

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of a meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 30 August 2016 at 7.30pm in the Cabin

Present: Alex Bienfait (Chair), Catherine Wilson, Mark Clixby, Paul Webster, Colin Steere, Peter Whitestone.

Item		Action
1.	Alex opened the meeting with a Bible reading from 1 John chapter 4 followed by prayer.	
2.	Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Linda Webb and Ann Courtness.	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of 5 July were looked at and clarification was asked about item no 18. Alex clarified that Smarden's resolution mentioned there was the one already mentioned in item no 4. The Minutes were adopted – proposed Paul W, seconded Peter W. The minutes of 3 May were also approved by the PCC.	
4.	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was asked about the Friends. Alex commented that Mary and David Spry were offering to organise a bridge afternoon, and an evening with Joanna Lumley which would possibly take place in January. Both of these would be fundraising events. Alex also commented that the Constitution for the Friends still needs to be finalised and there has been very little progress on this to date. Cheques payable to the Friends can't be paid in until the Charity is set up and registered and there was some discussion about how to move this forward. Paul and Alex to meet with Colin Daly.</li> <li>• The area underneath the Tower is apparently now a bit tidier.</li> <li>• Item no 5: Alex is pursuing the linked service with the German church.</li> <li>• Mark has not yet confirmed how much the church gave to the parish council for the playground refurbishment and it needs to be carried over to next time.</li> <li>• Item no 15: The risk assessment of the churchyard has not yet been done by Mark.</li> <li>• Item no 16: Regarding the possible selling of the chandeliers, Alex has checked on Ebay and he thinks they are worth about £165 each. There are four of these to be sold. The PCC supported the sale of the chandeliers at the suggested price and will make contact with George Denny.</li> <li>• Linda has asked a roofer to mend the roof tiles and clear the hopper.</li> <li>• The electrical inspection report has been received. Between £250 - £300 of work needs doing. The electrical inspection report has been put into the log book. Mark had a paper copy of it which he gave to Alex for safekeeping and he drew our attention to annual and monthly checks that should be being done.</li> </ul>	<p>AB/PW</p> <p>AB MC</p> <p>MC</p> <p>AB</p>
5.		

	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Whitestone wanted to talk about the library in All Saints Church. He suggested that there should maybe be fewer books of better quality and he is going to talk to Julie Lupton who has recently reorganised the library. He suggested that it needs more obvious sections and also that the profile of the library could be raised, possibly by putting notices in the pew sheet and including mention of it in sermons.</li> <li>• Mark Clixby informed the meeting that he had received a phone message from a possible new treasurer. He will follow this up. He also advised the meeting that he is going to be away from 14 October to 8 November this year and he is putting in place plans so that this doesn't disrupt the church finances.</li> <li>• Paul Webster spoke about the quality of the printing in the magazine which he finds disappointing and following a discussion about this, Paul and Alex are going to look into alternative printers and there is also going to be a meeting with the current printer to see if things can be resolved.</li> <li>• Colin Steere raised the issue of the number of people needed to man the church if on a coffee morning, for example, there have to be two people there and we had a discussion about the lone working policy and concerns about having people in the church on their own. Mark Clixby said he would find the lone working policy wording as agreed with Ecclesiastical Insurance and bring it to the next PCC meeting or circulate it by email amongst the members.</li> </ul>	<p>PW</p> <p>MC</p> <p>PW</p> <p>MC</p>
6.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Alex recorded his deep sadness that he had received Linda's resignation as churchwarden and his thanks for all she has done especially her unremitting attention to detail. The PCC discussed how we could mark this. Catherine is going to get a thank you card which the PCC members will be invited to sign and Alex is going to ask Linda about the possibility of presenting that and some flowers in a service. Obviously we need a new churchwarden now and it was clarified that a churchwarden can start part way through the year providing the correct procedures are followed. The main concern with Linda's departure is the fabric team and Alex is going to have a conversation with Julie Lupton about this.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>AB</p> <p>AB</p>
7.	<p>Churchwarden</p> <p>This has been dealt with in item 6.</p>	
8.	<p>Bell ringing complaint</p> <p>Alex received an email complaining about the noise of the bells. This happened when the bell ringing practice changed from Tuesday to Thursday evening. Although the email had a name on it, no contact details were given apart from the email. Alex has replied to the email but has had no further contact. He has now had a phone call from Ashford Borough Council who have also had a complaint made to them about our bells. This is an on going matter.</p>	
9.	<p>Hand Bell Loan</p> <p>St Mildred's Church, Tenterden are hoping to start a new hand bell ringing group, but they don't have their own set of bells in working order, and so Alex</p>	

	proposed that we should lend them our set of hand bells. This was seconded by Catherine and everyone was in favour.	
10.	<p>Rector's Report</p> <p>A member of the congregation has inquired about reserving grave space. This would need a Faculty from the Diocese. A brief discussion was had about the issue of grave spaces being reserved and a further discussion will be had at the next PCC meeting. Apart from that, Alex went through the rest of his report. Regarding his sabbatical, Alex will probably be back on Sunday 14 May 2017 rather than Monday 15 May 2017.</p>	
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p>Now that Linda is no longer a churchwarden and with Mark's absence for a space of time in the Autumn, it was felt that more people were needed to sign cheques so the PCC passed a resolution proposed by Alex and seconded by Peter that Linda Webb should no longer be a signatory having resigned as churchwarden and that Colin Steere, Catherine Wilson and Paul Webster should be added to the signatory list. Alex proposed this, Peter seconded it and everyone was in favour.</p> <p>Alex also spoke about a diocesan initiative called Giving for Life. Anna had had information from the diocese about this but as she was not present Alex gave some brief details. This is the new stewardship initiative which has been launched by the diocese or is going to be launched in response to the fact that there will need to be an increase in quota over the next probably several years. This is particularly in response to the need to raise clergy stipends to bring them into line with the stipends in the rest of the country, and also safeguarding costs in the diocese have risen astronomically due to all the new policies which have to be put into place. Alex will circulate more information about this.</p>	AB
12.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
13.	<p>Churchwarden/Fabric team report</p> <p>Linda is dealing with the roof issues as minuted earlier.</p>	
14.	<p>Events Committee</p> <p>The report hadn't been circulated and no copies were available at the meeting so the report is going to be circulated in the future.</p>	
15.	<p>Deanery Synod</p> <p>Alex drew everyone's attention once again to the event in Tenterden in St Mildred's on Wednesday 19 October when Julian Evans is coming to speak about trees in the Bible – God's Trees - and Alex encouraged everyone to attend.</p>	
16.	<p>John Mayne School</p> <p>There are still plans to run an after-school club once a week on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon for the beginning of September and running through until the October half term.</p>	

17	Dates of next meetings: The date of the next meetings were confirmed: 4 October (budget), 22 November (combined), 6 December. On 22 November Alex is hoping that Revd Sarah Chapman will come and join the meeting to follow up the sermon she preached at the end of July at the combined service and to answer questions about that.	
18	In our closing prayers we remembered particularly that Robert Buckley and Gordon Drake have died recently.	