

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HERTFORD  
Parochial Church Council**

**Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
At 8.00 pm in the Meeting Room**

**M I N U T E S**

Present:	Canon Jo Loveridge (Chair)	Revd Ginni Dear
	Janet Bird	Janet Oldham
	Marion Hassell	Geoff Oates
	Andrew Povey-Richards	Jonathan Bates
	Wendell Newbold	Judy Oughton
	Martin Penny	Kay Povey-Richards
	Helen Harvey-Wright	Tony Weeden
	Sandra Weeden	David Francis
	Jakki Shepherd	

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Canon Jo Loveridge.

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Colin Bird, Martin Bird, Rosemary Bolton, Renee Booker and Edwin Godfrey.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda**

Ginni reported that a Nurture Group will be set up in October.

**GD**

The Posy Festival went very well.

The World War I service at the War Memorial on 4<sup>th</sup> August was very well attended and went very well. Regarding the service to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, Janet B thanked everyone for their offers of help with the catering and it is hoped that the church will make some money from this. Around 150 copies of the service sheets will need to be printed.

JL

Janet O reported that the Fire Brigade inspected the safety of the church in July and declared themselves to be satisfied.

Martin P reported that Christopher Joyce will join us later this week as Assistant Director of Music and his first service will be the following Sunday.

The meeting with the Town Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July was felt to be worthwhile and several people attended. They have now cut all the hedges and cleared away the overgrown areas, particularly adjacent to Gascoyne Way. The unsafe tombs are on their list of repairs, but this work is relatively expensive; however, they will try to do this as quickly as possible. They have been doing some strimming around the war graves. David Poole has provided some crosses which will be blessed at this week's Thursday Communion Service. One of the crosses will be placed next to the plaque in the church in memory of the organist who was killed when a bomb was dropped on Hertford. The minutes of the Town Council meeting are attached to these minutes.

### Fairtrade Coffee

Jo issued the following statement:

"At All Saints we have worked hard to build up our welcome. We owe a great deal of this to Janet with her leading us in the very successful welcome course and her hospitality, to Andrew developing the welcome team, and his and Kay's hospitality at their supper parties for those new to All Saints. As an ongoing part of this mission and outreach we recognise that many people enjoy a good cup of coffee.

"I asked Andrew to research this after he attended a Christian Resources Exhibition and he found a coffee percolator that was appropriate for our needs. At the last PCC meeting we agreed to trial it.

"People have enjoyed the new coffee but we are also aware that it has been a difficult time for others with a new machine to use and some concerns about the costs. We have listened to what people have said and we have now bought it. We have learned that it is always important to try to be as open and transparent as possible when introducing something new and ensure that those at the front line of change need nurturing through the change".

#### 4. **Mission Action Plan**

The Mission Action Plan (MAP) was based on the diocesan initiative Living God's Love and seeks to explore the following:

- Making new disciples;
- Transforming communities; and
- Going deeper into God.

To explore these issues further, and hopefully take our MAP forward, the meeting broke into three discussion groups and the following issues were highlighted:

##### Group 1

- Explanation about the Bible Study group – what it is about and that it is a social get together as well as giving people a chance to learn more about the Bible.
- Telling others about the church groups we have been to and enjoyed.
- Relating the Bible to everyday life and pressures.
- Replacing the existing bookcase in the meeting room and having more readable books – starting a library and asking people to donate or sponsor a book from a list.
- Christmas and Easter services provide good opportunities to make new disciples – we could give out Soulfood type cards.
- Direct people to our Facebook page and Twitter.

##### Group 2

- Establish contact with schools – they appreciate us being there. Many schools already come to church for services and we can build on this.
- Providing reading support to schools and being witness to the teaching community.
- Going deeper into God by arranging a parish retreat or encouraging people to attend day retreats. Parish retreats can be very helpful but take a lot of organising.

##### Group 3

- Getting God into the marketplace with initiatives like the Easter Journey; this received very positive feedback from the children and teachers who attended. The children were full of questions.
- Start to look at organising a Christmas Journey.
- Encourage the Christians out there who haven't taken the step of coming to church.
- Open the church at specific times ie Saturday mornings.

- Enter into what the secular world is doing ie arranging something in church for pancake day.
- Be more confident in talking about our faith.

These ideas will be used to formalise the next stage of our Mission Action Plan.

## 5. Team Rector's Report

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be coming to St Albans Abbey in June 2015. Jo suggested that we get together as a group and attend, possibly taking a picnic. This is likely to be on 20<sup>th</sup> June which is the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abbey.

Jo said she has felt heartened by the way so many exciting things are happening in the church, team and diocese.

## 6. Reports

### Treasurer

Colin Bird is still cautiously optimistic and hopes that the coffee morning will raise a good sum of money.

### Churchwardens

Janet B is trying to arrange an appointment for the DAC to come over to help us with decisions about the lights and pews. Dave F may be able to get someone to help with lighting in the Memorial Chapel. One of the lights in the Memorial Chapel has gone out and the Fabric Committee will take this forward.

**DF  
JB**

### Finance

This committee has not met.

### Fabric

This committee has not met.

### Worship

This committee's current focus is on young families and the Family Service and Family Eucharist. We are also exploring a Messy Café, rolling this out among ourselves initially and then inviting others to come along.

**GO**

## Social & Outreach

A coffee morning will be held on Saturday. It was agreed that electrical items cannot be sold at these events unless they have been tested and this would prove expensive.

The Bike n' Hike also takes place on Saturday and help is needed to man the church. **All**

The Harvest Supper will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> October followed by a Quiz. Any puddings donated should have an apple theme. **All**

The Family Service on 5<sup>th</sup> October will have a Harvest theme and food donations need to be appropriate for the Food Bank. On 12<sup>th</sup> October we will have a traditional Harvest Festival service and this year the Bishop's Harvest Appeal will support Women in Egypt.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December. PCC members are asked to think about a donation towards raffle prizes as soon as possible. The tickets need to be ready for sale during October. Hot pot lunches will be available and it is hoped that children from St Joseph's in the Park and Abel Smith schools will come and sing. **All**  
**JO**

On 18<sup>th</sup> January Bishop Alan will be presiding and preaching at the 10.00 am Team Eucharist. It was suggested that we hold a parish lunch and invite him to stay. Jo will contact him **JL**

A February Frolic will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Chris Benham is happy to give a concert in the spring and Martin P will approach him. This will probably take the form of a piano recital at Soundbites during March or April. **MP**

It is hoped to hold a Seniors Tea Party on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

A Plant Sale & Coffee Morning will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## Deanery Synod

Chris Neilson, who is responsible for finance in the diocese, is talking to various people involved in the financial world. He is encouraging people to think more responsibly about finance. The diocese is keen to do what it can to help people in debt. The group Christians Against Poverty is active in Ware.

The Church of England will be setting up a credit union. Colin Bird is on a working group for this and can hopefully provide updates. **CB**

## **7. Any Other Business**

Ginni asked if we could obtain some larger print versions of the Book of Common Prayer and Martin P agreed to purchase three from Norwich Books.

**MP**

Martin P reported that on Sunday our website hits were up by 40%. We get around 200 genuine visits each day.

Janet O said that the litter pick will now take place next month. It had been planned for this Saturday, but this is now proving to be a busy weekend.

**JO**

Janet O said that the flower beds around the church need tidying up and it is hoped that this can be done before the Memorial Service. She also suggested that people may like to donate suitable bulbs or other plants and a request for this will go out to the whole congregation.

**JO**

## **8. Dates for Future Meetings**

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March
- APCM 19<sup>th</sup> April (suggested date)
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with a prayer.