



The Parish of Iver

The churches of St Peter and St Leonard

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2009 at 7.45 p.m. at St Peter's Centre

Present	Rev Tim Eady	Fliss Akehurst	Maureen James
	(presiding)	Chris Dalwood	Peter Owen
	George Howard	Jackie Griffiths	Janice Rowsell
	Brian Griffiths	Wendy Jenner	Gerald Paine
	Steve Baynes	Tina Lewis	Leslie Rimell
	Paul Walker	Angela Lindstrom	
	Clare Gordge	John Norfolk	

1	OPENING PRAYER <i>Tim opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians 4 vs1 followed by a time of prayer.</i>	<u>ACTION</u>
2	APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Kate Wilson, Jim Dashper, Joe Gibbs, Lesley Willoughby, Sarah Smith, Pauline Telfer, Nicki Foggoa.	
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 24 th November 2009 were received and approved.	
4	MATTERS ARISING On 29 th November Karen Hall did a hotspot in both churches and it was well received. There was an increase in cash giving at both 9.15am and 11am services at St Peter's. 2 church members at St Leonard's and 1 church member at St Peter's will definitely increase giving. The oven and freezer are working in the kitchen at St Peter's Centre and have been used at Alpha and the Bishop's dinner. Thank you to Mike for the hours of work put in to get the electrics ready, and to the donor of the items. £200 was saved by Mike doing the work. The stewards rota for the Christmas tree festival is full. Fees (Funeral/Marriage) Burial fees – fee for the burial ground – it has been realised that the Diocese and the Parish Council are duplicating a fee. Therefore it is suggested that we reduce the fee we take from £196 to £100. Tim recommended that the PCC agree this as the churches do get donations from funerals. Leslie Rimell arrived at 8pm.	

5 CORRESPONDENCE

The Archbishop has lifted the swine flu restrictions and communion will revert to the usual way.

6 DEANERY SURVEY

Tim reported the lack of interest in this item. The questionnaires showed that the PCC could not see any significant advantage of being part of a team. All agreed that our grouping could not work any more effectively than at present, and most people in the parish are unaware of what the role of the deanery is. The grouping – ourselves, Iver Heath and Wexham is a very diverse group and we accept each parish for its own individuality.

The clergy meet once per month and discuss deanery matters and we are sharing the marriage preparation course. There are 4 groups in total and the other 3 groups are legally constituted as groups.

We cannot be constituted as a group as Wexham are too far away in distance and Iver Heath does not recognise women priests.

Steve felt that the structures have been put in place in order to reduce clergy and share clergy within the groups. Through this there would be more Lay involvement. More money should be put into growth.

Brian felt that we are drifting apart from Iver Heath as our views are very different. We as a church, are viewed as a church with good practice and are seen to be moving forward.

John suggested joining another deanery group ie Stoke Poges. It was felt that we work with other parishes already and that we should continue with the way we are working.

Steve asked for a copy of the questionnaire to be resent to all PCC members.

FINANCE REPORT

7 Karen has produced draft two of the budget. There are limited changes.

Karen and Wendy have met with Clare and discussed that the funds will not be available to pay her after Easter.

Karen has altered the budget accordingly to show these figures.

Clare agreed that she is happy to leave at Easter.

Maureen said that Clare should be given time to look for a new position and thanked Clare for agreeing to leave at Easter.

Peter said that we as a church are embarrassed at our financial situation and thanked Clare for being gracious in this decision.

Karen will look to see if we can get any extra funding for Clare to enable her to stay until the summer.

John suggested that we should write to the Deanery and tell them that we cannot afford the parish share. The Deanery have written to Karen asking for our assessment of what looks possible.

Karen will write and tell the Deanery that we will pay the same amount as 2 years ago. This is £16,000 less than expected. Karen remarked that even the 2007 payment is ambitious. Karen has put in some mission giving but this is still 50% less than we should be paying.

Tim commented that Karen has put in a significant amount of fundraising into the budget.

We need to be reaching out to a different set of people.

Fundraising includes – Childrens' and Families work, general church and we need to be targeting extra income through giving.

Fundraising is only 5% of the income.

If targets are not met we will need to do more fundraising.

It was noted that if the PCC agree the budget and the financial targets are not met then the PCC members would be liable.

Karen stated that she cannot put forward a deficit budget.

Karen is not going to commit to a specific amount for the parish share but is telling the Diocese that we are hoping to pay the 2008 amount.

George said that the finance committee feel the diocese will scrutinise our finances further if we offer a lesser figure.

Maureen felt that we need to encourage people to make more commitment in their giving and we all need to sacrifice.

Karen will report more on the budget and keep changing it as necessary.

John felt we should state to the Deanery that this budget is based on a level of fundraising.

Tim feels that our financial situation needs communicating to the wider parish.

Approval of the budget was proposed by Gerald and seconded by Maureen. All agreed.

The St Peter's Centre rates will be deferred until after the finance meeting has taken place in January.

St Leonard's hall rates were agreed at a meeting with Wendy, Maureen, Peter, Graeme Jenner and Jan. Richings Players will be notified of the changes and no concessions will be given for church family in the future.

All were asked to be vigilant in turning off taps and lights in St. Peter's Centre. There have been some serious cases of hot taps being left on overnight. This needs checking on Sunday mornings.

Rates agreed for the halls – proposed Wendy and seconded by Peter. Feedback from the last meeting regarding use of our church buildings was provided by George.

Tim thanked George for compiling the feedback and this was discussed at the staff meeting on Monday. Tim wants to encourage all ideas for the use of the centre.

See Separate sheet.

The car parking in the straight will be discussed at the next Fabric Committee Meeting and will be reported at the next PCC meeting.

It is not an ideal solution as fly tipping is an issue if the gate is left open. Turning is also a problem and the gate would need to be locked.

The car park at the rear of the Centre needs cleaning and filling with gravel. John will find out about the cost of this and advise the Fabric Committee. We would have to fundraise to pay for the gravel.

12 cars could be parked in the straight. This needs further discussion with the council. It might encourage more bookings.

The PCC should look for events that we can put on at the centre and highlight areas of possible fee paying ie Sally's drop in.

Maureen suggested changing the parish office into a flat. This would require minimal work but it is very viable. The office could be moved into the old school room. We would then have two one bedroom flats to rent out.

Paul raised the issue of the noise in the hall – this would need

addressing. Brian proposed a working group to move this forward. The Fabric committee will look at this initially. There is also a possibility to redevelop the site at St Leonard's – initial finances would be required for this. We would need planning permission and we could apply to the Diocese for a loan. Grants could be considered and support from the Diocese with surveyors/architects. Tim proposed a working committee for St Leonard's. The Fabric committee will discuss and report back at the next meeting. George has volunteered his time to work with the Fabric committee on this project. Tim agreed. Tim thanked all who responded with feedback. Tim raised that Sam Bilfolco has expressed an interest in providing a lunch club for elderly, needy people in Iver. Sam wanted to put on a Christmas lunch. She has been awarded a grant of £1000.

CHILDRENS' AND FAMILIES WORK

- 8 Joe has asked that we put the Children's and Families work high on the agenda for January.

FABRIC REPORT

- 9 Gutter clearing was attended by 6 people. The cooker and fridge have been installed. The insurance have requested an alarm for the chancel roof. – to fit a PIR motion detector, audible alarm and floodlight, above the chancel roof of St Peter's Church, to warn of intruders on the copper roof. The alarm system is also to incorporate an automatic SMS (text message) transmission to designated mobile phones if the system is activated. The cost of this is £1000. This is proposed by Peter and all agreed.

YOUTH WORK REPORT

- 10 The Church agreed that we cannot afford to continue to pay for youth work after March. Thank you to Clare for being very understanding in this matter. We want to be as supportive as possible in making things as easy as possible for Clare and her team. We will need more volunteers for youth and C&F work.

VICAR'S REPORT

- 11 As a follow up from our last PCC meeting our aim for 2010 is to encourage a deeper sense of commitment and belonging amongst all our members. To raise awareness of the church and change attending members to full active members of the church. It's not just money giving its also commitment. On 10th January at 6.30pm Bishop John will be speaking at St Mary's, Wexham on 'sustaining the sacred centre' and we are all encourage to attend. Bishop John has offered to come to visit the parish to do outreach in the parish. Tim has agreed and Bishop John has offered Friday 24th September and Saturday 25th September. We need to consider how we can best use him on his visit. In the new year we will have a sermon series based on Ephesians, 'Live a life worthy of the calling you have received'. We need to encourage all church members to belong to at least one

group. In the first 3 months in 2010 Tim wants to visit every house group for an evening and discuss ' what does it mean to belong?'. This is a one evening session.

Tim would like every electoral role member to attend this session at one of the venues. Paul suggested this should be a hands on event with activities. Tim agreed that it would be interactive.

Tim wants to encourage all house groups to participate in the course on Living Faith (5 sessions).

Steve stated that they will be running another Alpha course beginning 29th April. Steve asked everyone to consider anyone they would like to invite.

John asked if we could review the progress on the points raised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12** Paul and Sheree Walker are moving on 11th December to Maidenhead. They feel that they need to be actively involved in their church locally. Paul will retire at the end of 2009, but will continue to play 2 services per month for the next 4 months.

Paul has faith that people will come forward to fill the gaps in the worship over the next few months.

Tim thanked Paul for all his work over the last 10 years.

Paul's local church will be Furze Platt in Maidenhead. All agreed that Paul and Sheree will be greatly missed. Paul will also stand down from the Deanery Synod. As we do not have an organist for the midnight service on 24th December, please be aware that we will have to use disks.

Sheree will stand down as Child Protection officer and we will make it a priority to find a replacement.

PCC thanked Jan and Sarah for the PCC Christmas Tree. Sarah made a great contribution to this with her photos.

- 13** **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19th January 2010 7.45pm.