

## **Minutes of St John's PCC Meeting Held at St Andrew's Church Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

The following members were present:

Edward Armitstead, John Brookes, Eddie Brooks, Jam Cary, Elizabeth Crawford, Rob Dean, Beth Farrington, Lin Hann, Jane Hiscock, Charley Maidment, James Maitland, Jennifer Matthew, David Maynard-Griffin, Tom Putt, Nick Scorer, Jenny Salberg, Jo-Anne Smith, David Upton, Robert Warr.  
Chairman: James Dudley-Smith. Secretary: Janet Dean

1. **Apologies:** Les Jackson, Keith Ovenden, Helen Peace, Mike Streatfeild, Kath Upton.
2. **Reading:** James read from 1 Chronicles 29 concerning God's greatness, glory and generosity which calls for our humility and gratitude.

There was a pause for prayer.

3. **Minutes** of the PCC meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and signed.

#### 4. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

James noted that the audio-visual work is now complete and thanked those concerned for all their work in achieving this.

#### 5. **Finance Report**

John Brookes had circulated his report (filed with these minutes) before the meeting and wished to add that since then:

- a) £100 deposit for damages has been reimbursed to one of the schools who held a carol service in St John's;
- b) the Peter Wakely unit trust fund is up £29K since last year and now stands at £225K. The Fabric Fund has also grown by £5K.

He pointed out that the loose plate collections since Christmas have dropped considerably which is disappointing and a cause for concern. Standing order figures will not be available until the end of the month. A discussion followed about whether or not to reinstate the collection plates during the service, rather than relying on people to place their money in the box on the pillar; but it was decided to leave a plate out where it is visible on a table beneath this box for the time being. Jennifer to alert the assistant wardens to this change.

#### 6. **Fabric Report.**

- Rob Dean reported that there are no new major projects planned until after the quinquennial in April.
- Work on the school rooms is on-going and awaits electrical power work.
- Rob has been researching the possibility of a digital interactive display stand in the church to enable visitors to see behind the scenes what we have, such as the bells and clock, who we are and what we do. A state-of-the-art stand would cost about £3.5K. £1K was included in the estimate of work carried out on the Tower Project and The English Lottery Heritage Fund may expect us to have this in place as a condition of completing their grant. A discussion followed regarding other possibilities and it was concluded that we would not buy an expensive stand but would progress a cheaper option.
- A contractor has been selected for the work on St Andrew's hall kitchen. During half term, the boiler will be replaced and tanks removed from the roof by contractor Daniel Wood. Later that week, the windows will be replaced by Bill Butters of Sherborne. Then, during the Easter holidays, the kitchen will be gutted and refitted, decorated and retiled. In all the work will cost just over £9K.

## 7. Peter Wakely Legacy

James began by reading from Proverbs 17, followed by a time of prayer before the discussion began. He asked for a free discussion, particularly with regard to the various proposals and suggestions which have been put forward to date, and that we look for positive ideas, some of which are listed below:

- The money is currently invested in a unit trust which is providing good growth and has been used to date to fund the salary of the Pastoral Care Coordinator when there are insufficient funds in the General Fund. It was generally agreed that this is a good use of the legacy and that Peter Wakely would have approved: Helen should be assured that her post is secure.
- Using the money to purchase a property was discussed at length but it was generally agreed that this could lead to complications: should such a property be used to house future staff which would mean that it would not yield any income; or should it be let and the rent be used for pastoral matters that arise?
- Conversation then led to Tom Putt's appointment as Associate Minister which is for five years only and James' concern that he would be unable to manage without his valuable contribution to the Parish and the need to allow for growth.

At this point in the meeting, Tom produced a series of poster size forms on which he invited us to rank in order of importance the various possible uses of the legacy: to purchase a property, to fund the new kitchen at St Andrew's church hall, to purchase a mini-bus, to draw down on the fund as and when required, etc. This will give the Standing Committee an indication of what the PCC generally feel would be the best way to use the money and they will report back on the findings at the next PCC meeting.

## 8. Mission and Evangelism

- a) Tom reported that an encouraging eleven people had signed up to do the Christianity Explored course which had just begun.
- b) There is to be a mini mission in March, for which a leaflet has already been produced, and will begin with a ticketed Curry & Quiz evening on 10<sup>th</sup> March and will be the only event to charge for tickets. Other events are:

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	"Does God have a Sense of Humour" with comedian Paul Kerensa and James Cary
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	"Has Science killed God?" with Dr Kirsty Birkett
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Guest Services at both churches

## 9. Safeguarding

James has met with Jane Mclean recently and there is to be a training day on 11<sup>th</sup> March, limited to 20 places and to which selected people will be invited.

## 10. Review

- a) Christmas Services – James reported that these had gone very well and was extremely grateful to all those who had made themselves available to assist in the many ways required.
- b) There followed a discussion on whether or not to invite YCC to the Christmas Day service 2017 as many feel that the church becomes overcrowded, causing many of our own church family to stay away. A vote was taken on contacting YCC now, rather than at the end of the year, with the recommendation that they not be invited: 13 were in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

It was, however, suggested that the St Andrew's congregation be invited on Christmas Day and this was welcomed.

## 11. Other Church Activities

- a) Children's groups are going well with new helpers recently recruited though they are constrained by having to wait for several DBS approvals.

Ann Johnson is to retire from teaching her groups this summer but Jo-Anne Smith is confident that she will be able to find a replacement.

- b) The Youth Group will shortly be spending a weekend away at Brunel Manor. James Maitland had circulated risk assessments, created by Chris Blackburn, concerning this visit before the meeting: these were praised for their thoroughness and all were in favour that they be approved. Eleven young people are due to attend and Tim Lewis will be the speaker. James added he is grateful to Stefan and Charlotte for coming 'on board' to help now.
- c) Romans in Lent is the title of a course that Doug Johnson will be running on Wednesday evenings during March and which James suggested that fellowship groups, among others, might like to attend. The venue has yet to be finalised.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

David Upton will be 70 in March, after which he will require a Permission to Officiate as a Reader in our church. He stated that he does not officially need this as he can still continue to lead services from time to time. However, he asked the PCC to consider whether he should apply for the PTO. It was agreed that James would speak to him further to discover which option he would actually prefer and that the PCC would be happy to agree to David's choice. *(James and David Upton have subsequently spoken, and David has expressed a preference for not seeking Permission To Officiate in continuing Reader ministry after his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.)*

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

The meeting closed at 9.26pm, after a short time of prayer.