

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of a meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at 7.30pm in the Cabin

Present: Alex Bienfait (Chair), Catherine Wilson, Ann Courtness, Peter Whitestone, Linda Webb, Mark Clixby, Colin Steere, Paul Webster, Anna Picken (minutes secretary)

Item		Action
1.	The meeting opened with prayers led by Alex Bienfait.	
2.	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting Item 12 discussed. Ann Courtness argued the need to check that no family members would object to the removal of pews from the Tilden Patterson chapel.	
4.	Matters arising from the previous meeting Alex explained that Smarden PCC are seeking to amend the church representation rules to allow non-communicant members of the church to serve on the PCC. The area under the Bell Tower is congested once more. Ann Courtness to meet with Jeannette to agree alternative arrangements for storing flower team equipment. Alex will be present at this meeting. Ann Courtness queried why Joanna Winston could not serve on the PCC. Alex explained that PCC members need to be communicant members. The PCC expressed the hope that Joanna would be welcomed back to the PCC following representations to the Bishop following her baptism.	AC
5.	Open Forum Ann commented that there are too many items on the agenda. Peter spoke about the enormous contribution made to the church by the late Zena Grant. It was suggested that he write an eulogy in the next Parish Magazine. Fundraising for our chosen charities is going well. Mark to confirm how much the Church gave to the Parish Council towards the playground refurbishment. Bell ringing practice has changed to Thursdays at 8pm to encourage new ringers. The German church would like to set up a linked service via Skype on 17 July post Brexit. The PCC agreed but would need more time to prepare for it. Alex will contact them to discuss alternative dates. Alex reported that there were some difficulties with the Post Office who were reluctant to sell tickets for Colin Daly's fundraising concert in the Church. The PCC approved the Cameos afternoon tea party on 25 November. Proposed by Peter Whitestone and seconded by Ann Courtness.	PW MC AB
6.	Correspondence: The Parish Council had written a letter of thanks to the Church for the money donated towards the playground equipment.	
7.	Church Plan Priorities: Alex took the PCC through the suggested priorities discussed at the last meeting.	

	<p>The priorities were agreed as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance 2. Friends Group 3. Active Church 4. Encouragement of lay ministry 5. Making better use of the Tilden Patterson space. 	
8.	<p>Baptisms</p> <p>It was agreed that more would be done to encourage baptisms during our main services and we would do more to adapt our main services so that we could offer either a eucharistic or an all-age non-eucharistic service. These are not likely to take place more than once per month and probably only around once per quarter.</p>	
9.	<p>Friends of Biddenden Church</p> <p>The PCC approved the Launch of Friends Fundraising Concert on 16 July. This was proposed by Peter Whitestone and seconded by Ann Courtness. Mark reported on a recent meeting with Colin Daly who is setting up the Friends of Biddenden Group. Colin has Linda's procedure for working in church. Colin is keen to work closely with the PCC and is aware of Diocesan rules.</p>	
10.	<p>Church Fete:</p> <p>The Church Fete on 9 July was approved by the PCC. Proposed by Peter Whitestone and seconded by Ann Courtness.</p>	
11.	<p>Magazine</p> <p>Money for new subscriptions will be delivered to the Cabin. Anna will put them in a folder. Brian will come and collect the money and Judith will collect the names. Brian's name as a contact for subscriptions is to be taken out of the magazine.</p>	
12.	<p>Rector's Report and Service Planning Notes</p> <p>The Harvest Service on 2 October at 11am was agreed.</p> <p>A John Mayne afterschool club is to start in September 2016.</p> <p>Alex was asked to formally announce the dates of his sabbatical and agreed to write an article in the magazine.</p> <p>Peter asked if Wednesday communion services could appear under the Services Coming section of the pew sheet.</p>	
13.	<p>Need for verger at baptisms</p> <p>It is a good idea where baptisms are held other than during Sunday services for there to be other members of the Church present. Ann Courtness is happy to help with this.</p>	
14.	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfer of Joint Account. Smarden PCC propose the Joint Account, currently held in the name of All Saints Biddenden PCC but administered by Smarden, to be transferred from Nat West to Lloyds bank where it can become a sub account of the Smarden PCC account and this be easier to administer. <p>Catherine asked why the joint account is in the name of only one of the PCCs. Surely there should be an account in the name of the Benefice with signatories from both Parishes. Alex explained that the banks required a written constitution, signed by the bishop. This was decided to be too complicated. The PCC approved the decision to close the joint bank account with NatWest in</p>	

	<p>the name of All Saints Biddenden PCC and to open a new joint account with Lloyds as a sub-account of Smarden PCC. Proposed by Peter Whitestone and seconded by Linda Webb. All in favour. The PCC also approved the decision for Tom Hay to operate the new joint account using online banking. Proposed by Ann Courtness and seconded by Mark Clixby. All in favour.</p> <p>2. Other finance matters. The bank account looks healthy at present, due to the transfer of £15,000 and some recent fundraising events.</p>	
15.	<p>Health and Safety Mark to carry out an inspection this month. Following the recent accident on the footpath, Mark would like to carry out a risk assessment of the whole churchyard, in collaboration with Chris Cox.</p>	MC
16.	<p>Churchwarden's Report There is now a log for checking the emergency lighting system. The Quinquennial inspection has been completed. Nothing major to report, apart from some missing roof tiles. The hopper at top of downpipe needs clearing out. The South wall will need stripping and replastering to solve the problem of rising damp and damp from the downpipe. It was suggested this could be the first project for the Friends. Linda is to ask a roofer to mend the roof tiles and clear the hopper at the same time. The electrical inspection has been carried out. Report awaited, Linda anticipates some comments about the floodlights. It may be that the wattage of the bulbs is too high and will need to be reduced. There is a set of chandeliers need to be sold. Another church may be interested in having them, for a donation. Ann and Linda to follow this up.</p>	LW AC/LW
17	<p>Events Once again the committee had organised some very successful fundraising events. The PCC value the work of the events committee and will make sure that they are kept informed of future Friends' events so that there are no clashes. The events committee also raises money for Diocesan needs which the Friends will not be able to do. The PCC is to thank the events committee for their very valuable work.</p>	AB/AP
18	<p>Deanery Synod Annual meeting has just taken place. Smarden's resolution debated and warmly received.</p>	
19	<p>John Mayne A joint after-school club is proposed to start in the Autumn term, from September to mid October. It will take place in church. 3.30 to 4.30. The PCC is to write to Melanie Williams to thank her for what she has done. There is enormous respect for the school within the village, she has showed a great deal of care for the pupils and has sought to raise academic standards and to widen their education through music and the arts and by giving them opportunities to travel. As a result the school has the accolade of being an outstanding Christian school.</p>	AB/AP

	Alex decided that there would be no 8am service on 28 August.	
20	Dates of next meetings: 30 August, 4 October (budget), 22 November (combined), 6 December.	
21	The meeting closed with prayers at 9.15pm	