

Notes from St Mark's Leadership Team meeting held on 7/4/2008

Present: Rev C Royden, Rev S Cappelman, Mike Cooper, Ian Farthing, Laura Farthing, Delia Shephard, Morag Stewart, Linda Parry, Avril Williams

Apologies: Rev J Crossley

The meeting commenced with prayer led by Charlie.

Creche: Debbie Coppenhall attended for this item and discussed ongoing provision of crèche facilities with the leadership team. The leadership team thanked Debbie for her valuable work and it was noted that additional toys might be needed although storage space was a problem. It was agreed to produce a leaflet describing the facilities available and to work harder to bring the crèche to the attention of visitors.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 28/11/2007 were accepted as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes: It was noted that carols in the car park had been successful, the sponsoring of Christmas lights had not been organised but it was hoped to try this next Christmas. Permission for a farmers' market had been refused.

Financial Report: Ian reported on financial matters. The balance on the churchyard account was £6075.27. Gift aid to date was £5,300. Triennial review of current parish shares was ongoing; any changes would come into effect in 2010. St Mark's share factor was not expected to change. A review amongst the Circuit treasurers was expected to be completed by the end of April. The change of photocopier at St Mark's would have large financial implications, overall this should improve income. The audited accounts for the year were nearly ready, overall turnover was more than £35,000 so consolidating the accounts was a large task. Current monies held:

Church account (current)	£18,444
Church account (reserve)	£35,456
Clubhouse account	£28,361
Pre-school account (current)	£10,358
Pre-school account (reserve)	£8,910 [NB £18,763 needed for redundancy payments]

Putnoe Heights had asked for help with their Pre-school. Norman Arnold had been made redundant from Clubhouse and the church would now be doing their books. Rosemary would prepare the Clubhouse payroll. Funding had been secured for Clubhouse until September 2008.

Issues from committees:

Church Council – It had been accepted that there was no storage space available at St Mark's for the church banners.

Partnership Council – had not met recently, meeting scheduled for 13 May 2008.

Community Forum – User surveys had been received. Wendy had been on holiday and was now on sick leave for 6 – 12 weeks. Milly was taking over again. Jean and Roger Bank had agreed to volunteer in the office.

There had been a spate of vandalism around the premises, action had been taken. Building work would start on the hall soon and alterations to the entrance and foyer were being considered. The need for additional office space was recognised.

Following receipt of a letter from Sean Field, CEO of Bedford Borough Council, leadership team agreed to write back to pursue the matter of advertisements in the Brickhill Community Centre which proclaimed "Cheaper than St Mark's" and also to the Management Committee of the Brickhill Community Centre.

Deanery – there had been a talk from the Mothers Union at the most recent Deanery Synod.

Circuit – in line with the various changes to ministry and organisation at Connexional level the Circuit was exploring amalgamation with nearby Circuits.

Churchyards Committee – going well, railing had been erected beside the pond. Jean Coe was working with Marion and another columbaria space had been sold.

Church and Church issues:

Worship issues – a meeting had been held with Wendy Waters and Janna Swaby to explore ways of working with the children in junior church. The organ fund contained £400 (approximately).

Pre-school – full until summer. Going well.

Social events – a quiz evening with fish and chip supper was considered. One possible date was 4.10.08, to be confirmed. A trip to London to see Joseph was also being explored.

Annual events:

Archdeacon's visitation – this was due as was a quinquennial.

Christmas – new candleholders ordered. Bedford town band had been booked.

Easter – services went well.

Harvest – was organised and it was agreed to combine this with Back to Church Sunday on 28th September.

Annual Congregational Meeting – booked for 4 May 2008.

Confirmation Service – to be held on 1 June and presided at by Bishop of Bedford and Rev James Gartside.

Items from ministers:

Possible new chairs for the church were in the Wren room, leadership team asked to try them out and encourage others to do so.

Preaching – it was agreed that the leadership team would complete feedback forms on the preaching at St Mark's on a regular basis. Members of the congregation would be made aware of this and given the opportunity to pass on their feedback.

Any other business:

Climate change display would continue to be exhibited for a short while longer.