

Minutes of a meeting of the Bishop Burton Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 7.30pm at Mrs Pillmoor's home.

Present: Rev A Bailey
Rev R Newton
Miss H Swann
Mrs S Thomas
Mrs I Stickney
Mrs M Maplesden
Mrs S Pickering
Mrs J Pillmoor
Mrs A Cherry
Mr G Richardson
Mr L Byass
Mr D S Danforth
Mrs A Danforth

Apologies for Absence: Mr D Oxtoby, Mr T Thomas, Mr D Beynon and Mrs M Wray

The meeting began at 7.30pm with prayers. A warm welcome was given to our new Committee member, Mr Leonard Byass.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record with two minor amendments:

The date of the Sunday Lunch at Burton Raikes Farm is the 3rd July 2011.

Mrs Elizabeth Needler (nee Byass) made the enquiry regarding the internment of family ashes (please see page 7 of the previous meeting minutes).

Both changes were noted, and Rev Bailey signed a copy of the Minutes.

2. Matters Arising

Pew Sale

Mrs Thomas confirmed that Gilbert Bateson had viewed the pew and she was waiting for his response regarding its suitability to place at auction. Another prospective purchaser has been shown the pew, but it was too big for their requirements.

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. As Mr Oxtoby was unable to attend the meeting, this action point is to be carried over to the next meeting.

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

Quinquennial Inspection

Miss Swann confirmed that she had tried to contact Andrew Boyce, the Architect who is due to carry out our Quinquennial Inspection on a number of occasions, but each time she has called, she has been asked to call back. She explained further that it was difficult to keep trying to call back, given that she was having to do this during her working day. Mrs Danforth advised that a letter has now been received from the Diocese reminding us that the Quinquennial Inspection has to be undertaken.

Action: Rev Bailey undertook to send an e-mail to Mr Boyce requesting him to schedule an inspection date, and to confirm to the Diocese that we were trying to arrange for this to take place.

New Hymn Books

Mrs Danforth advised that she had received all of the details for the new Hymn Books required by Mr Beynon, but unfortunately the Supplier is currently out of stock. She confirmed that she would place the order for these books as soon as stock became available.

External Electrical Problem

Mr Thomas reported that this problem has now been resolved. The invoice has been received from the Contractor, and this has been paid.

Rotas in the Village Newsletter

Rev Newton agreed to prepare the Service Rota for the Village Newsletter, and Miss Swann confirmed she was happy to continue to prepare the Cleaning and Flower rotas.

3. Planning – Spring

Mothering Sunday

Rev Newton confirmed that she and Claire from the Methodist Church have organised a joint Mothering Saturday Workshop on the 2nd April from 2pm to 3.30pm, for Children to go and have some fun preparing gifts for Mothering Sunday. This event will be held at the Methodist Church. There will be an Evensong Service for Mothering Sunday on the 3rd April 2011.

Easter

Lent Group:

Rev Newton advised that she is organising a Lent Group meeting on Tuesday evenings (between 15th March and 12th April) at Nigel and Mary Cutland's home should anyone wish to go along.

Easter Services:

There will be a family service for Lent on Sunday 27th March 2011 at 11am. On Good Friday at 2pm there will be a Service of Meditation followed by the Easter Day Communion Service on the 24th April at 11am.

Rogation Sunday

It was reported in the previous meeting minutes that this will be on the 5th Sunday in May, and will be taking place at a farm in North Newbald, and that further details would follow. The date has been confirmed as Sunday 28th May 2011, but the congregation of All Saints has also been invited to Cold Harbour Farm by Mr Dunning for this celebration.

Action: Rev Newton was asked by Rev Bailey to clarify with Mr Dunning if the congregation at North Newbald would also be attending, or if two separate events are being held.

Fund Raising

Several ideas for fund raising events were put forward at the previous meeting. Mrs Thomas was able to confirm that she had approached the Quintessentials singing group, and they have agreed to give another concert in Church, but want to do this around Christmas time. Mrs Thomas has asked if they could bring this forward to some time in November, and she is waiting to hear from them.

Rev Bailey is currently in the process of putting together a letter to 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 reported that General Fund Current Account had £299 in it at 31/12/10, compared to £229 at 31/12/09. At the moment it held £820, but there were two cheques as yet unrepresented, one for £93 to Npower and the other for £231 to the Diocese of York. The General Fund CBF Account held the same at the end of 2009/2010 as currently, being £13,336.

The Fabric Fund Current Account held £358 at 31/12/10, compared to £2,215 at 31/12/09. Since the year end the Organ repair of £800 has been paid, and the current balance is £111. We have however to pay an Electrician's bill of £200, and the Insurance of £2,153, so Mr Danforth advised that he had requested a transfer from the Fabric Fund CBF Account of £2,250 to cover these costs. The balance on the CBF Account at 31/12/10 was £21,415, compared to £17,813 at 31/12/09. The balance is currently £20,915, but this is before the transfer requested of £2,250 has been completed.

Mr Danforth advised that, during the course of 2010, we made nine payments to the Diocese, and by adding to a donation made of £500, we were able to make a further full

payment of £631. This left us with an underpayment for the year of £1,262. We settled all of the 2009 quota, and in 2008 we underpaid by £2,551. No payments have been made for 2011 as yet.

Draft Accounts were circulated to all present at the Meeting, and these showed a deficit on the General Fund of £1,763 and a surplus on the Fabric Fund of £1,783. With regard to the General Fund, collections were higher, and Mr Danforth stated that this was mainly due to Funerals. Covenants were down 11% as were Dividends and Interest. Fees were down 30% and heating costs have doubled. The Accounts include a provision for the arrears to the Diocese.

With regard to the Fabric Fund Accounts, a net credit is shown for the repairs due to VAT recovered on the roof expenditure exceeding the monies spent. The VAT recovered amounted to £4,465, and monies spent on repairs were Retention of £1,176, Architect's fees of £113, Decoration of £2528, Offertory Box of £63 and General of £150. In addition we purchased the Sound System which was fully funded by donations. The Organ repair will be in the 2011 Accounts.

Covenant reclaim has been submitted for the period, but to date this has not been refunded. This amounts to £970 for the Fabric Fund and £504 for the General Fund.

The value of the Charino and Schrodgers at 05/10/10 amounted to £25,303 and £10,571 respectively.

The Diocese has raised our Quota again this year from £7,576 in 2010 to £7,845 for the current year.

The main fund raising events for 2010 were Concert (£629), Sunday Lunch (£826) and Play (£151). We also received legacies of £1,000 from Peggy Wade, £500 from Anne Wildsmith, donations from the Dunning family to the value of £3,283, and £100 from the Bishop Burton Events Group.

Mr Danforth then asked the Committee if he should pay the arrears for the 2010 Parish Share to the Diocese which came to a total of £1,242. This would necessitate drawing some savings out from one of the investments. In previous years it was agreed by the Committee not to pay the Parish Share using the Church's savings, but to only pay using money from the Collections. Mr Danforth explained that we were still technically in arrears for 2008, but that if we paid in full for 2010, it was possible that these arrears would be written off as they had been previously. After some discussion, Mr Danforth was asked to find out from the Diocese if the 2008 arrears would be written off should our Parish Share be paid in full for 2010. If this was the case, it was unanimously agreed that funds should be drawn from the investment account to clear the 2010 arrears.

After Mr Danforth's financial report was given, the Accounts for 2010 were presented to the Committee, and it was unanimously agreed by all present to accept these.

***Action:** Rev Bailey to provide Mr Danforth with a name and address to whom a copy of the Accounts should be sent in order for an Audit to be carried out.*

5. Any Other Business

Church Opening

As Mr Danforth has now confirmed with our Insurers that the Church must be locked each evening (ie cannot be left unlocked 24 hours). It was agreed by all present to obtain a key safe to allow a set of keys to be left securely on the premises but available for use by authorised persons. Mrs Danforth confirmed that she was able to source a small key safe for approximately £25.00. Keeping the Church open each day is an onerous job, and the Committee is very grateful to Mrs Francis who has been doing this now for some time. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting.

Action: Mrs Danforth was asked to obtain a key safe, and Mrs Thomas volunteered to have it installed.

Ashes Internment

At the previous meeting 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 was concerned that this may be difficult given the lack of room for a new headstone to be placed. Rev Bailey reported that she had now had the opportunity to look at the area concerned. The restriction is a legal one which has come from the Chancellor. All internments must be marked with either a plaque in the ground or be marked by a tombstone. Rev Bailey has spoken to Mrs Needler about the options available, and she will advise her of the family's decision in due course.

Rev Bailey also confirmed that the ashes of Ann Wildsmith have been inturned in the Churchyard. The application for the memorial stone has been received.

Service Pattern

Rev Bailey said that the pattern of Services laid out in the previous meeting was being adhered to and seemed to be working well, to which everyone present agreed. The Evensong Service is the least well attended of them all – this is possibly due to the Winter period and attendance may improve as we move through to Spring and Summer. Attendance to be monitored and reviewed at the next meeting after the AGM.

Rev Newton advised that the attendance to Family Services was growing encouragingly and that a Treasure Hunt was being arranged for the next Family Service. All of the hard work and effort that Rev Newton is putting in to this monthly service was gratefully recognised, and all present agreed that it was lovely to see so many children back in the Church. The Gee Fund has granted a cheque in the sum of £250 to go towards the Children's workshops that Rev Newton and Claire (the Methodist Children and Youth Worker) are running – our grateful thanks went to Mr Oxtoby who presented the cheque on behalf of the Gee fund.

Suspension of Patron's Rights of Presentation

Mrs Danforth advised that the Archbishop of York has now agreed to the suspension of Patron's Rights of Presentation from the 21st March 2011 for the Benefice of Bishop Burton. As instructed by the Diocese the Notice was duly published on Sunday the 6th February 2011 prior to the commencement of the Service on that day and remained on the door of the Church for the whole day. Rev Bailey signed the Notice as the officiating Minister.

6. Date of Next Meeting – AGM 2011

The 2011 AGM will be held on Thursday 7th April 2011 at 7.30pm in All Saints Church. Rev Newton confirmed that an invitation for Villagers to attend has been put into the new Village Newsletter. Rev Bailey said that an AGM is always a good time to review your place on the Committee. Anyone wishing to resign need not stand again if they do not wish to continue. Mrs Maplesden, Mrs Stickney and Mrs Pillmoor indicated that they would like to stand down at that point. Miss Swann said that it would be unlikely that she would serve as Church Warden for another term. Rev Bailey confirmed that nomination slips for Church Warden nominations must be received by her prior to the commencement of the Meeting. Technically we must elect two Church Wardens, but we can just elect one on the night of the AGM.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at approximately 9.30 pm, and Mrs Pillmoor was thanked for her kind hospitality.