark reported it has worsened and we will run out of money if nothing is done. The setting up a Friends of Biddenden Church scheme was proposed and Mark mentioned that, if this was successful, it could cancel out the deficit.

5. The Quinquennial Inspection and full electrical inspection is due this year.

6. The Bishop has given approval for Alex to take a 3 month sabbatical. This will probably start at the end of January/beginning February 2017. This would involve two main projects: 1. Exploring "alternative church worship" such as forest churches and worship such as that taking place in the Filling Station – ecumenical worship in Kilndown village hall. 2. Also a trip to Sri Lanka to visit an old friend and witnessing how Christian worship takes place in a predominantly Buddhist country. The PCC were unanimously supportive of this, and the churchwardens will meet with Catherine to discuss how best to support her whilst Alex is away. There were no concerns from the PCC that Alex might be away at the time of LW/AC

the two APCMs in April 2017. Pearl Anderson and David Houghton have been asked if they are able to provide some support for Catherine whilst Alex is away. /CW

7. The work of the TSCWT is expanding and an additional worker has been recruited for 10 hours a week to assist Nathan. Primary schools in the Homewood catchment area have been asking for Nathan's help in the transfer of year 6's to secondary schools. There is also a grant from the Diocese to investigate a similar post at The Marsh Academy in New Romney. The APCM is to be held this coming Sunday 13 March.

8 Curate's Report

It has been a busy few weeks with 3 funerals in the past month. A large funeral and burial took place in Biddenden with no problems over removal of spoil.

Study continues, with assignments based on the recent prison placement and Catherine is embarking on a second module exploring Canon law.

9 Prayer in the week before Pentecost

The Diocese has asked all churches to take part in a national week of prayer in the time between Ascension and Pentecost (8-15 May). Alex and Catherine are suggesting combining forces with Bethersden, High Halden and Woodchurch to explore different styles of prayer, ie creative, active, Taizé... finishing with a workshop for intercessors, focusing on thanking current intercessors and appealing for new ones.

10 Finance

1.No one has volunteered to check the end of year accounts. Wilkins Kennedy, the firm Smarden church are using, will charge £475 plus vat. Ann will investigate another source. This needs to be made a priority as the accounts should be made public as soon as possible. Mark to defer sending accounts to Wilkins Kennedy until he has heard from Ann.

2.Our gas and electric contract with E.ON ends in May. We need to let them know by 22 April if we wish to continue with them. It was decided that Mark would ask that if we take out another contract with them they could do a better deal for us. The alternative is Parish Buying but they can't give us a price yet.

11 Health and Safety

Following the January inspection:

The First Aid box still needs updating.

The space below the tower needs sorting. Things should not be stored above head height.

The lychgate needs stabilising

Bolts on the outer door are difficult to move.

The electrical inspection will be carried out.

The hazard tape on the chancel steps looks unsightly and a better solution needs to be found.

The book in the lighting cabinet needs to be updated.

The step at the bottom of the steps to the children's area is loose and needs to be tightened. Mark to deal with this. MC

The kitchen fridge needs regular clearing out. Ann to ask Denise Bennewith. AC

12 Churchwardens'/Fabric Report

The Quinquennial inspection will be organised after the APCM.

13. Events
The Norton Knatchbull School concert is not taking place.
A letter will be written to Liz Rickwood to thank her for organising the food for the Candlemas supper. Anna to deal with this. AP
A new cake coordinator for the Tractorfest has been advertised for.
Fundraising has started for the charity appeal Send a Cow and John Mayne school will be invited to take part.
The money raised from the Lent lunches will be split between the two charities Send a Cow and the new village playground project.
More publicity is needed on the playground project.
- 14 Deanery Synod
Nothing to report
- 15 John Mayne school
The headteacher, Melanie Williams has resigned and so has the chair of governors, David Horn, very suddenly for health reasons. A recruitment process is in place for a new headteacher.
16. Future Meeting Dates:
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 9pm