



***The Parish of Iver  
The churches of St Peter  
and St Leonard***

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners  
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

36 People attended both meetings.

Apologies were presented for both meetings as follows:

Lesley Willoughby, Jim Dashper, Andy & Kate Wilson, Joe & Anne King, Warren Palmer, Sarah Smith, Jennifer, Paula & Rachel Carey, Stuart & Lorna Binning

---

Tim opened the proceedings with a short prayer.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners**

Minutes of the last meeting were referred to and although these had not been distributed, were passed as agreed.

Tim then thanked the Church Wardens (Maureen James and Peter Owen) for the hard work and dedication they had shown in the past year.

Nominations were offered for the new year in the form of Maureen and Peter, and Tim asked if there were any nominations from the floor – there being none, Peter and Maureen were re-elected

There being no further business the meeting of Parishioners was closed.

# **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

## **1. Apologies** (were accepted as detailed above)

Tim Eady then opened the APCM with a few words concerning the fact that 80% of the work of the church (in general) was done by 20% of its members and how it would be good if this ratio were changed to reflect the fact that more people could be involved in the work of the church.

Tim also reflected on the fact that the coming year was a time of transition. Clare Gordge has gone, leaving a gap in the youth work, Paul Walker has left the Parish as he moved house, Joe Gibbs is leaving the post of childrens worker, Steve Baynes has a calling to his church in Egham and Kate Wilson has taken up a vicar's post in the New Forest.

This all leaves us with a huge challenge and how we go about filling all the gaps these losses will create. Tim asked us to consider what each of us could do to help.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting** - accepted & passed

## **3. Matters arising** – there were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

## **4. Electoral Roll Report**

- New Electoral roll for 2010      185
- Last year the figure was          197
- There have been 11 additions and 23 deletions
- 31% members of the roll live outside the parish

## **5. Fabric Report**

Peter Owen thanked the Fabric Committee and the small but willing band of helpers in both churches who manage to make a small budget go a long way.

### **St Peters**

Peter reported the theft of the copper from the chancel roof and that the insurance company insist that an alarm system should be fitted which had to be of an approved type. Following the second theft of copper from the roof we may only have enough money for the area to be felted (cheaper) as a short term measure which may last for about fifteen years.

Peter also mentioned that the gutters had all been painted and that the result was that the church looked much better but there were always repairs needed and there were stonework repairs needed at an estimated cost of £17,000.

On the difficulty of obtaining grants, Peter told the meeting that since the parish had received much in the way of grants last year for the tower work; these were much less forthcoming for this year.

## St Leonard's

Peter advised that gutters had been cleaned and repaired where needed but that these were ongoing, as were removing the lower area of the rendering, laying of paving stones, and painting of window frames. It is hoped that the internal door at St Leonard's can be installed this year before winter. Peter also referred to the desirability of a new sound system for St Leonard's. The vestry loft, which has now been cleared, can be insulated. The state of the church roof has also improved because the moss growth has reduced due to the removal of the overhanging trees.

Questions from the floor:

Ian Martin asked if floodlighting could be used to deter thieves from taking the copper from the St Peters roof. Peter thanked Ian and replied that floodlighting in general is discouraged by the authorities but that lighting controlled by PIR sensors is included in the Insurance Alarm specification so is included in future plans.

## **6. PCC Report**

Tim advised that the PCC is responsible for the general day to day routine aspects of decision making for the church and issued a few highlights of the work of the PCC and what had been achieved to those gathered:

- Jan Rowsell agreed to be secretary for the PCC Meetings
- Karen Hall agreed to take on the role of treasurer
- All policies were reviewed – Health & Safety, Flu Pandemic issues etc.
- Mission Statement modified
- Initiated Bishops "Living Faith" Mission
- Issued 'Into Membership' leaflet (Take membership seriously)
- Monitored children's work, rental of flat, house, halls & other assets.

## **7. Finance Report**

Karen Hall gave a very comprehensive overview of the financial position and explained the reason why the church is always appealing for donations despite the accounts “appearing” to be in reasonable shape. She explained that we had achieved a balanced account in the black, by cutting costs – specifically the Parish Share and also our Mission Giving.

Karen showed clearly where we would be if we had maintained the Parish Share and Mission Giving in full, and also demonstrated why we could not have paid these with the restricted funds and other commitments we have.

It was explained that we have several challenges ahead:

- Reductions in church membership will result in less income
- Parish Share to increase again
- Limited areas for reduction of expenditure
- Fragile economic situation still prevails

Karen also explained that the expenditure is kept under extremely tight financial control and there are no further areas to prune back on. Karen asked everyone to prayerfully consider their giving, think about their future help with legacy's, help support the work of the church so the church doesn't have to pay others to do this, and to support all the fund raising efforts with their help and attendance.

Karen asked if there were any questions: Roy Johnston asked how much the Parish Share had put us in the situation we find ourselves in. Karen replied that there had been dramatic increases year on year and we have had to find £24,000 extra over the last 2-3 years. Roy asked what the situation was regarding the shortfall as far as the Diocese is concerned. Karen explained that, in fairness, the Diocese do not demand the money, and do not apply interest but then they look at the shortfall in the diocese overall (as we are not alone in not fully making the total payments) and this shortfall is then divided between the parishes in future years.

Brian Griffiths stated that it should be said that we get quite a bit for our money from the Diocese but that it was shame that we could not fully meet our Mission giving commitments. Karen agreed and advised that the Mission giving has priority for any surplus

Karen thanked all those involved in Finance work and described these as a “small army of people”, without whose work this could not happen. These include people, who do the banking, look after the Halls and the income from those, as well as the magazine advertising, creation and distribution. Karen also wanted to give thanks to those who give to church funds on a regular basis and encouraged people to think about increasing regular giving through Direct Debit instructions and Standing Orders. It was also emphasised that we should make full use of the Gift Aid scheme. Please use those orange envelopes!

## **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was decided to re-appoint Will Paine as independent Examiner.  
Proposed by Steve Baynes; Seconded by John Norfolk

## **9. Iver Educational Trust**

Tim Eady reported briefly on the work of Iver Educational Trust (I.E.T.) I.E.T. employs Sally Vigurs for her sterling work as an outreach Youth Worker in the civil Parish of Iver. Kate Wilson resigned as Director of I.E.T. in December but continued as a trustee. Now that Kate has moved a replacement Trustee is being sought.

## **10. Cornerstone**

Jackie Griffiths submitted a written report in the annual report. She thanked all those involved in making Cornerstone such as success.

## **11. Youth & Children's Ministry Report**

George Howard began by thanking everyone for making himself and his family so welcome in the Parish. He then asked those involved in youth work to join him at the front of the hall. George acknowledged that 2009/10 had many achievements but that many challenges are ahead.

George then presented a Powerpoint presentation which took us through the past and future situation as regards children and youth work. He advised that we have to fulfil legal obligations upon us to make sure there are sufficient adults present at meetings in the correct ratio. This of course needs people to make themselves available to help!

Costs remain an issue but Clare's employment costs have now been removed, and George said that we should celebrate the fact that we have maintained the work despite the loss of a full time employed person

We do of course want to continue this excellent work but we are being faced with a situation which could mean we are unable to provide the service on an ongoing basis!

We do have a Summer Holiday programme to offer due to the sponsorship from Mars Ltd for which we are thankful.

In terms of schools, George reported that it has not been found easy to gain support from the Junior School as much as would be liked, but this is still being worked on. The Infant school welcome us in every week for assemblies and other activities especially at Easter and Harvest times. George was pleased to report that he has been asked to help shape the RE content at the school.

The secondary school is also quite receptive to help with Personal Health & Social Education (PHSE) but we can't quite resource this as much as we would like at present.

It was reported that we would like to run Residential and/or day courses for the younger people but there a question of resource.

## Challenges!

George told the meeting that there were a number of challenges ahead and that more than half of the Youth work is now compromised by leaders leaving...! George is currently heavily involved in picking up this work. He advised that the PCC needs to do something to redress this situation.

At this point, George asked Joe to tell the meeting about her response to an appeal to parents for someone to come forward to help – someone who has a passion for children and has an ability to lead and teach. There was no response to this appeal!

George and Joe advised that after June 18<sup>th</sup> there is no activity for her existing group available going forward...

He also said that after the summer, there is currently a lack of provision across all areas for the start of the new term in September!!

What can we do?

George outlined that we need to act now, and Tim Eady stated that as a church we absolutely must run children's groups or we might as well give up!

Roy Johnson asked what would happen to the children if we stopped... The reply was that we didn't know. Joe stated that all the children had developed a faith and therefore the teaching would not be from scratch.

John Norfolk asked if it was being stated that the church would effectively cease to function if this work stopped... George replied that the answer was no, but that the churches could find they have no leader as they may have been pulled into the children's work. Joe told the meeting that although she was giving up her post as children's worker, she would still be available as a volunteer. Tim advised that she would need to stop for a while at least. Roy asked if it was essential for the person to be from the parish – this was discussed for a while with no firm conclusion. Wendy Jenner asked if moneys specifically given for children's work should be allocated to pay for a combined children's & youth worker? Brian restated that the person should be someone with a passion for young children and age should not be a barrier. Tim Eady said that a working party should be set up as soon as practicable to look at the entire issue and to seek a way forward.

## **12. Deanery Synod Report**

Steve Baynes is leaving the Deanery Synod with immediate effect and he outlined some of the main points. He stated the importance of the Deanery Synod to our Parish going forward and also told the meeting that 77% of the Parish Share had been paid, so all parishes are finding finance difficult.

We are losing all three of our Deanery Synod representatives:

Paul Walker, Lesley Willoughby and Steve Baynes are standing down.

### **13. Vicar's Report**

Tim Eady gave thanks to many people. He wished to thank the Ministry team of George, Brian, Tony, Jim, Steve, John, Diana and most especially Kate for her hard work in the past.

Also, Tim thanked:

- The Musicians
  - Paul Walker, Roger Hall, Mike Story,
  - Sarah Meere, Anne Torrent and Bill Buchanan
- Mike James – His right admin arm allowing Tim to be a Vicar first and foremost
- Jan Rowsell for helping with the secretarial work
- The Youth Team for their sterling efforts
- George for helping in many areas
- The PCC who had faithfully carried out many difficult decisions
- Those who help with the Parish Magazine, Alan & the enormous team of distributors
- Wendy Rowntree & Maureen Carter for the flowers in both churches
- Those who run house groups
- Fliss and the prayer ministry team
- Technical teams in both churches who do a fabulous job in making services happen
- Bell ringers
- Sidesmen and sideswomen for welcoming people
- Intercessors who help in services with prayers
- Alpha course leaders
- And many more....

Tim said the church worked, simply because so many people are actively involved

Tim advised that, due to lack of support, the time had come to restrict St Leonard's 6pm Sunday services to Compline every week.

Dates for the diary!

April 24 <sup>th</sup>	St Peters churchyard clean up / Film Fantastic
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kate's Farewell services and Open House at her home
	NB: Kate does not want any "presents" but wishes for contributions to be made to the repair of the Sedilia at St Peters and the new internal doors for St Leonard's.
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	George's Priesting at St Mary's Slough (5pm) – please advise if you wish to attend
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	George's "First Communion" Service at St Peters
Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>	Bishop John of Oxford in Iver (more details to follow)
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation Service at St Peters

Finally, Tim thanked everyone for their help.

#### **14. Election of Sidespersons**

St Peter's

Fliss Akehurst, Richard Buckley, Mary Bolton, Chris and Jim Dalwood, Jim and Brenda Dashper, Mavis Davis, Jo Elkins, Samantha –Jane Green, Joan Gibbs, Peter Gibbs, David & Eira Griffith, Karen Hall, Peter Hinde, Roy & Margaret Johnston, Michael & Glenda Kennedy, Joe & Anne King, Angela Lindstrom, Mike Lyons, Warren Palmer, Doreen Reed, Sandra Rowlands, Margaret Smith, Riaan and Diane Terblanche, Richard Thomas, Joy Troke, Lesley Willoughby, Stuart Wylie.

St Leonard's

Simon Edwards, Graeme Jenner, Ian Johnson, Phyllis Martin, George McWalter, Gerald Paine, Helen Robertson, Stella and Sandra Rowlands, John Sargent, Tim Taylor, John and Pauline Telfer.

#### **15. Election of Members to Deanery Synod**

The following were elected as Representatives at Deanery Synod:

- John Norfolk
- Angela Lindstrom
- Gerry Paine

#### **16. Election of PCC Members**

Tim advised that the following members were retiring:

Jackie Griffiths  
Angela Lindstrom  
Gerry Paine  
Nicki Foggoa  
Joe Gibbs

Nominations were received as follows:

Samantha Bifolco  
Jackie Griffiths  
Gerry Paine \*  
Warren Palmer

Tim asked for volunteers from the floor and these were forthcoming as follows:

Peter Rawlings – Proposed by Chris Dalwood, seconded by Joe Gibbs  
Stuart Wylie – Proposed by John Norfolk, seconded by Sam Bifolco

\* There being five available places, Gerry Paine was elected to Deanery Synod, instead of direct to the PCC so all above members were elected. Deanery Synod members have a seat on the PCC.

#### **17. Any other Business**

No other business items had been notified therefore the Meeting closed at 9.25pm