

Minutes of St John's PCC Meeting

Held at St Andrew's Church Hall on Tuesday 15th November 2016

The following members were present:

Edward Armitstead, John Brookes, Eddie Brooks, Jam Cary, Rob Dean, Beth Farrington, Lin Hann, Jane Hiscock, Les Jackson, James Maitland, Jennifer Matthew, David Maynard-Griffin, Helen Peace, Tom Putt, Nick Scorer, Jenny Salberg, Jo-Anne Smith, Mike Streatfeild, Kath Upton.
Chairman: James Dudley-Smith. Secretary: Janet Dean

1. **Apologies:** Elizabeth Crawford, Charley Maidment, Keith Ovenden, David Upton, Robert Warr
2. **Reading:** James selected certain verses from Philippians which refer to 'joy': in prayer, in the Word of God, in mutual love and unity, in suffering, and in the Lord Jesus who is the ultimate source of joy. *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice. Ph 4v4*

There was a pause for prayer.

3. **Minutes** of the PCC meeting held on 21st September were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**
 - a) Edward Armitstead, referring to item 13f, stated that The Royal Observer Corps could not 'lay up' their banner but they can house it at the back of the church, ie, to 'lay up' is the wrong terminology.
 - b) The collection plate is no longer in place at the back of the church but a box has been fixed to a pillar. Eddie Brooks pointed out that those who count the money after the services should have been informed when this was done.
 - c) The number of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child totalled eighty – a wonderful result.
5. **Finance Report.** John Brookes had circulated his report prior to the meeting (filed with these minutes), and asked if there were any questions.
 - The parish share for 2017 is to increase by 15% (from 121,000 to £138,000 for the two churches) whilst church membership has increased by 11% but giving only by 4%. This increase is deemed by many to be unsustainable and a lengthy discussion followed. It was finally agreed that we would aim to pay the full amount in monthly instalments until next October when we would have to take stock and decide whether it was feasible to complete the payments. With mission and evangelism at the forefront of all that we do, we cannot cut back on our spending without jeopardising work in these important areas. It was suggested that we would write to the Diocese to warn them that we may not be able to pay the full amount. A vote was taken at this point: 15 were in favour with 4 abstentions.
 - Mike Streatfeild reported that CAP is running at a deficit but that they intend to hold a one-off fund raiser next year to bridge the gap.
 - A resolution was passed by a majority vote to add Rob Dean and Simon Andrews to the list of bank account signatories.

6. Fabric Report.

- a) Audio-visual. The work is currently being carried out. James wishes to thank all those concerned for their dedication to the task.
- b) School rooms. SSE are due to change the meter box imminently and until this is done, other works are being delayed.
With regard to payment for this work Edward Armitstead suggested that £15K be taken from the Fabric Fund;
- c) And regarding St Andrew's kitchen, that £10K should also be put aside from the Fabric Fund for the work to St Andrew's kitchen. Beth Farrington has received a quote from Magnet of

£5,047.80 to carry out the required work of replacing work surfaces, cupboards and a new oven with ceramic hob. Redecoration will then be needed and new blinds. A discussion then followed regarding whether or not the Peter Wakely Fund should be used for this work but it was finally agreed that the Fabric Fund should be used for both projects initially, with the possibility of using monies from the Peter Wakely Fund at a later date to repay this. In the meantime, the go-ahead was given to pay the £500 deposit to Magnet for the work to be carried out in February half-term.

- d) Vestry cupboard. Jennifer Matthew has received an offer of £300 for this cupboard.
- e) Church lighting. New lamps have been successfully installed. Jenny Salberg stated that the Feoffees had kindly agreed to pay towards this work.
- f) Church Tower. Rob Dean reported that it is now one year since the work was completed on the tower and that an inspection was carried out last week. The retention invoice will be received soon.
- g) Health and Safety – our H&S policies and risk assessment are due for their biennial review this month and Phil Juggins is progressing this with Terry Bush.
- h) Church Parking area. It was agreed to investigate feasibility and costs of increasing space available for parking by dropping the kerb and installing special matting on the grass. This will require a faculty. The council could carry out the work though the costs incurred will be payable by us. RD to report back.
- i) The clock. The council has agreed to transfer ownership of the clock in the tower, a prerequisite for grant allocation to restore it. The Church Building Council has offered a grant of £2500 and a resolution to accept the conditions was passed by a majority vote. It was noted that if the work is not carried out within two years, the money must be repaid.

7. Mission and Evangelism

Tom Putt advised that there is to be a meeting on Monday to discuss this further:

- a) There is to be a mini mission in March:
 - 10th March – a quiz, possibly in Costa
 - 17th March – Jam Cary and Paul Karenza will stage a sit-com which is evangelistic and funny
 - 18th March – Kirsty Birkett will speak on the subject of Science and God
 - 19th March – Sunday Guest Service
- b) A Christianity Explored course will start on 16th January.

8. **Meetings and dates for 2017.** A sheet giving dates of all meetings next year was distributed to those present. Helen advised that the list of pastoral events will be available very soon.

9. **Peter Wakely Fund.** The first Wednesday in January is to be dedicated to prayer on this matter and people should be encouraged to attend. Please talk to James if you have any suggestions.

10. Review

- a) A Newcomers' Evening was held last Saturday, attended by 22 people.
- b) Remembrance Sunday. This went well though it was suggested that the Council be encouraged to update their sound system before next year.
- c) Guest Services. There have been two recently: one in the morning when the preaching was on Genesis 1, and once in the evening when the subject was Pain. Both were well attended.
- d) Archbishop's Visit. Archbishop Justin Wellby visited the Diocese recently and, among other things, gave an encouragingly strong talk on evangelism in the Cathedral.

11. Other Church Activities

- a) Pastoral Care. Helen reported a busy time, particularly as we approach Christmas. Several events have been arranged, including opening the church for the switching on of the Christmas lights on Saturday 19 Nov; an afternoon of Christmas Festive Fun for older members of the church family; a SALT Christmas lunch. The Gone Fishing Café goes from strength to strength in a lovely welcoming atmosphere each Thursday morning.

- b) Fellowship Groups. James reported that we now have eleven group (up from nine) with 125 people participating (up from 107) which is encouraging.
- c) Yeovil College. Tom reported that:
- He has one young person in the Christian Union and hopes this will grow.
 - 300 attended the Remembrance ceremony on 11th November;
 - and a Christmas event of singalong karaoke with carols is to take place.
 - He reported that one member of staff is, rather startlingly, a witch and it was proposed that we pray for her, and indeed for Tom's protection.
 - The College recently received a good OFSTED report.

12. Any Other Business

- James, as a signatory, had distributed a letter sent to the bishops from national evangelical leaders on the doctrine of human sexual relationships for the PCC's information.
- Jane advised that the band are to play in the Quedam on 3rd December for one hour between 10 and 11 o'clock.
- Cards with Christmas service dates and times will be available this weekend.
- The updated list of those who have permission to administer the chalice is to be sent to the Diocese

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th January 2017

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm, after a time of prayer.