

Minutes of a meeting of the Bishop Burton Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 7.30pm at Mr and Mrs Thomas' home.

Present:

- Rev A Bailey
- Mrs R Newton
- Mr D Oxtoby
- Mr D Beynon
- Mr T Thomas
- Mrs S Thomas
- Mrs I Stickney
- Mrs M Maplesden
- Mrs S Pickering
- Mrs J Pillsmoor
- Mrs Wray
- Mr D S Danforth
- Mrs A Danforth

Apologies for Absence: Miss H Swann, Mrs A Cherry and Mr G Richardson

The meeting began at 7.30pm with prayers.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record. Rev Bailey signed these.

2. Matters Arising

Pew Sale

Mr Thomas advised that the Faculty requesting the ability to sell the vestry pew has been granted by the Diocese. Gilbert Bateson will be viewing it on the 24th January 2011 to see if it can go to auction. The pew is likely to make less than £100.00 if sold.

Repair to Candlestick

No further progress had been made regarding the necessary repairs to one of the large freestanding candlesticks. Mr Oxtoby advised that Mr John Dunning has said that he knows of someone who may be able to repair this for us.

Action: Mr Oxtoby to speak to Mr Dunning and advise of any progress made at the next meeting.

Church Interior Decoration

The replacement curtains for the main Church door have been put up by Mr Pittaway. Rev Newton mentioned that they could do with having a few more curtain rings to make them hang better.

Action: Mr Thomas will speak to Mr Pittaway to see if this can be rectified.

Amplification System

The installation of this system has now been completed and is working very well. It has been reported that the 'T' Loop for hearing aid users is also working effectively. We were reminded though that both system switches, ie the one in the Vestry for the T-Loop and the one for the sound system needed to be switched on to ensure that the whole system worked correctly.

A letter on behalf of the Committee expressing our grateful thanks for their generous donation had been sent to Messrs John and Andrew Dunning by Mr Danforth.

Visit to All Saints Church by Mr Phil Thomas

At the previous meeting, Rev Bailey advised that she had been speaking to one of the Diocesan Advisors, Mr Phil Thomas. Mr Thomas has never seen All Saints, and he expressed an interest in visiting. It was agreed to extend an invitation to Mr Thomas in the Spring, but after further discussion it was decided now to wait until after the Quinquennial Inspection had taken place.

Quinquennial Inspection

At the previous meeting, Miss Swann mentioned that Andrew Boyce, the Architect who is due to carry out our Quinquennial Inspection, had been in touch to do this work. We did however have to ask him to postpone his visit due to the decorating works being carried out. Rev Bailey advised that this inspection was necessary for insurance purposes as it checked the building to ensure that it was safe and water-tight.

Action: Miss Swann to e-mail Mr Boyce advising that the interior works had now been completed and requesting him to visit.*

* As Miss Swann was unable to attend the meeting, this action point was carried over until the next meeting on the 23rd February 2011.

New Hymn Books

Mr Beynon advised that he was still looking into the provision of new Hymn Books – changing from the 'Old and New' version to 'Ancient and Modern'. He had found a supplier of the books, but unfortunately they have a £700 minimum order level, and our order is going to be half of this value. The Committee discussed the various other ways of providing a variety of music for Services including obtaining a Licence to copy

music, but this would cost in the region of £80 - £150 per year and would necessitate someone printing copies onto paper for each Service which is not environmentally friendly. It was therefore decided that the best way forward was still to purchase the new Hymn Books, the cost of which was to be taken from the Choir Fund. It was felt that 25 standard copies plus a few large print format copies would suffice for now, plus 3 music copies (1 for Mr Beynon at home, 1 to be kept in Church and 1 for Jean Williams, who sometimes plays for David when he is away).

Action: Mr Beynon to source an alternative supplier of the books that he would like and pass this information on to Mrs Danforth for the order to be placed.

External Electrical Problem

Mr Thomas reported that this problem had now been resolved. The invoice from the Contractor was yet to be received however.

Action: Mr Thomas to pass the invoice over to Mr Danforth for payment upon receipt.

Organ

Mr Beynon confirmed that the Organ Tuner had now carried out the necessary repair work to the Organ, and this was now playing much better.

Bishop Visitation

On Wednesday 17th November 2010, Bishop Frith attended a Service at All Saints, during which time Rev Bailey received her License to become our Priest in Charge, assisted by Ruth Newton. It was a very meaningful Service which was well attended, and gave us the opportunity to formally welcome Angela and Ruth to our Parish.

At the last meeting, Rev Bailey asked all present to finish the following sentence:

‘This Parish Church is at its best for me when.....’

Looking back at the responses given, she asked all present if we could remember a time during the last few months when these statements were fulfilled:

Mr Beynon said that the Church had been full on a number of occasions. One was for the Bishop’s visit, and another was at the Christingle Service where it was wonderful to see so many families back in Church, along with some friends from Cherry Burton and Little Weighton. Rev Newton mentioned the Remembrance Day and Carol Services which were also well attended, along with the Advent Workshop. It was also full for Mrs Ellerington’s funeral, and although it was a sad occasion, her family appreciated the Service and support of their many friends, and were pleased that the new sound system worked well for them.

Mr Thomas asked if there was to be a new Chaplain for the Agricultural College. Rev Bailey said that the new Vicar of St Mary’s in Beverley would also become the Chaplain for the College, working there for two days per week during term time.

3. Planning – Spring

Mothering Sunday

This is on the 3rd April 2011, and it was discussed whether or not to hold an Evensong Service on Saturday 2nd April 2011 instead of the Sunday Service, as many people like to go out for Sunday Lunch on the day itself. This to be confirmed at the next meeting. Rev Newton said that she was going to have a discussion with Claire from the Methodist Church to see if she could arrange something to involve the Village children for Mothering Sunday and possibly Easter.

Ash Wednesday

Rev Bailey asked if we historically celebrated Ash Wednesday, and if so, in what way. It was explained that this is not something that we have ever done, but would be happy to receive any suggestions from her if she would like to hold a Service.

Easter

After some discussion, it was agreed that there would be a Service in Church at 2pm on Good Friday afternoon. Unfortunately Mr Beynon will be away, so will be unable to play the organ for us for this Service. Rev Bailey advised that a Passion Play was being held again this year at Cherry Burton and Etton. She will pass on more details for anyone wishing to attend when she receives them.

Space in Church

Rev Bailey said that she had been thinking about ways in which to create more space in Church, and this was something she felt that we could discuss with Phil Thomas when he came to visit. The small area at the front (near the pulpit) used to be the Children's corner, and Rev Bailey said that she would like to re-instate it as such and bring some (quiet) toys in, and make it a safe area where they can play.

Sunday Lunch

This will be held up at Burton Raikes farm on Sunday 3rd July, as always with kind permission from David Oxtoby.

Rev Newton's Ordination

This will be taking place on the 19th June 2011 at 10am at York Minster. There will be no Service at All Saints on this day.

Rogation Sunday

This will be on the 5th Sunday in May, and will be taking place at a farm in North Newbald – further details to follow.

Fund Raising

A number of ideas were put forward as possible fund raising events over the course of the Spring and into Summer. Mrs Wray suggested the Beverley Male Voice Choir or

the Longcroft Gospel Choir, who have previously performed at All Saints with great success. Mr Thomas said that he would approach the Quintessentials to see if they were available to perform again for us. David Beynon was asked about the possibility of putting on an Organ recital, but he said that he was afraid that the organ was not really up to that kind of performance standard – he would however think about approaching Alan Spedding to see if he could possibly be persuaded out of retirement. The idea of doing either a Flower Festival or Songs of Praise (or possibly running them as a combined event over the course of a weekend) was also put forward by Mr and Mrs Thomas.

All of these ideas are to be discussed at the next meeting to see if any progress with them has been made.

Rev Bailey confirmed that she would be putting together a letter which could be sent round the Village explaining about our funding situation and enclosing with it a Gift Aid envelope. Mrs Danforth agreed to organise the printing of this when completed.

4. Finance

Mr Danforth informed the meeting that the General Current Account had £223 in it compared to £229 at the 31st December 2009. In addition, the General CBF Account had £13,336 in it, the same as at 31st December 2009. In the Fabric Fund Current Account there was £358, compared to a figure at 31st December 2009 of £2,215. This was after paying Mr Pittaway's bill of £2,527 for the Church decoration but before paying for the work on the Organ in the sum of £800. A transfer had been requested of £500 from the CBF Account in order to settle this bill. The balance in the CBF Fabric Account had risen from £17,813 at the 31st December 2009 to £21,415. This was primarily because we have been able to recover VAT on the repair work carried out in 2009.

The Quota for 2009 was paid in full with the help of a grant of £400 from a third party, but underpaid the Quota in 2008 by £2,551. With respect to 2010, we have managed to make 10 payments of £631 with the assistance of a third party donation of £500, which means we still owe £1262.

In 2010 we paid the following from the Fabric Account; Retention on building work of £1,176, Architects Fees of £113, Church Decoration of £2,517, and Sound System of £3,567 (funded by a generous donation from members of the Dunning family).

Covenant reclaims have been made, and funds received, for 2009 and to March 2010. A claim for the balance of 2010 will be done shortly.

The value of the Charinco investment at 5th October 2010 was £25,303 and that of the Schroders investment £10,571.

The Diocese has raised the Quota again, and for 2011 it will stand at £7,845, compared to £7,576 in 2010.

Fundraising activities carried out included the Concert (£629), Sunday Lunch (£826) and Play (£151), with contributions also from Quizzes etc. Donations were also received from the Dunning Family (£3283) and the Bishop Burton Events Group (£100), all of which were most gratefully received.

5. Any Other Business

Church Opening

At the previous meeting it was suggested that our Insurer may allow us to leave the Church doors open at all times, and not insist on the Church being locked at nights. Apparently it has been found that less damage is caused by thieves if they do not have to break in. Mr Danforth reported that he had spoken to our Insurers and we have been told that the Church must be locked overnight, as leaving it open would invalidate our Insurance. Mr Oxtoby has already arranged for the Church to continue to be locked overnight.

The question regarding keys for the Church was again raised. As we cannot leave the Church open, it was suggested that a full set of keys be placed into a key safe with a number of keys for the safe being made available to the Reverends, Church Wardens and members of the PCC where required.

Action: Mrs Danforth to obtain quotations for key safes and present them to the PCC for consideration at the next meeting.

Fees and Cash Handling

Rev Bailey handed around a leaflet distributed by the Diocese regarding Cash Handling procedures for Churches. As Rev Bailey is accountable for the way in which we handle money received into Church, she wanted to ensure that we were all aware of the rules in order to protect ourselves and ensure that an audit trail is made. After reading the notes, Mr Danforth advised that we were complying with all but three of the Diocese's recommendations:

Firstly, we do sometimes remove small amounts from Collections for sundry items before the Collection is banked. These sundries would be for Communion wafers or Wine etc, and would only be done by a Church Warden and a note of the sum taken and the purpose for which it was used would always be left. This is something which can be easily rectified, and will be stopped henceforth.

The second relates to cheque signatories. The Diocese recommends that four people are signatories on the Church's bank accounts. We currently only have two, being Miss Swann (Church Warden) and Mr Danforth (Assistant Treasurer). We bank with Barclays Bank, and have been advised that if we have any more than three signatories we would be charged. It was agreed that a third signatory will be added to the Bank Accounts after the next AGM.

The third relates to the counting of Collections. Currently, only one person counts the Collection and makes a note in the Register. The Diocese recommends that two people count the Collection together and counter-signs to say that this has been done. This again is something which is easily complied with and will be done with immediate effect.

With regard to the Fees we receive, Rev Bailey advised Mr Danforth that she will indicate to him how to split the fees for Church and Diocese as the situations arise from Weddings, Funerals etc. The Verger and Organist fees can be paid directly to

them, and where this is in relation to a Funeral, the Undertaker can pay this directly in cash. Rev Bailey then asked about the PCC's position regarding the Collections made at Funerals. She was under the impression that the Church always took half of all Collections and then made the other half available to go elsewhere at the Family's request. Mr Danforth advised Rev Bailey that this was not the case. The Family's wishes were always followed with regard to the disposal of the Collection made at any Funeral. If the family concerned is kind enough to donate any or all of the Collection to Church, it is very gratefully received, but if they express a wish that any or all should be sent elsewhere, this wish is strictly adhered to.

Rev Newton said that traditionally collections made a Christingle Services usually went to the Children's Society and she asked the PCC if we would be willing to make such a donation. After discussing our current financial situation, it was reluctantly decided that we could not afford to make such a gift on this occasion given the bills waiting to be paid. Rev Bailey pointed out that we currently had £13,000 in an unrestricted savings account which could be used for any purpose, but Mr Thomas explained that if it was not for this cash in the Bank, the Church would not be solvent, and that it was needed to cover the increasing deficit in our revenue.

Ashes Internment

Rev Bailey said that she had been approached by Elizabeth Needler (nee Byass) who had requested that her Mother and Father's ashes be inturned with the other members of her Family who were buried in the Church yard. Mr Oxtoby explained that this may be difficult given the lack of room for a new headstone to be placed.

Action: Mr Oxtoby to look at the plot with Rev Bailey before a final decision is made.

New PCC Member

Mr Oxtoby advised that Mr Leonard Byass had expressed an interest in sitting on the PCC, and proposed that he be co-opted. This was seconded by Mr Danforth, and all present agreed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at Mrs Pillmoor's home, commencing at 7.30pm.
Mrs Wray apologised that she would be unable to attend this meeting due to being away.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 10 pm, and Mr and Mrs Thomas were thanked for their kind hospitality.