

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's & St Andrew's Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 2nd October 2012, in the Schoolrooms

The following were present:

Edward Armitstead; Ros Bush; Simon Corner; Ian Croxford; Roger Fox; Les Jackson; Jenny Jones; Phil Juggins; Revd Tim Lewis; Iain Maitland; Joy Neville; Keith Ovenden; Helen Peace; David Preston; Jenny Salberg; Nick Scorer; Mike Streatfeild; David Upton; Kath Upton; Robert Warr; Revd James Dudley-Smith (Chair)

1. Opening Worship

James opened the meeting with a reading from James 1 v 2 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything"

A joy because it is more important to have a persevering faith than a smooth passage through life. We are to pray for wisdom if we lack wisdom. This is an urgent call not to be double minded and unstable in our commitment to faith but single minded as we seek the Lord. This was followed by prayer.

2. Apologies

Revd Ed Bangay; Eddie Brooks; Gordon Crawford; Rob Dean; Ted King; David Maynard-Griffin; David Matthew, Paula Rollason, Keith Stevens; Martin Warr; Anne Wicks

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on 20th March were approved without amendment and signed by James

4. Matters Arising

New Church Web Site

As David Matthew was not at the meeting this matter was deferred.

5. Report on Church Council Meetings

St John's

John Brookes reported on the last meeting held on the 18th September. A discussion took place on the possibility of having an apprentice in the parish, such as a graduate, to help with various aspects of local ministry. It is hoped that this may be a possibility for the next academic year.

A letter from the local Crime Reduction Officer about security around the church was discussed and various recommendations are being implemented.

The latest accounts to the end of July showed a surplus of £5,410 mainly due to increased giving which is very encouraging.

We have paid out our total missionary and charitable giving budget for the year of £13,250.

The quinquennial survey has taken place and a number of items costing about £3,000 are being carried out. Our application to English Heritage for a grant towards the tower has been turned down. A small subcommittee has been set up to consider what our priorities should be as regards the tower, the organ, the bells and removing the pews.

We discussed the possibility of having a book stall but we would need someone to run it

We discussed All Age worship services and in particular, is it a suitable main service for a Sunday and what is its intended purpose and is it meeting its intended purpose? The general view was that we should have one but it needs to be done well and the clergy and leaders will be discussing this.

It was agreed to recommend to the Diocese that Keith Stevens's license is renewed.

St Andrew's

Jenny Jones gave a report as follows:

The next quinquennial inspection is due in 2013 and a new church architect is being sought to replace Leslie Ellis who is retiring.

Friday evening prayer and the fourth Sunday evening service has been discontinued for the foreseeable future as it has not been possible to find anyone to take over the leadership in the short term. The first Friday of the month at 6.30pm has become a short prayer meeting seeking guidance on the future of St. Andrews and God's plans for our growth and all are welcome to attend.

The evening service last Sunday was an enjoyable choral evensong led by Keith and Ruth Stevens and it was good to hear that St. Andrews still has marvelous acoustics.

There will be a short said Communion service in St. Andrews at 6.30 pm on Friday 30th November, their Patronal festival, followed by a fish and chip supper at Palmers restaurant.

It was agreed to recommend to the Diocese that Beth Farrington's license is renewed.

6 Reports from Meetings

a) Deanery Synod

The Diocesan Renewal Advisor had given a talk at the last meeting.

b) Local Ecumenical Partnership – LEP

As the current chairman Rev Ian Green was leaving Yeovil a new chairman is being sought and James has been asked if he will take on the position. However since the LEP had been formed about 8 years ago the responsibilities of the Methodist and URC ministers has widened to include other churches and James feels that the LEP no longer fulfills its original purpose and perhaps its continuation should be considered. He was in the process of writing to the other ministers but his initial thoughts were that perhaps a closer association between all the churches in Yeovil was a more appropriate arrangement.

c) Beyond Yeovil Group

The BYG had not met but would be meeting to consider our giving for 2013.

d) Christians Against Poverty

Ian Croxford gave a very encouraging report. 5 clients had now become debt free and 7 had shown a commitment to Jesus. Two very successful client events have taken place and some clients sent on Discovery breaks. A Christianity Explored course for male clients is starting in October. The centre is very busy with 4 new clients taken on each month. David Upton has been selected to become a debt coach and was starting training on 16th October. David is currently chairman of the management committee but would need to stand down so a replacement is being sought. The possibility of starting a CAP jobs club is being considered for next year but would need someone to run it. Keith Ovenden said that the charity that he had set up may be able to help.

- e) **18 to 30's Group**
Tim said that the group has been split into two with one group doing a Christianity Explored course. About 10 including children were going to Word Alive in Wales next April. There is a good mix of mature Christians and those just starting out in exploring their faith.
7. **Parish Mission 10th to 16th November 2014**
Tim said that a small committee was being set up to meet before Christmas.
8. **To review the 5th Sunday Together for Communion service on 30th September**
James said that he thought that he was being true to the vision when he arrived to draw both churches together and all ages together for those 5th Sundays but he feels that it is difficult for St. Andrew's folk and particularly to close the door at St. Andrew's. A number of issues were raised notably the difficulty of All Age services being relevant to all ages, the length of the service, including a baptism in the service, organ music not always suitable for modern hymns and having a communion at an All Age service. It was suggested that we have a service at St. Andrew's but James was very uneasy about closing St. John's being the parish church and due to the number of visitors usually attending. It was felt that it was good occasionally for the young people to be in church for a communion and Tim's address to the young people about communion was particularly welcomed. The frequency of baptisms at services was subject to debate and was a difficult area to suite all parties. Ian Croxford particularly welcomed the fact that there was a wide spectrum of people of all ages and social groupings at the service. James said that the matter should be discussed at the St. Andrew's church council.
- 9 **December and Christmas**
There would be a morning service in St. John's on Sunday 23rd December at 10.30am with children's activities.
Jenny Salberg reminded everyone about the harvest supper in the schoolrooms on Saturday 20th October to which all are invited to buy a ticket.
10. **Any Other Business**
- a) **New group for mothers with babies**
Joy Neville handed out details of her proposal to start a new group in the New Year primarily aimed at new mothers with babies. The group would meet in St. John's Schoolrooms on Thursday mornings during term time. This was warmly supported together with her request for a budget of about £250 to purchase toys and other items. It was suggested that the Schoolrooms fund may be a suitable source to pay for this.
- b) **Kids and Co**
Tim made a request for help to run Kid's and Co particularly with setting up and clearing away afterwards. This was currently being done by mums with young children but if they did not find anybody to take on this role then Kids and Co may fold up.
11. **Date of the next meeting**
Date to be arranged in 2013.
There being no further business the meeting finished with prayer at 9.10pm