

St Peter and St Paul with St Andrews, Flitwick
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Held at St Andrews Church on Wednesday 5th May, 2010 at 7.30pm

Those Present:	Revd M Bradley (Chairman)	Mrs F Harris
	Dr A Brown (Vice Chairman)	Mrs M McKeand
	Mrs J Frost (Secretary)	Mrs A Roby
	Mrs R Gale (Mins Secretary)	Mrs S Sims
	Mr D Gale	Mr D Shelton-Smith
	Mrs C Golding (Treasurer)	Mrs R Thompson
	Mr D Golding	Mr D Watson
	Mrs F Harding	

1. **Prayers:** The Meeting opened with prayers. Michael explained there would be two items on the Agenda at the end of the Meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Mr Ciaran Diver.
3. **Minutes:** Amend Minutes amendment for April to read “Treasurer’s Report for **March - Balance at Barclays to read £308.97**”.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None
5. **Treasurer’s Report:**
 - a. CBF = £82,968.46
Balance at Barclays = £ 4,895.72
 - b. Carmel explained that she had been in discussions with Eon and had been successful in securing a reduction in the amount we pay for our electricity. The contract with British Gas is due for renewal in August. Carmel has signed a VAT declaration to get a reduction of 5% and a further 2% reduction if it is paid by Direct Debit.
 - c. The Annual Financial Return has been sent to the Diocese.
 - d. Carmel explained that for some reason no bills had been received from Anglian Water for the Parish Church but that the bills had been received for St. Andrews. We have now received a bill to cover this discrepancy for £1,014.48. A Direct Debit will be set up for £101.44 per month to pay this off.
 - e. A discussion ensued as to the merit of having a water meter for St Peter & St Paul’s but this was not deemed advisable at present.
 - f. A invoice for for Fund Filer, our online Stewardship programme, in the sum of £85.00 has been received. This will be paid monthly at £8.50 over ten months.
 - g. We have received a Grant from the Town Council of £200.00 which we applied for to cover the cost of having Power Point equipment for the Church. Ciaran will be asked to progress the order for this. Balance can come out of the Old School Fund.
 - h. The Parish Share statement has been received from the Diocese. There is nothing outstanding and we are paying monthly by direct debit.

- i. Carmel asked for assistance in deleting a St. Albans DBF Charity No. from our Stewardship envelopes. This was placed there in error and the Diocese had pointed this out to us in a letter to Carmel.
- j. The bill for the Church Wall repair was £2,353.00 plus VAT. It is hoped that the VAT will be recovered under the Places of Worship VAT scheme.
- k. Derek suggested that St. Andrews should have a water meter as the water used there was minimal. This will be discussed by the Buildings Committee.

6. **Pastoral Care:** Not minuted.

7. **Vision for Action:**

- a. **Resolution on Climate Change:** a sub-committee will be set up to discuss this subject and it will be included on future Agendas. Rachel Thompson, Mary McKeand and Anne Roby volunteered to form a committee and arrange a pew notice to ask for members of the congregation to join them. It was thought that maybe we needed a new programmer in the church for the boiler.
- b. **Mission Initiative:** as John Kiddle will be on Sabbatical over the Summer, Michael has booked him to preach at the Parish church on 30th January 2011 and to stay for Lunch afterwards to talk to Parishioners. Michael will meet with John on 15th September 2010 to discuss possibilities for a mission strategy.
- c. **Churches Together Report:** (copy attached)
Pentecost in the Park is on 23 May at 12.30pm at Catherine's Cross Ampthill Park. Michael will be MC. Preacher is now the Ven Jonathan Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans. The Christian Aid Service will be held at St Peter & St Paul's Church on 9th May at 6.00pm followed by refreshments in the Chapter House.

It has been decided to have a collective wreath from Churches Together on Remembrance Sunday in November. There will be one for Ampthill and one for Flitwick.

Street Angels. Negotiations are taking place with Bedford Angels in an endeavour to recruit and train Street Pastors in Ampthill and Flitwick.

d. **Mind Body and Soul Fair**

Anne submitted the following report on the Mind Body and Soul Fair April 2010: The general theme was as in previous years "The Church's Ministry of Healing". We offered prayers to only a few people who could light a candle if they chose. We also offered free illustrated bookmarks with texts and leaflets mostly from the Evangelical Sisters of Mary (Gospels Mathew, Mark, Luke and John available 45p) The words from "The Lord of the Dance" from Sydney Carter's song displayed on the screen behind the stall were commented on by several people. The Jesus Deck proved a valuable point of contact. Visitors to the stall were offered a "Jesus Reading" which led to many worthwhile conversations. Many people said "thank you". At least two helpers were there all the time, about 10 different people with representatives from all the churches except one. The bowl for donations – no one was asked to give had £2.00 in it which has been kept for the cost of the gospels. The fee of £60.00 for booking the stall will be paid for by Churches Together. The organizers of the Fair made us welcome; others also commented that they were

glad the Church was there. Many of the therapies being offered are seen to be part of the wholeness and healing that God has given to the World. Contact was made with several people from previous years. I thank everyone for all the prayers and support for running the stall. May God bless all those who visited the stall, as well as all the helpers – we have all learnt a lot by taking part.

8. Buildings Sub-Committee Report:

a. Churchyard mower:

David reported that our Mower had been stolen but the Insurance has agreed to reimburse the cost. We now have a new mower which is at present being stored by David. There was a short discussion about whether the mower should be stored in the old vestry. It takes up room and also there is a problem with petrol. David did say that the petrol would have to be emptied out of the mower before it was stored in the vestry.

b. Chapter House Roof:

Pam Ward has visited again and done quite a bit towards sorting out the problems on the Chapter House Roof. David explained such details as stainless steel roofing and guttering etc which would require planning permission, building regulations and also the approval of English Heritage. This subject is to be discussed in detail with the Buildings Committee. Michael suggested an extraordinary meeting of the PCC be held to discuss this matter more fully with Pam Ward.

c. Squirrel damage:

David reported that squirrels were nibbling the lead on the Chapter House roof. Bob Morwood the Central Bedfordshire Trees & Landscape Team Leader has suggested cutting the yew trees down to hedge level to deter the squirrels from leaping onto the roof. We will need to speak with Flitwick Manor about the matter as the trees are theirs.

d. Church lighting:

The subject of the light bulbs above the Altar and in the Chancel was discussed. The bulbs which are in use at present are no longer available and will need to be replaced by eco friendly ones.

e. Bedfordshire D-Star

Copies of relevant correspondence in order to get the Archdeacon's approval was handed over to Michael and Jennie. Jennie will now write to the Archdeacon for his approval.

9. Any Other Business:

- a. Michael proposed that Rachel Thompson become a Chalice Assistant and joins the Home Communion Team. Rachel has accepted the invitation and it was unanimously agreed. Michael will contact the Bishop of Bedford for authorization.
- b. Derek requested that the damaged dustbin at St Andrews be replaced. Flora will look into this.

There being no other business the meeting closed with Said Grace at 9.10pm