**Casterton District Church Council**

9th November 2016

As RS was slightly delayed at another meeting, Anne Pettifor opened the meeting with Psalm 37, a reflection on it and prayers.

**Present:** Richard Snow, Ron and Anne Bulman, Gill Sykes, Annette Benson, Anne Pettifor, Tom Herd and Dorothy Turner

**Apologies:** Frank Livesey, Stephen Evans and Anastasia Micklethwaite.

Frank Livesey, after many years of service, is resigning from the DCC. A card will be sent to thank him for his dedication to the Church. Copies of an email from Anastasia, who could not be present, were circulated so that her comments could be considered at relevant points in the meeting.

The **minutes** from the August Meeting were accepted and signed

**Matters Arising:**

* RB reported that much effort had gone into arrangements for **Remembrance Sunday** so everything should run smoothly. RS commented that because there have been major conflicts in recent years, the profile of Remembrance is higher than it was a decade or so ago.
* It was agreed that there would not be a service at Casterton on **Sunday 11th December**.
* The timing of the **Christmas Day Communion service** will be decided when the clergy meet later in the week – now confirmed as 10.30am.
* **Piano**: Nothing further to report at the moment
* GS agreed to contact Graham Bott again about the **boiler house** repair
* The beautiful **new gate** into the churchyard, generously donated by Stephen Evans, is now in place
* RS has spoken to the Archdeacon about **upgrading the listing of the Church**. We have been advised to speak to the Churches Trust for Cumbria about the pros and cons of an upgrading. RB will follow this up.
* The **Casterton School plaque** is now in situ and looks good

**War Memorial Plaque:**

* RB had attended the Parish Council meeting as he was concerned that the PC was ignoring the partnership between the PC and the DCC over the war memorial. A pre-application has been made by the PC for a grant towards a plaque to be placed near the war memorial showing clearly all the names that are on the war memorial. He explained that the wrong stone had been used initially and it had not weathered well nor had it been looked after correctly
* RS thought that we should keep a watching brief on it and feed in our ideas now
* Annette B reminded the DCC that there was a list in Church of the names and said that the names were legible on the war memorial
* Annette B asked whether the PC had considered doing something similar to what had been done at St Andrew’s Church, Sedbergh, where new incised slabs have been added to each face of the war memorial
* A long-lasting solution on the memorial itself would be favoured
* RB stated that it was a very dangerous corner and a risk assessment would be needed if we added something that would attract people’s attention. Might it be a good idea to explore re-siting the war memorial?
* GS was asked to write to the PC about this

**Casterton Community Trust Bid:** A successful application for a grant for a **‘Henry’ vacuum cleaner** was made and it is now in use. A letter of thanks has been sent to CCT.

**Progress with B4RN for Holy Trinity:** Ducting has been brought across from Church Cottage. The box will be placed near the PA system. A test router has shown that the system will work well. Chris Condor has explained to RB all the different uses we could make of it. The service is free for places of worship.

**Health and Safety Report:** RB attended the recent meeting. We have **checklists** for Fire, Security, buildings and grounds. There are now guidelines about suspicious packages. RB agreed to make **register of key holders**.

**Electoral Roll Recruitment Drive:** There have been some **new residents** in the past few months who have not yet been approached. RB is writing a church statement to go in the **Welcome Packs** which the Parish Council distributes. RS said that the Electoral Roll will be redone from scratch soon and that would be a good opportunity for recruitment. It was agreed to use our ‘windows’ cards with a list of Christmas events to send good wishes for Christmas from Holy Trinity.

**Financial Report:**

* TH read his report which had been distributed
* It is now 18 months since we got a quotation for the **chancel roof** repairs. We will probably need more quotations if we apply for grants
* RS asked if the **balance for the previous year** at the same time could be shown on the report so that it was easy to see if our funds were increasing or decreasing
* RS said that all Rainbow Parish churches were currently insured separately with **Ecclesiastical** **Insurance**. From next year they will be providing a ‘Parish Plus’ policy for groups of churches. It is hoped that this should prove more economical for churches that are insured for 100% value

**Churchwardens’ Report:** (In addition to what had already been reported)

* RB is keeping on top of the **gardening**
* RB constantly monitors the condition of the **fabric** of Holy Trinity
* Sadly the **number of people in the congregation** is becoming fewer and we do not have any younger people
* It is a busy Church with all the different **musical events**
* The **lack of toilets** was discussed. The architectural and space problems, as well as financial constraints, remain the same as when the matter was previously considered and it was agreed that it was not a viable project at the moment.

**Future Events:**

* **Lunchtime recitals – Thursdays at 1.30pm:** 
  + **November 10th** – Rhiannon James and Chris Mansfield (violin and cello respectively)
  + **December 1st** – Sedbergh Senior School pupils
* **Allegri Singers** on 13th November at 4pm
* There will be an **Advent Service** in the morning on 27th November at Preston Patrick
* **Informal Advent Carol Concert/Service** at 6.45pmby Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School on Thursday December 1st with clergy
* **Sing Joyfully carol concert** on Tuesday December 13th at 8pm
* **December Services:**
  + **Evening Service** on 11th December. This is cancelled
  + **Casterton Carol Service** on Sunday 18th December at 5pm
  + There will be a **Rainbow Carol Service** on Friday 23rd December and a reader may be requested from each church.
  + **Christmas Day Communion** at10.30am.
* Annette B suggested having the **Northumberland Players** but they are quite expensive so a guaranteed audience is required
* A **questionnaire** was suggested to see what the village wanted from the Church
* It was agreed to try a **Coffee Morning** and invite newcomers. They have been very successful at Middleton. **Monday 9th January at 10.30am in Church**. We will borrow Annette’s teacups.

**AOB:**

* GS said that, so far, letters of thanks for **Harvest Produce** had been received from Manna House, Summerfield Hostel and Bendrigg Trust
* It was agreed that we would support **Morecambe Food Bank** to the tune of £50 as usual this Christmas
* RB reported that he is creating a **website** for the Church with the help of Laura and William Mawdsley. There will be links with websites belonging to the Village and St Mary’s
* RS emphasised how much more communication is done these days by the **internet and social media**. Once set up, the website will need to be kept up-to-date
* RS hopes that the **Family Project** will build on the links between Church and schools and will help to encourage and nurture faith
* RS has spoken to Mike Chatterley about **links between the** **Church and Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School**
* Comment was made as to how enjoyable and successful the **Hog Roast** in KL had been

The **next meeting** will be on **Monday 30th January in Church at 7.30pm.**

AP closed the meeting with the grace.