

Church of St Mary, Sarnesfield

PCC Meeting minutes

Thursday October 23rd 2008, at The Vicarage, Weobley

Present: Rev'd Bob King, Revd Lynn Money, Mr Roger Marshall, Mrs Hilary Havard, Mrs Viv Leech, Mrs Andrea Williams.

Apologies: Mrs Joanna Bright, Mr Henry Verwey, Mrs Brenda Havard, Mr Jim Minton, Mrs Anita Bright, Mrs Anne Morton, Dr Rebekah Cutler.

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Minutes of the Last PCC Meeting (July 17th 2008): The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Viv Leech (VL) reported that the Lloyds TSB Current Acc't was in credit and that the CBF Deposit Acc't has £18,022 in it; down a little but the Diocesan share was fully paid up-to-date. VL also reported that the insurance with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) was renewed at a cost of c.£580 for the year 08/09, and this is discounted by committing to a five-year term with EIG. Reverend King (BK) wondered whether, as much of the money in hand was from legacies and donations, it would be possible to contrast annual 'earned income' and annual expenditure in order to make sure the PCC isn't nibbling away at savings.

Secretary's Report: There were no administrative matters to report, distinct from those touched on in the Fabric report.

The revised expenses form was accepted, and it was agreed that copies should be circulated to all PCC members.

Fabric Report:

Altar Rail: RM reported that the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) has recommended our petition for the introduction of a new altar rail and it was agreed that the necessary notifications to Bishop of Hereford's Registry at Westminster, English Heritage, and others where necessary be carried out.

VL reminded the meeting that carpeting on the altar step had been discussed and that if it was to go ahead then it should be fixed and not loose as previously considered; a good example was to be seen in Weobley church.

Roadside fence: Roger Marshall (RM) reported that this was now successfully re-installed and that Richard Leech had done an excellent job. This had allowed some tidying up of the path and this area of the churchyard was now looking a good deal more sightly. There was a vote of thanks to Richard Leech. (BK) asked about the church sign. RM advised that it was with Richard Putland for repair.

Parking space: Lively debate about the layby/parking space on the A4112, and in particular safety issues highlighted by parking and moving away, underlined the feeling that if there was an alternative parking option for the church, the parking space should

be 'closed' in some way that was clear to passing traffic; signage being the obvious solution. Taking away the gate and introducing more fencing being the more radical and expensive solution. RM explained that parking on a dedicated site on the Sarnesfield Estate would be acceptable but that it needed to be regulated by contract and that he was looking into this; not least, whether there were any legal loopholes the Diocesan Registrar would require us to jump through if closing an established entrance to the church. BK emphasised the need for water-tight rights of way if access to the church was to be via the Sarnesfield Court driveway alone. Andrea Williams (AW) advised that her husband, David, an archaeologist was very experienced in the relationship between archaeology and planning on possible historic sites and would get him to visit the proposed site. RM to speak to John Clark, Diocesan Secretary.

Christmas Services: Carol Service confirmed for December 14th; 3,30pm. There will be non-alcoholic punch, mince pies, and it was agreed PCC members should be active in promoting the service. RM would be sending a newsletter at the end of November. AW wondered whether a lift service would be popular. Christmas Day service was confirmed for 9.15am.

Brenda Havard (BH) recommended that the **Harvest Festival** date should be agreed well in advance, in order to get it into busy diaries, and so that parishioners could be gently reminded throughout the summer. It was agreed that the 2009 HF would be on October 11th at 11.30am and followed by a luncheon at the church.

Cake Stalls: BH recommended identifying 4 dates for 2009 and getting them in the village diary as early as possible. Dates agreed for 2009: March 26th; June 11th; Sept 17th; December 3rd.

Any Other Business:

- Weobley & Staunton Group Confirmation at St Mary's on June 21st remains unconfirmed. It would be nice to have it at St Mary's in 2009 – the size of the class would be a determining factor as large family numbers will attend. BK to advise.
- Hilary Havard reported that Derys Maddox was waiting for the Diocesan Office to send out new guidelines. BK advised that all PCC members should be aware of child protection issues, but that Derys is a first point of call for detailed advice.
- BK advised the meeting that reserved seats, and tea with the Dean, are laid on for those visiting Westminster Abbey to hear him preach at Evensong in November.
- BK asked whether there is a suitable decanter for the communion wine at services at St Mary's.

Date of the next meeting:

The date of the next meeting is set for Thursday 29th January 2009 at 9.30am at The Vicarage, Weobley.