

ST AGNES CHURCH, CAWSTON

MINUTES OF PCC MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2007

The meeting was held at The Rectory, Cawston and commenced at 7:30 p.m. with prayers led by Rev. Tom Harris.

Present at meeting: Rev. Tom Harris, Mr. Andrew Cameron-Heffer (minutes), Mrs. Mandy Cameron-Heffer, Mrs. Jane Court, Mr. Simon Court, Mrs. Debbie Graver, Mrs. June Hopper, Mr. Brian Seager, Mrs. Bobby Ward and Mr. Alex Young.

Apologies received from: Mr. Peter Boxshall and Mrs. Rita Mead

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (held 29th November 2006)

The minutes for the previous meeting were agreed without amendments.

2. Matters not dealt with elsewhere

Christmas Cards

Rev. Harris expressed his thanks to Mr and Mrs Court for the production of the Christmas Cards for 2006.

Cawston Carnival

A letter of support has been sent to the organising committee for the 2007 Cawston Carnival.

Welcome Packs

No further action on this item. **Mrs. Mandy Cameron-Heffer** to pursue this item.

FOSTA

Mr. Alex Young reported that money continues to trickle into the FOSTA account, and currently the balance stands at around £1,000. He was considering how to thank contributors for their continued support.

3. Where to worship during the winter

Rev. Harris reported that all members of the congregation had completed the survey forms expressing their preference for the location of services during the coming winter. The replies were split 40% (for church) versus 60% (for school). He stated that if this had been a vote then all services should now be in school. This would alienate a number of the congregation that would probably not attend any services in school.

Various options for worship were discussed. The possibility of holding the Family Services (third Sunday each month) in school, with all others in the church was suggested. This was dismissed as not offering enough for the majority of the congregation.

Another proposal; that of one service per month in church, with the rest in school was proposed by Mr. Cameron-Heffer and seconded by Mrs. Debbie Graver. This was discussed by the members present and the proposal was carried. It was thought this arrangement would show a conciliatory attitude to all church members. Services will be held as follows:

- 14th January in St. Agnes Church
- **21st January** in Cawston Primary School
- **28th January** in Cawston Primary School
- **4th February** in Cawston Primary School
- 11th February in St. Agnes Church
- **18th February** in Cawston Primary School
- **25th February** in Cawston Primary School
- **4th March** in Cawston Primary School
- 11th March onwards in St. Agnes Church

A letter will be written to each church member to advise them of the PCC decision.

Concerns were raised about the disorganised state that the Sunday School found themselves in while in the school. Efforts will be made to minimise these problems in future.

4. Christmas Services Review

All the Christmas services were reviewed by the meeting. A letter from Mrs. Lyn Fairchild was read out. This expressed concerns about certain aspects of the services. The salient points were: the brevity of the Carol Service; lack of communication with Cawston Band regarding the Carol Service; problems with the supply of oranges used for the Christingles; lack of planning for the 'Nativity Service' on 31st December. This letter initiated discussions about each service.

Also discussed were the lower attendance figures for the Carol Services. This was thought to have been due to the weather. Positive comments were made about the efficient service of mulled wine before and after the service. It was felt that this was an improvement of previous years. Many other positive comments were received about the Christmas services.

Rev. Harris mentioned that with Christmas Day 2007 falling on a Tuesday the PCC may like to consider a combined Carol and Christingle service on Christmas Eve 2007. This will be discussed further in the year.

5. St. Agnes Eve Plans

Plans for the St. Agnes Eve meal on 20th January were discussed. Tickets will be charged at £5 per adult and £15 per family. The menu, food, drink and 'frolics' were all discussed. Mrs. Debbie Graver offered some 'party games' for the evening.

6. Reports

Financial

During 2006 the church managed to meet its obligations but the reserves were depleted by £1,200. This sum is equal to last year's Parish Share increase. With a further Parish Share increase in 2007 the PCC will run out of fund in the near future unless more funds are raised.

In previous years Rev. Harris has sent a letter to all church members asking them to review their giving. This letter seems to have had no effect. The diocese recommends that 5% of disposable income be given to the church. A letter stressing this will be prepared for distribution with the annual report.

Fabric

Maintenance

Mr. Mike Graver is planning a maintenance day in the spring.

Worship

Report

The Christmas services were reviewed at length earlier in the meeting.

Plans

The Family Services for January and February are now in place. A Children's Society representative will be attending the February service.

Children's Work

An activity day is planned for 14th July at the Horstead Centre. A deposit has been sent for the event. Plans for a second day out for the Sunday School were in the early stages of planning.

Mrs. Bobby Ward stated that the Scout Hut was in a bit of a state with nowhere to store the Sunday School items safely. Mr. Simon Court said this would be investigated.

It was agreed to set a budget of £200 for Sunday School activities for 2007.

7. Re-Ordering Progress

Organ

A Council for the Care of Churches grant is being prepared and a Heritage Lottery grant application will also be made soon. These applications are subject to certain provisos being met regarding the organ work.

Porch

The PCC had previously agreed plans to move the solid porch doors to the outside of the porch and to install automatic glass doors in their place. These plans have been rejected by the DAC so the plans will be revised to place the glass doors on the outside of the porch instead. The plans will then be resubmitted.

Heating

The current heating plans have been turned down. Further changes will be made to resubmit the plans.

Overall scheme

As discussed at the last meeting a fund raiser has now been employed to assist our grant applications.

No further progress has been made in any other area.

8. Chairman's Items

Churchwardens

Mr. Brian Seager has stated his intention not to stand as a churchwarden at this year's AGM.

All PCC members expressed their great thanks to Mr. Seager for all his work as a churchwarden.

Frustrations in Church

Rev. Harris talked about how he sometimes felt frustrated that many tasks in the church are performed by one or just a few people. Several tasks are already performed by teams, for example the altar preparation and lay administration. Rev. Harris proposed developing teams to get the other main jobs done. An item entitled 'Teams' is to be added as an agenda item to future PCC meetings.

9. Date of Next Meetings

Date for next PCC meetings:

Sunday 11th February 2007 at 11:30 in Church (This is a change to the previously agreed date/time/venue)

Annual General Meetings:

Sunday 18th March 2007 after the morning service in Church

The meeting was closed with prayers led by Rev Harris at 10pm.