

PUTNOE HEIGHTS CHURCH

Church Council Minutes – 15 June 2009

15 people attended. Rev Charles Royden was in the Chair and opened the meeting with a reading and commentary from the Methodist Web Site entitled 'Have Christians in the West become too comfortable?'; this was followed by a short prayer.

- 1 APOLOGIES: Glen Longden, Claire Peck, Barry Snelson (Centre Manager), Liz Spavins, Sam Ware, Veta Hudson-Rae
- 2 MINUTES of LAST MEETING (26 January 2009): These were accepted and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.
- 3 MATTERS ARISING:
 - (1) **Agreed** that the old lawn mower be sold at the next Car Boot Sale at St Marks in August.
 - (2) Lawrence reported to the Council that Neil Kinselley had taken over the position of Chairman of Putnoe Scouts and that this would further improve the relationship between the Church and the Scouts at Putnoe; also that we have just signed a new, longer lease for them.
- 4 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None
- 5 MINISTER'S REPORT: The Chairman reported on the very welcome appointment of Jane Mason to the Circuit with 6/15 of her time to be devoted to chaplaincy duties at Anjelita Court. He also gave information on a media release from the University of Bedfordshire on the appointment of a full-time chaplain (Rev Cassandra Howes a minister of the Methodist Church).
- 6 PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL/CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM: Lawrence reported on the events leading up to the new appointment of Jane, who was a Deacon candidate, and who will take up her position within the Circuit on 1 September 2009; a Welcome Service will be held at Putnoe on the evening of Wednesday 9 September and later in October we hope to put on a Partnership meal for her. In March, two representatives attended the Women's World Day of Prayer; the next day, we hosted a very successful and enjoyable evening entitled 'Confessions of a Pantomime Dame' with food provided by Jenny Emsley and team – this event raised a considerable sum for Church funds. The Lent Course was well supported and much appreciated; Our Mothering Sunday celebration and Lent/Easter observances took their usual course and over the Easter weekend we helped celebrate an important wedding celebration. On the Sunday nearest St George's Day, we were delighted to welcome a strong Scout contingent to the Service; on this same day the Annual Congregational Meeting took place (when Jenny Emsley resigned from the Leadership Team because of family commitments); however, Wendy Nash agreed to continue for a further year. In May, a group were given a conducted visit to the National Gallery by Joan and retired Bishop Christopher. Finally, our Christian Aid appeal yielded a record-breaking £1946 – Beryl was presented with a small token of our appreciation for all that she has done in organising this appeal over the years. Carolyn Morris has offered to take over this responsibility next year.

7 CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT: In Barry's absence, Lawrence reported -

- (1) The Quinquennial Survey had been carried out on 12 June and we can expect to have the following maintenance items – replacing double doors near the organ in the Church; replace fire doors in Large Hall, criticism of standard of work on roof (replacement of lead flashing with felt following theft), brickwork faults. *Barry has produced a booklet showing the work carried out following the previous Quinquennial Report with £22000 spent over the five year period with £20000 spent on general associated repairs and maintenance. **The Church Council gave its thanks to Barry for the commitment shown in producing and researching information for the printing of this booklet.***
- (2) Disabled toilet – this is undergoing a refurbishment with decorating and new toilet and a means for hygienic disposal of nappies.
- (3) The increase in charges made at the beginning of the year does not appear to have seriously affected our income.
- (4) Some of our hirers booking the Large Hall and kitchen over a weekend have not always left the premises in a good and clean condition (causing problems to Pre-School staff on a Monday morning); we are now asking hirers to pay an initial deposit which will be returnable (or not) depending on the state of the premises when they leave.
- (5) A new electric lawn mower has been purchased which can be stored within the building.

8 FINANCIAL REPORT: Ian Morse (Treasurer) provided a written report together with detailed figures covering 2008/2009 financial year actual v budget and Forecast outturn. The Chairman thanked Ian for making these accounts understandable to the layman.

9 GROUP REPORTS:

- (1) Pre-School: Linda reported that finances are healthy and it is expected to be able to build up reserves by at least £5k at year end. The Early Years' funding increase of 3.56% has been used fully to give the staff a small increase (approximately 1%) and to pay for the extra 4 days holiday given by the government. A deputy Head Teacher has also been appointed (Laura Leggatt). £7550 has been awarded following an application for early years' funding – this to pay for a canopy over the outside play area; we still need £2k to pay for this – John Creasey is dealing with the planning permission. Ofsted inspection in April gave an excellent report which boosted morale among staff who are going out to celebrate!
- (2) Storybox and Storybox Plus/Junior Church/TNT: Linda reported that all areas are running well. Liz is working hard and planning activity days during the summer.
- (3) Women's Fellowship: This meeting has a long history within the Church and is much appreciated by all its members and can be a lifeline to some; average attendance 14 members.
- (4) Lunch Club: Continues successfully but can always do with extra help, both in the kitchen and driving duties.
- (5) House Groups: Monday group continues with a small, dedicated membership; the group run by Wendy Waters was enjoyed and she is hoping to continue in the Autumn.

- 10 **MISSIONS:** Sylvia reported – Raffle held at Tabletop Sale raised £89; 2 Coffee Mornings raised a total of £140.50. £250 donation made to Faith in Action; £180 sent to Kisiizi Hospital for urgent requirements (they are experiencing severe financial difficulties). 2 Coffee Mornings planned – 15 August at 6 Repton Close (Gwen Beswick's home) and 17 October in the Small Hall – this latter an experiment to see if more people attend a more central venue. The theme for our Autumn Mission project is to be the King's Arms Project, working with homeless local people. Sylvia also reported on the Tiddler Trail which over the years has raised £4680. She concluded with a plea for more help with fundraising, baking cakes and driving.
- 11 **PASTORAL SUPPORT:** The Chairman reported that the Pastoral Support Team, under Mary Stubbs, continues to work visiting and counselling the bereaved, providing home communion; the Annual Service of Remembrance last November was very well supported and much appreciated. Telecare also is a successful venture keeping in touch with members who cannot attend Church for whatever reason. There will be an Open Day on 27 June at the Woodland Burial Ground at Keysoe.
- 12 **ECUMENICAL REPORTS:** The Chairman reported that he had attended a Forum at Flitwick; also on the link with Rev Keith Brown. Unfortunately there does not appear to have been any progress of joint ecumenical projects over a number of years.
- 13 **CIRCUIT MATTERS:** Eddie Peck, who is on the Circuit Leadership Team, reported firstly on the dearth of preaching ministers at the moment which situation will improve in September. There is debate on the allocation of hours for Jane Mason to spend within the Circuit. The amalgamation of the 3 local Circuits will take place in 2 years' time (one problem will be deciding the number of Circuit Representatives on this newly combined Circuit). *At the Annual Congregational Meeting the following agreed to act as Circuit Representatives – Margaret Peck, Sue Allen (Jean Kirk agreed at this Council meeting to act);* Church Council were asked to ratify these appointments – **AGREED** with the proviso that each of these members should have a designated substitute in their absence.
- 14 **DEANERY SYNOD:** Chairman reported that there will be new Deanery Boundaries; a meeting with Circuit and Deanery is being arranged shortly when Ruth Bottoms will speak – the title will be 'The Changing face of ecumenism and its problems'
- 15 **CRB UPDATE:** Carolyn reported that guidelines are constantly changing – current period is 5 years. She does a monthly check on need for updating with between 80 and 90 names on her database.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2009.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.