

## **Minutes of the meeting of St Mark's Church Council 9 October 2012**

The meeting opened with Evening Worship

**Apologies:** Jean Bank, Elizabeth Bean, Sam Cappleman, John Day, Janet Ibberson, Mary Stubbs, and Avril Williams

**Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted

### **Leadership:**

- The Leadership Team had discussed returning the flat to residential use following unsuccessful attempts to find other organisations to use it after the police had been unable to renew the tenancy. It was anticipated that the flat would provide £430 income per month. Lettings would be made through the Borough Council. It was stressed that prospective tenants would be put forward recognising the location of the flat on church premises. The proposal from the Leadership Team was carried unanimously by Church Council.
- The use of the projector during services had been well received by Church members and it was noted how much stronger the singing is.
- The chairs had started to show some wear, and regular repair routine had been put in place.
- A social will take place on 17th November with an Italian theme.
- There had been an excellent response to requests for produce at the Harvest Service, which had been passed on to BeChar.
- The Commemoration Service will be held on 4th November and the Remembrance Service on 11th November.
- This year's Advent Course will take place at St Mark's on the following dates:
  - Thursday 29 November, coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm - Session in Church from 8pm
  - Thursday 6 December, coffee served 7.30 - 8pm - Session in The Wren Room from 8pm
  - Thursday 13 December, coffee served 7.30 - 8pm - Session in Church from 8pm

### **Centre Management:**

- Since the last meeting bookings have increased, both with regular groups and occasional hires. Two new U3A groups have made monthly and twice monthly bookings and the Diabetic Centre will be taking a full day each month from January.
- Following consultation with the Leadership Team, it has been agreed to run a trial letting to organisers of a Stamp Fair, which will take place bi-monthly on Sundays.
- Redecoration has been carried out in the Church, halls and the flat. Thanks were recorded to Mick Ovenden and Avril Williams for their help getting the flat ready for decoration.
- The floors in the large and small halls have been sealed, which is ensuring easier and better cleaning.
- Decoration of the Wren and Biffa rooms will be carried out when funds are available.
- The annual PAT test of all the Church electrical equipment had recently been carried out.
- Further investigations into installing a biomass heating system had shown it not to be viable at this time. The investment needed would be £70 000 with a maximum return of £9 000 per year, which would not cover the costs in an acceptable time frame.

- Members were informed of the recent assessment of our energy usage - as part of the issuing of an Energy Performance Certificate for the Church premises - this had identified areas of improvement where large savings could be made. The areas identified were:

Installation of a condensing boiler	£6 255.00
Additional insulation	£1 126.00
Energy efficient lighting	£4 845.00
Modern hand dryers	£1 365.00
Solar thermal hot water heating	£7 193.00

Grant funding will be sought to cover up to 50% of the overall costs. Following discussion, members agreed that the improvements should go ahead subject to grants being available.

### **Finance:**

- Ian reviewed the non consolidated accounts for the year ending 31 August, which are going forward for audit. The main Church account had a surplus of £1 090.00.
- Overall, across all accounts, there has been a surplus £6 283.60.
- A deficit on the Openhouse account of £9 651.40 refers specifically to the known reduction in funding for the former Clubhouse group, which had been budgeted for.
- Thanks were given to Ian for maintaining and presenting the accounts so well.

### **Pre-school:**

- All continues to run smoothly and staff work well together.
- Finances are also running well.
- Janet Day and Ian Farthing were thanked for the continuing support they give to the Pre School team on behalf of the Church Council.

### **Open House:**

- All is working very well. The varied programme of activities, arranged and organised by Cheryl Green, is really enjoyed by all the participants.

### **Storybox:**

- The group continues to run extremely well with up to 17 children regularly attending. Thanks were recorded to Janna for her continued hard work.

### **Chat and Play:**

- Numbers for the new Monday sessions are still low. However, all is going very well with the Thursday sessions. It seems that there is a preference for morning sessions. Thanks were recorded to Jo Garner for her hard work in running and organising the group.

### **Junior Church/Messy Church:**

- September saw the restart of Messy Church after the summer break. 24 children and 16 adults enjoyed puppets in addition to the regular activities. The October meeting will celebrate the second anniversary and the success Messy Church has been.
- The Christingle service, on 2 December, will be a Messy Church style service and will include the guiding and other Church children's groups plus families. It was proposed to have refreshments available from 9.00am.
- The whole team is working well but more helpers are always welcome.

- This year children and their families will take part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal. Full details will be in Partnership News.

#### **Pastoral Support:**

- The group is very well used and appreciated.
- The Telecare service is run by Jean Bank, Valerie Capon and Wendy Waters. Visits are also made if appropriate. Thanks were given to Mary Stubbs and all the team for the important work that they do.
- Church members were reminded to speak to Charlie or a member of the Pastoral Support Team if they become aware of any cases of need.

#### **Garden of Remembrance:**

- All is going well.
- The Churchyards committee are looking at samples of specialist edging/kerb stones which are available, which could be used for the interment of ashes.
- Marion and volunteers continue to keep the Garden looking so well. Floral tributes are now maintained and tidied by Jean.
- Thanks were recorded to John Day for looking after the finances.

#### **Woodland:**

- At the last trustees meeting it was agreed to review the charges to recognise future increases in the cost of maintaining the Woodland. Once finalised, the new charges would be introduced at the start of the next financial year.
- Total burials and interments to date have been 155.
- Details plans are to be drawn up of the land to be purchased.

#### **Missions:**

- This year's autumn project is again to support the Kasisi Children's Home. Letters detailing specific funding requirements are available in the Church foyer.

#### **Circuit:**

- The number of ministers in the Circuit will reduce by two and a part time placement will be made.
- A social evening celebrating the Friends for Life project, with an update on activities, is to be held at Priory Methodist Church.
- Our Circuit representatives are Morag Stewart and Linda Parry, with Janet Day as reserve.

#### **Deanery:**

- Our local MP and Mayor had attended the meeting held in September, which had been very interesting.

**Date for future Church Council meetings:** 19 February 2013: 11th June 2013. All 7.30 pm for 7.45 start.

With no further business the meeting closed with the Grace.