



The Parish of Iver

The churches of St Peter and St Leonard

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009 at 7.45 p.m. at St Peter's Centre

Present	Rev Tim Eady (presiding) Fliss Akehurst Clare Gordge Pauline Telfer Karen Hall	Jackie Griffiths Maureen James Tina Lewis Wendy Jenner George Howard Sarah Smith	Angela Lindstrom Peter Owen Lesley Willoughby Gerald Paine Brian Griffiths John Norfolk
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1 | OPENING PRAYER

Tim opened the meeting with a reading and prayer following the day by day: a simple daily office from the Living Faith prayer guide.

ACTION

2 | APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Baynes, Jim Dashper, Leslie Rimell, Joe Gibbs, Paul Walker, Nicki Foggoa, Kate Wilson, Chris Dalwood. Tim welcomed Karen Hall to her first meeting as treasurer.

Tim distributed 'Living Faith' leaflets and small cards with 5 headings on 'how can we go out and serve other people'

3 | MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2009 were received and approved.

4 | MATTERS ARISING

Prayer Day at St Leonard's.

Wendy Jenner said that she was disappointed as it was very poorly attended.

Tim felt that this was a good tradition, was good to do and worth having. Attendance has been very thin. Fliss added that when there is a real focus for prayer there is more attendance. A specific vision for prayer seems to work better i.e. vision for the Parish, interviews for positions, youth work.

Tim suggested prayer days at the start of each term. January was very well attended but the summer day at the Core was not well attended.

Clare agreed that focussing on a particular mission of the church was a good idea. Wendy added that each prayer station covered a different focus for the church.

Brian thought it would be good to announce in the prayer and diary notes in advance and put it on the events calendar.

Focus for the New Year Prayer Day – "Looking Outwards". This will

JR

be held on January 16th. Agreed that the Mission Committee would co-ordinate the prayer day at St Peter's.
Point 13 – the piano has been sorted out at St Leonard's Hall.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Tim has received a letter from the Deanery with a questionnaire for the PCC to complete and return. This is for input into the planning of the deanery strategy for 2012-2020.

Tim read out the questionnaire and asked PCC members to reflect and consider the questions and provide feedback by 30th November. Tim explained to new PCC members the role of the Deanery.

6 **FINANCE REPORT**

Karen reported that the issue with the bank is resolved. Karen feels that we should appreciate how well we are doing considering the current financial climate. We have not had a significant drop off in income, considering the economy.

The parish share has gone up £12,000 this year and due to go up a further £11,000 next year.

The finance team have been looking at how we can cut costs and raise money.

We have changed the telephone provider at St Peter's Centre and are now looking at gas and electric providers.

Fundraising: cycle ride, tower tours, loose change, Christmas tree festival.

We will endeavour to pay as much parish share as possible by the end of the year.

Balance at the end of September was £27,000.

We owe £37,000 parish share.

This was a similar picture to this time last year. Last year we had paid £40,000 by this time. This year we have paid £35,000.

We understand that Mission giving is important and will prioritise the people depending on us for financial support. Payments have been made.

St Peter's centre costs exceeded the revenue by £6,000. Increased bookings have not covered costs.

St Leonard's Hall is continuing to do well.

Childrens' work costs are all covered and this position is self sufficient.

Donations for Youth work do not currently cover costs. They recently received £3,000 from the Danni Taylor fund. Karen is working with Clare on Youth finances.

Karen is planning to speak to the Parish Clerk, Glenda Collins, regarding the use of the St Peter's Centre (office and hall) for their youth work and plans to ask them to contribute financially.

St Leonard's House contract is due for renewal next year and Karen will provide a proposal for rent increase next year.

Karen will communicate our financial position to the Church on a regular basis and all agreed we were doing well under the circumstances.

George asked if, as Charity Trustees, we were all liable for the Church debts as PCC members.

As PCC members we are liable for Church debts but not parish share

debts. The parish share is not legally binding.
Brian voiced that as we have taken on a Curate we are showing the Deanery that we are really contributing.
Karen will provide a bi-monthly sheet to the congregation.
Karen is working on a strategy for 2010 to increase finances. In 2008 and 2009 we did not fulfil out total mission giving.
Wendy discussed legacies.
George raised the subject of stewardship.
Maureen pointed out that people could give the gift of time and skills and not just money.
Karen will do a hotspot in Church in November on finance.
Fliss suggested giving £10 to all congregation and asking them to multiply it. It has been previously done and worked well (approx. 12 years ago).
An auction of talents was also suggested – meeting people's needs i.e. shopping, diy, dog walking and they donate to the church.
Finance committee to discuss this further.
In early November the finance committee will discuss and propose at the November PCC meeting.

7

FABRIC REPORT

Peter Owen gave a report. The Fabric committee met on 14th October. and recommended that the repairs to the chancel roof following the theft of copper at St Peter's Church should be carried out by Boshers (Cholsey) Ltd at the cost of £18,625. This was approved unanimously. The wasps nest has been removed from the South side of St Peter's Church.

The tower tours video has been started and the final repairs to the tower have been completed.

The tower repairs have been completed and passed by our architect. The final invoices are expected. We should now be able to reclaim the VAT.

The 2 churchyard days went well but very poorly attended.

We need to promote how good Churchyard days are - the fellowship and achievement.

The kitchen at St Peter's Centre has been donated a second hand oven and new flooring is being looked at.

Maureen will speak to IET at their next meeting on 4th November and ascertain what money is available. £2500 was received by IET to buy a new cooker and replace the floor.

Gerald expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the oven and thought it to be dangerous. Maureen agreed that after 4th November the oven will be replaced as soon as possible.

Jan will put a note on the oven – do not use without permission.

A discussion followed on who is running the Centre and the need for a caretaker. Maureen said this would be discussed at a later date.

8

YOUTH WORK REPORT

See report sent out prior to meeting.

Clare is desperate for help this Friday – John and Lesley volunteered.

Clare has the first meeting of her support group coming up and will

report back at the next PCC meeting.
Clare has now been here 9 months and Tim will be organising an annual appraisal with her.

9 CHILDRENS' AND FAMILIES WORKER REPORT

No report.

Joe will be having an annual appraisal with Tim as her 1 year contract is due to finish shortly. All agreed that the contract should be continued.

At the last meeting it was agreed that Joe's interview panel would meet and discuss the way forward to C&F work. This has not been done.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

George has produced a note for the parish magazine regarding Flu Friends and Can We Help You?

TTT has been used several times in Church and has worked well.

Tim has produced a prayer for the month in the parish magazine and will give to Jan for the website.

The staff team propose more 11am All Age services.

The suggestion of prayer for families and birthdays could be incorporated into these services.

The 'can we pray for you?' advert has been put in the parish magazine and will continue.

Brian suggested that we could share ideas with the congregation on 'how do we better serve?'

It was also suggested we produce an A5 leaflet and share our 'services' to the community. Could this encourage volunteers? If asked 'would you like to help?'

George and Jan will produce a leaflet and agree with Tim before it is issued.

11 VICAR'S REPORT

Christmas

Christmas Tree Festival : 10-13 December

Barbershop Friday Night

Fun Night Saturday Night

Richings Choral Sunday Night

A Christmas bookmark will be produced.

Christmas Services:

13th Dec 10am St Leonard's Nativity.

20th Dec 11am St Peter's Nativity.

20th Dec 6.30pm St Peter's Carols by Candlelight.

24th Dec 5.00pm Christmas Eve St Peter's Church.

24th Dec 6.00pm Christmas Eve St Leonard's Church.

24th Dec Midnight Service St Peter's Church.

25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Day St Peter's Church.

25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Day St Leonard's Church.

27th Dec 10.00am United Service St Leonard's Church.

Tim introduced a 5 session Bible study course from the Bishop which he will encourage all home groups and others to participate in during

Lent.

During the first part of the year we must encourage people to be full members and 'get serious with God'.

We must encourage commitment – volunteers, churchyard day, finance, youth work.

Encourage attendees to become members.

Believe, Belong, Behave.

Tim discussed the handouts.

The Bishop has issued a 'health check' for churches and this will be covered at the PCC Away Day in May.

Fliss wanted to raise an issue regarding the book stall at St Peter's Church. The last few weeks there has been no book stall and a number of people have mentioned this.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that Jackie would hold a stall on certain dates which would be published in the prayer and diary notes in advance. In Toy Service and Advent. People requiring cards and books can also contact Jackie at Cornerstone and she will bring them on a Sunday.

JR/JG

Churches Together in Iver will hold a service on Sunday 17th January at 5pm to mark a week of prayer for Christian Unity. The 5 Iver Churches will unite at St Leonard's.

On 8th November from 7-8pm Tim is proposing to hold another Prayer House at St Peter's Centre. Tim or George are also available in Church from 12-1pm every Wednesday for prayer.

Sarah Smith has photos of all PCC members for a board. She agreed to put them up. Maureen will coordinate the board with Sarah. Jackie will provide information where required.

SS/MJ/
JG

Jan and Brian agreed to provide a PCC Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.

BG/JR

The next meeting will be on 24th November at 7.45pm St Peter's Centre.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm with the Grace.