**Casterton District Church Council**

14th June 2019

**Present:** Richard Snow, Stephen Evans, Gill Sykes, Tom Herd, Dorothy Turner and Anastasia Micklethwaite

Also Will Newman (Headmaster of Casterton, Sedbergh Preparatory School) for the item about church bells

**Apologies:** Annette Benson and Anne Pettifor

RS opened the meeting with Psalm 145 and a reflection on it

**Church bells:** Will Newman reported that he, his family and guests had difficulty sleeping as the bells sounding through the night were very audible in Old Hall. A discussion ensued and Tom Herd will make enquiries about bell strike controls.

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

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters that were not covered elsewhere

**Financial Report:**

* TH presented his report
* The **Parish Offer** was discussed. The Diocesan costs are going up and a 2.6% rise is anticipated in the next year. RS explained the formula for allocation of clergy which works out at 1½ for the Rainbow Parish. If the Rainbow Parish does not pay its way then there will be a reduction in staffing eventually. St Mary’s has been paying the bulk of the Parish Offer but has now used up its reserves and is trying to raise money through a stewardship campaign. It was agreed to increase our offer by 2.6% and this would cost us £12 more per month.

**Churchwarden’s report:**

* The **grass** is being cut on a regular basis. Thanks were given to SE who is very generously funding this.
* The **heating** has been running smoothly. It was noted that a lot of heating was required for short usage. Gas is the main expense that HT has. Gas and electricity come to £3500 per annum. AM will ask Steve Pickup to turn the heating off from the end of June until the start of September.

**Report on events:** The concerts, weddings and funerals had all gone well

**Future Events:**

* **Open Afternoon** – this will not happen this year but we will re-consider next year
* **Sing Joyfully! concerts** are arranged for Tuesday 10th December and Tuesday 24th March. AM will have some of the singers doing more marketing. It was thought that a free concert and asking for a donation was better than ticketing an event.
* **Levens Choir** has provisionally booked to hire HT church for a concert on Tuesday 31st March from 6 – 10pm. They will also use the Village Hall toilets. It was agreed that a suitable fee would be £100. We will not have any involvement in its organisation nor benefit financially beyond the hire fee.

**Fundraising Ideas:**

* A number of ideas were considered including coffee mornings, jumble sales, Christmas Fairs, Christmas tree displays, nativity displays and a flower festival.
* A **flower festival** next year (in May before half term) that could involve the community was thought to be a good idea. Free entry and refreshments with donations. The Parish Council, WI and C,SPS could all be involved as well as individuals to provide flower displays in the windows etc. The display boards about the village could be put out.
* An event nearer Christmas with **nativities** could be a possibility
* If AM has time, she will see if she can arrange a group of friends to provide a **fundraising concert**

**Services:**

* **Rainbow Patronal Service** on Sunday 16th June at 6.30pm
* **No service on 23rd June**
* **Holy Communion** on 28th July, 25th August and 22nd September
* **Harvest Festival** 13th October (provisional). AM will confirm after the school’s calendar meeting

**AOB:**

* Di Moore is away from 1 – 18 July. AM agreed to **unlock church** in the mornings from 1 – 5 July and GS will lock it on those days. For the remainder of the time, a notice will be placed in the noticeboard by the gate giving phone numbers of GS and TH for people to contact if they need to get in. GS, TH and SE may unlock on some days and have agreed that, if they do so, they will return and lock up the same evening. GS will contact anyone doing flowers in this period.

The **next meeting** will be on **Friday 4th October** in Church at **5.15pm**.

RS closed the meeting with a prayer and the grace.