

Minutes of MEETING OF BARCOMBE PCC ON 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT 7.45 PM IN THE  
CONKER ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH

**PRESENT:** Dr P Frost (Vice chair), Rev'd J Hollingsworth, , Mr A Lamont, Mr N Hill, Mr E Cottingham, Mr O Petersen, Mr A Smith (Treasurer), Mr A Cannings, Mr I Pounce, Mrs C Mitchell.

1. Opening Prayer: Acts 8.26-39, 1120 Will you come and follow me
2. Apologies: received from:
  - a. Mrs G Warren, Mr G Tomsett, Mr M Richards, Mrs A Fry (Secretary), Mrs H Shephard, Mrs C Culme-Seymour, Mr A Cross.
3. Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Agreed.
4. Matter arising
  - a. We need a Health & Safety Advisor.
5. Building Committee report
  - a. Mr O Petersen circulated a report and took us through this.
  - b. This report is attached.
  - c. Proposal from O Petersen: The large gap in the boundary hedge to be filled with a wire fence. P Frost seconded. Unanimous.
  - d. Mr Frost thanked the Building Cttee for their work.
6. Finance Committee report
  - a. Mr A Smith circulated an account summary.
  - b. Christmas Fair raised £1494. The PCC thanked Mr A Lamont for his work.
  - c. Mr E Cottingham was thanked for his work re hiring of St Francis and the Conker Room.
  - d. Mr A Lamont then took the PCC through the Finance Cttee report.
  - e. Mr A Lamont proposed £300 to Barcombe News and the balance (£200) to Rector's Discretionary Fund. P Frost seconded. Unanimous.
  - f. Sellen's bequest is to be spent on a portable desk/lectern. Next PCC Mr Lamont will come with a recommendation.
  - g. Mr A Carpin is to step down as Advertising Manager. We need a new one.
7. Mission Committee report
  - a. Mr I Pounce took us through a summary report.
  - b. The aim is to donate £7380 p.a.
  - c. Report attached.
  - d. Proposal: To not donate to Tear Fund and Bible Society but instead to Myrtle Martin ((disabled) Peru People) and to the Mission House (Poverty relief through business creation, encouraging self-sufficiency and health work and training in life skills in Madagascar). Seconded Mr P Frost. Unanimous.
  - e. Mr E Cottingham wondered if members of the Church would like to sponsor Miss C Tiffin in her venture to work with Toy Box in August 2011.
8. Youth Work report
  - a. FYG has started up again. 18 primary school aged children (FYG2) and 10 FYG3s (secondary school). Mikey Lear is leading this. The last FYG3 ended with some excellent suggestion from the kids about what to do with the group. These will feed into a meeting this Friday with the FYG helpers and leaders to plan for this next term / year.
  - b. Sunday evenings after Evensong the Rector is leading an older group, the Confirmation group (Reconfyg). This was only 5 at best last term and averages about 3or4!
  - c. Clair Brough is to see if she can give our Children and Youth workers a refresher course in Child Protection, possibly on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
9. Deanery Synod Report
  - a. There has been no meeting since the PCC last met.
  - b. NB Deanery Synod reps will be up for (re)election in April.
10. Items from members

- a. Mr E Cottingham – Brenda Jamieson used to be Church secretary has passed away. The PCC agreed to Mary Duncan’s suggestion that we put her name in the book of Remembrance. Mr Cottingham is to get the details.
  - b. Mr O Petersen – St Francis – please can people be aware of Health and Safety Risks in St Francis. Mr Cottingham is to write a Dos and Don’ts in the next bill. Mr Petersen will look into the electrical costs of St Francis and involve Robin Moore. Chloe Tiffin helped with the audio on Sunday very well.
11. Correspondence
- a. Bishop Wallace will be doing one last Lent Course on Tuesdays in Uckfield 8-9.15pm March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12.
  - b. Heather Shephard will be stepping down as Churchwarden at the APCM. Please do pray for her replacement. There will also be 5 vacancies for PCC.
  - c. Mrs Beryl Jackson has written to the PCC to thank the Church for its love and prayers and for a gift given.
  - d. Church Statistics for 2010 have been emailed to the PCC. The 10am services tends to average 96 people, whilst over the year 146 people come to church each week to the different services. The Diocese has declined in attendance by 8.9% over 10 years.

#### Consideration of Paper on Women Bishops.

The PCC have been asked to vote on three proposals

- (i) The PCC agrees with the consecration of women as Bishop’s. Proposed by the Rector, seconded by A Lamont. 9 1 vote against.
- (ii) The PCC does not agree with the arrangements for those who feel they cannot work with a woman bishop. Proposed by the Rector, seconded by Mrs C Mitchell. Unanimous.
- (iii) The PCC would like to see a solid and reliable Episcopal alternative provided for those who feel that they cannot work with a woman bishop. Proposed by the Rector, seconded by P Frost. 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

The Rector will send these results to the Rural Dean who will also be inviting the Deanery Synod members to vote on this separately.

#### PCC Consideration of the Vision and Mission for the Next Five Years – “Increasing our Faith”

Mr P Frost suggested we have an extra PCC in February to talk about Youth Work. There wouldn’t be any business at that Meeting.

At that meeting we will have a whole meeting to look at both “Increasing our Faith” and “Youth Work”.

Mr Frost referred the PCC to the summary paper: Priorities for the Next Five Years.

Closing Prayer

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 – to talk about “Increasing our Faith” and “Youth Work” and not for business.

24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (NB: APCM 13<sup>th</sup> April)

## Barcombe PCC

### Buildings Committee Report – 2010

1. **The Buildings Committee's membership** was agreed at the 24.05.10 PCC Meeting and is Mr A Lamont, Mrs H Shepherd, Mr O Petersen, Mr G Thomsett, Mr A Cannings and Mr A Cross. At the 07.07.10 PCC

Meeting it was agreed that Mr O Petersen be the Chairman.

2. **Meetings** - The Committee met once in 2010, on 23 September.

3. **Matters arising at 23 September Meeting:**

a. Oil leak at St Mary's – Following emergency repair of leaking damaged outlet pipe, it was agreed that protection would be provided to this small-bore copper pipework adjacent to the storage tank, to prevent recurrence. Mr Cannings to action, in Jan 2011.

b. **Security of Oil Tank contents** – Suitable padlock for tank's fill cover sought by O. Petersen (OP), but not available. Our insurers have since advised in writing that our insurance policy does not require cover to be locked. Copy passed by OP to Assistant Treasurer for insurance file.

c. **Container Unit** – Safety notices have been placed on all sides and top, to deter children climbing on to it. Views since counselled by OP from sample of parents. No incidents reported. Situation being monitored and Committee to review risk on site.

d. **Lime Trees** – Quotes obtained by Mrs H. Shepherd and E. Cottingham for removing dead, dying and dangerous branches from trees in churchyard, and work since awarded to Robert Symes of East Chiltington. Following consultation with Tree Preservation Officer, work could not be started until after 08.10.10. Subsequently wet and then snowy weather has prevented commencement, due to safety considerations re Limes being notoriously slippery when wet. Work to be carried out in 2011 when weather turns dry.

e. **Building Security** – Insurers reported high rate of thefts in 2010 from church buildings, especially metals, and encourage vigilance in churchyards by all who frequent them, especially those who lock and unlock churches. A. Cross to advise Barcombe 'church lockers'. OP has drafted a note to Rev'd J Hollingsworth for possible insertion in the Barcombe News, and is to contact the local Community Policewoman.

Meeting proposed that large gap in hedge at Church Road boundary be filled with wire fence, and hedging be planted. A. Cross to request 'church lockers' to close and lock Car Park gates if found left open.

'Smartwater' has been applied by G. Thomsett, A.Cross and OP to various items in the church including metalwork, the new oak chairs and audio equipment, and also applied by A. Lamont externally to the lead roof over link to Conker Room.

OP has discussed with Geoff Trower marking the lead roof over the vestry when gutters are cleared in Spring.

- f. **Log Book** – to be updated.
- g. **Toilet Seat at St. Francis** – E. Cottingham is liaising with the Mother & Toddler group.
- h. **Electricity Costs at St. Mary's** – Rocketting costs in 2010 investigated by OP.

Evidently due to inappropriate operation of new off-peak storage heater in bell tower, including this heater's in-built on-peak silent fan-unit and in-built auxiliary on-peak heating element. Power consumption reduced following placing of notices in tower, explanation to bell-ringers, and overview control & continuing consumption monitoring by OP. At end of December EDF's contract to supply St. Mary's terminated by OP, and electricity supplier changed. Three year contract arranged with Scottish Power by OP to benefit from advantageous rates, starting 01 January 2011 and fixed until 31 October 2013.

Note: To obviate automatic 'roll-over' to Scottish Power's *standard* business prices on 01 November 2013 written notice must be given to Scottish Power by 01 October 2013.

Therefore, **Market business prices to be considered from 01 September 2013 and appropriate action to be taken to be taken before 01 October 2013.**

i. **Health & Safety** – John Simpson is no longer doing the annual risk assessment and a replacement volunteer with experience in this field is sought.

j. **Roof Tiles at St. Francis** – One fallen tile has been replaced by A. Cannings, and another to be replaced in January 2011.

k. **Boilers Servicing** – Quotes for servicing the two oil boilers at St. Mary's obtained by OP, including from Mr Kyle Harnden of Barcombe. Public Liability insurance cover being checked.

#### 4. **Matters arising post 23 September Meeting:**

a. **Electricity Supply at St. Francis** – After much investigation by OP, identity of supplier of electricity to St. Francis revealed as British Gas which, despite various previous representations by A. Lamont and others, has failed to invoice for a period of some 7 years. Electricity industry records wrongly showed that the supply had been de-energised. Liaison by OP maintained with A. Lamont and A. Smith, and written negotiation initiated with British Gas, by Treasurer, concerning large bill. Current electricity consumption noted to be high, and monitoring started by OP.

b. **Flies in Bell Tower, St. Mary's** – *Very* large accumulation of flies kindly removed at no charge by Michael Olliff-Lee in Autumn – extended period since last removal. Michael recommended that this work should be carried out annually, and has offered to do it next Autumn if he has not moved from Barcombe.

c. **Bell Tower Access Inst'll'n. at St. Mary's** – Offer received from installer, Power Access Systems Ltd, to inspect safety system they installed in 2009. As system has had little use/wear, need for inspection to be considered.

d. **Toilet at St. Mary's** - Prices obtained and work awarded to A. Cannings for replacement of cracked toilet pan. Work completed in short timescale before Christmas. **O. Petersen, January 2011.**

