

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of a meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 3 May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Cabin

Present: Alex Bienfait (Chair), Ann Courtness, Peter Whitestone, Colin Steere, Joanna Winston, Paul Webster, 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, Linda Webb and Mark Clixby.
3.	a. Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 which had been circulated were approved by the PCC and signed by the Chair. b. APCM Minutes The minutes of the APCM held on 19 April 2016 had also been circulated.
4.	Matters arising More publicity is needed for the Send a Cow charity.
5.	Open Forum Alex welcomed Paul Webster to the PCC. (He had been elected at the recent APCM on 19 April). Sidespeople are still not carrying out their duties correctly. This will be investigated. The PCC thanked Colin Steere for his help as a sides person at recent funerals, however he pointed out that he had not been formerly approved at the APCM. His name needs to be included for the 2017 APCM and added to the list. The reading of bequests at APCMs – is this really necessary asked Peter Whitestone? Alex had taken advice a little while ago from the Diocesan Registry, and the advice was that this should continue. Peter Whitstone asked does the cabin need any maintenance? Alex said not for the time being although this is being monitored, particular the outside. Peter Whitstone asked, Should the church have a voice at Parish Council meetings? Yes, particularly because of the churchyard which we maintain on behalf of the community. Alex was to contact the Parish Council and agree to speak at an Annual Meeting. The police surgeries are taking place again in the church once every 5 weeks. The new liaison officer, Lee Sinden, comes to the coffee mornings. Magazine: Paul Webster mentioned that, although he has suggested at the APCM that there was a decline in the circulation of the magazine, this may in fact not be true. The problem was that Judith Wright was not maintaining an up to date list of subscribers. Ann Courtness agreed to set up a magazine meeting with Judith and Ann Webster in order to resolve any problems with the magazine. Paul Webster also mentioned that there were some problems with the quality of printing of the magazine, in particular the print quality of photographs. Tim Munt is dealing with the printing of seven magazines and there was a general concern that he had taken on too much. Paul said there needed to be a meeting with Tim to discuss quality issues and Ann wondered if we should be looking for alternative printers. Alex wanted to keep with Tim but wondered if he should be paid more to provide better quality printing. Moving to colour would potentially solve the problem. We pay 63p at the moment to print a black and white copy although this would only increase to around £1 if it was produced in colour. This would be more attractive to advertisers as well. Colin Steere asked what the procedure was for notifying people that a service had been cancelled. If a service was not to take place then this was advertised in the pew sheet although Colin said that if you were not there the Sunday before and didn't pick up a pew sheet then you might not know.

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6.	<p>Correspondence: Alex had received a letter from Karen Phillips indicating her intention to stand down from caretaking the Plant Stall and her hope that the PCC will find a suitable person to take over. He has written to Karen to thank her for her work over the last years. Alex had received emailed correspondence from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission seeking permission to fit a sign near one or more of the entrances to the churchyard to indicate that the churchyard contains two war graves. The CWGC would take over responsibility for the maintenance of the graves. The PCC granted permission for this to be fitted near the lych gate, on the guarantee that all installation and maintenance costs are permanently paid for by the Commission. This was proposed by Ann Courtness and seconded by Joanna Winston.</p>	
7.	<p>Rector's Report The Flower Festival and Songs of Praise are to be held this month. There is also a Group Service in Bethersden. On 12 June there is a service to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and the service will be at 9.15am. Alex hoping to invite a guest preacher, due to preach already in Smarden. Healing services. Sarah Chapman of Living Well from Canterbury Diocese will be invited to speak at the next Benefice service at end of July as well as at a combined PCC meeting at the end of the year. Active Church is supported by a small but positive group, but it is not viable to continue the current arrangements on Saturday. We need to develop more contact with parents from John Mayne, and Alex and Catherine plan to offer an afterschool club in the Autumn The new headteacher for John Mayne has been appointed. She is not a Christian although it is not a requirement that she should be. Alex would like an interview with her to be published in the magazine.</p> <p>The school is a voluntary controlled church school. This means that, while the church has some formal influence in the running of the school, the Local Authority employs the school's staff and has primary responsibility for the school's admission arrangements and the school does not use faith criteria in prioritising pupils for admission. The school could become an academy and join the Diocesan multi-academy trust or a local academy chain. Local schools will join the Academy started by Homewood School. The school is already part of a group called the Tenterden Rural Alliance There are lots of baptisms this summer and we have had three burials in the last three months. We are still looking for a new treasurer. Alex welcomed Colin Daly's offer (see minutes of APCM) to set up a Friends of Biddenden Church. This could be done in two ways: 1. The friends group is formed as a sub committee of the PCC. In this way the PCC would control the decision making. However, the danger is that people simply see this as an extension of the church. It also needs people from the church to run it. 2. The friends group is formed as a separate charity, following the Smarden model. It is entirely separate from the church and has its own constitution. The objects of the charity are crucial and it is key to ensure that the needs of the worshipping congregation of the church are met and that the PCC does not lose control over how the money is spent. We should work closely with the current fundraising team. The PCC preferred the second option and Alex is to consult further with Colin Daly.</p>	AB

8.	<p>Finance</p> <p>As Mark was absent from the meeting there was no finance report and no financial matters were raised.</p>	
9.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>The area under the bell tower has been cleared as advised by Mark and as minuted at the last meeting. Items must not be stored above head height and boxes have been removed. Users need to be informed where to store items in future.</p> <p>The first aid box is currently being updated.</p>	
9.	<p>Churchwardens'/Fabric Report</p> <p>Four electrical firms were asked to quote for a full NICEIC Registered inspection of the church as part of the 2016 Quinquennial inspection. One was unable to do the work, another did not respond. Another firm quoted £2,820 inc VAT for a 5 day inspection. CES Electrical quoted £768 inc VAT for a one day inspection and replacement of blown bulbs.</p> <p>The PCC unanimously accepted the CES quotation of £768. This was proposed by Peter and seconded by Joanna.</p> <p>Alex hoped that we would be able to replace bulbs with LED ones as they are more energy efficient.</p>	
9.	<p>Events</p> <p>The secretary had received a report from Julie Lupton. The committee were somewhat disappointed that the Lent appeal had not received more publicity. An afternoon tea is planned at Frogshole Farm on Sunday 26 June to raise funds for Send a Cow. Plans are well underway for the Christian Aid afternoon tea in the church with a choir from John Mayne school.</p> <p>If and when a Friends of All Saints group is formed, the events committee will revisit its remit.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Events Committee is on 9 May.</p> <p>Alex is planning a Forest activity day on 21 May may be of interest to families with school age children.</p>	
10.	<p>Deanery Synod</p> <p>The annual meeting of the Deanery Synod is taking place in May. On 19 October Professor Julian Evans will be talking about his book God's Trees which discusses trees, forests and wood in the Bible. This might be an interesting item for the Homemakers Group who meet on the same night. Alex is to investigate.</p>	AB
11.	<p>John Mayne school</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
12.	<p>Church Plan</p> <p>Alex took the PCC through the 2016 Church Plan and reminded everyone that our aim is to be a church which is open to all and serves the community in which it is placed.</p> <p>It was suggested that Environmental concerns are featured in the plan.</p> <p>There are opportunities for a benefice retreat.</p> <p>Palm Sunday was a good example of an outdoor service, but these are not regularly taking place.</p> <p>Active Church remains a priority.</p> <p>More lay ministry than we are doing at the moment is encouraged and training would be provided.</p> <p>There will be a review of the library material and how this is displayed.</p> <p>The welcome booklet which is given to those moving to the village should be reviewed.</p> <p>We have not been particularly good about creating Active Homes for Active Church.</p> <p>We should draw more attention to the fact that we are a Fairtrade church and and</p>	

	<p>serve Fairtrade products. We need to preach about what Fairtrade involves. There was a discussion about the plan to install glass inner doors. These would improve draughtproofing and could be more welcoming. The finance is potentially not a problem as an individual in the parish has in the past offer this up to £35,000. The possibility of a nave altar was discussed. Alex discussed the experiment at Smarden and how this could work at Biddenden.</p> <p>Could we make better use of the Tilden Patterson space? Glass partitions could be erected to make a soundproof room here. Some pews could be removed and it would not be a problem to obtain the necessary permissions. Removing pews was something to be discussed at the next PCC meeting.</p> <p>The greening of the church was one of the items on the old Mission Plan although it was becoming an increasingly more important issue. This would be an item for the next combined PCC meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>Future Meeting Dates: 21 June (combined), 5 July, 30 August (a change from 6 September), 4 October (budget), 22 November (combined), 6 December.</p>	
	The meeting closed with prayers at 9.40pm	