

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's Church Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2013, in the Schoolrooms

The following council members were present:

Edward Armitstead, Eddie Brooks, John Brookes, Simon Corner, Ian Croxford,
Rob Dean, Roger Fox, Phil Juggins, Tim Lewis, Iain Maitland, David Matthew, Joy Neville,
Keith Ovenden, Helen Peace, David Preston, Paula Rollason, Jenny Salberg,
Mike Streatfeild, David Upton, Kath Upton, Martin Warr, Robert Warr, Anne Wicks
Chairman: James Dudley-Smith

1. Opening worship

Tim opened with a reading of Psalm 32 which gives Christians encouragement at a time when four cases of discrimination against Christians are being heard by the European Court of Justice. Tim highlighted four key messages for us.

1. Trust in the Lord and do good.
2. Delight in the Lord and receive the desire of our hearts.
3. Commit our way to the Lord.
4. Be still in the Lord and wait patiently.

He asked us to consider what are our deepest desires as a Church Council and this was followed by open prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ed Bangay, Ros Bush, Gordon Crawford,
Keith Stevens and Nick Scorer,

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising Church Bookstall

James said that he had a couple in mind who he hoped would run a bookstall and he would speak to them.

A Parish Apprentice

James said that he had been in e-mail contact with Kate from Ninethirtyeight.org. However we need to establish the legal position regarding the appointment of an apprentice and whether this counted as employment. Tim said that we need to decide what sort of person we wanted, male or female, and what roles we wanted them to fulfil. We also need to appeal for someone to accommodate them and Martin said we need to decide how the position was going to be funded. James said that he would put something on their web site with a view to getting someone for this September.

5. Rectors Items

a) Local Ecumenical Partnership

James said that at a recent meeting of the ministers of the LEP it had been decided to formally dissolve the LEP. Since the formation of the LEP the roles of the leaders of the other churches had expanded to include responsibility for other churches in the area and it was felt that the LEP was another layer of administration that could be done without. It was intended that we would still have a relationship with the other churches in the town such as the week of prayer for Christian Unity and that James and Tim would attend the breakfast

for church leaders organised by Malcolm Nichols.

b) Appointment of a new bishop

James said that the process for the appointment of a new bishop was being started and he and Edward Armitstead were on the Vacancy in See committee. There would be an opportunity for parishioners to express their views about the sort of person that they would like. An appointment is likely to be made in the autumn.

6. Finance Report

Martin said that we are likely to be in the black by about £3k for 2012 however the Parish share for 2013 was increasing by 3.4%, £2.7k, to £82k. We are fortunate that our numbers and our giving are up but we cannot be complacent.

7. Fabric Report

a) The Tower

Rob said that John Beauchamp, the architect, had been in contact and thought that we should submit an application for a grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the 28th February rather than delay it for the following quarter. There may be some additional costs in connection with the application

b) Bells

Roger said that all the paperwork had been submitted to the Diocese and he was waiting for a faculty which would enable work to start in the summer and be completed by the end of the year.

c) Organ

Martin said that he had paid a deposit on the temporary electronic organ and we were waiting for permission from the Diocesan authorities to install it in the church.

d) Schoolrooms

Helen said that the downstairs redecoration and floor covering had now been completed and were a big improvement. A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased but must not be used downstairs and a notice has been put on the cleaner. The total project cost was about £4k. The hire charges will be reviewed in the spring.

e) Other Fabric Items

Roger said that ownership of the church clock was in the process of being transferred from the Yeovil Town Council to the church and that he had managed to keep it working. Part of the weather vane had fallen off and would need to be repaired. Phil said that the Fabric committee were meeting on Saturday and had a prioritised list of items needing attention.

8 Parish Youth Work

Simon said that there had been a very successful black tie event before Christmas. A number of guest nights were being arranged and it was hoped to have a mid week bible study lasting about one hour. Simon was going into Westfield school and Yeovil college but the Park School CU was being run by Keith Stevens. Helen asked Simon if he could go to Preston school. Simon said that the timing clashes with Yeovil college but hoped to be able to arrange something. He had been approached by the Great Lyde scout group who were interested in forming a link with a church.

Ian Maitland said that he was disappointed that there were not more young people at the 6.30pm service. Simon said the he was trying to encourage them to come following

their monthly meeting when they meet for a meal. He hoped that their musicians would lead a Sunday evening service and also serve coffee. Keith Ovenden said that due to the number of things happening in the church it was difficult to fit everything in and one had to prioritise what was important.

Tim said that he had met with Joanne Smith and there will be 3 children's groups from September and a need for additional leaders.

James said that Margaret Hamilton had decided to stand down as Child Protection Officer at the AGM and we therefore need to find a replacement.

9. Other Church Activities

CAP Report

Ian said that they were very busy and booked up until March. Mike Streatfeild has agreed to replace David Upton as chair of the management committee and Tom Lennon has agreed to join the committee. The financial response to Ian's visits to local churches has been good with some churches nominating CAP as their Christmas charity. Ian is making several grant applications and hopes that it will be possible to employ a centre manager at the end of the year or when he steps down. No decisions have been made about creating a Jobs Club but the church council gave it their full support.

18 to 30 Group

Tim said that there were 16 at the last meeting and they are studying Proverbs. A group of 12 are going to New Word Alive in April.

Kids & Co.

Kids & Co had managed to keep going with more help although not rotated help. There is still a need for 1 or 2 to take responsibility on a permanent basis. Simon asked us to pray that more Christian mums would come as at the moment Beth and Kirsty are the only ones and it is difficult for them to chat with other mums if they are also organising the activity.

11. Review Past Events

a) Christmas Services

All of the services received favourable comment and in particular the puppets at the Children's service and Tim's contribution to the Christmas morning service. The organ music was well received and Ray was particularly pleased with the service.

Eddy Brooks said that we need to have an earlier cut off date for Christmas food for the Lord's Larder as they were still receiving Christmas items after the food parcels had been sent out.

Edward Armitstead asked about running a Christianity Explored course after Christmas but James said that we had tried this last year but with no response. Anne Wicks suggested that we try a couple of social type events as a starter.

b) Christmas Lunch

Ian said that this had gone very well with 26 attending and they all enjoyed it. The cost of the meal had been met out of gifts of food and donations.

11. Any Other Business

a) David Upton's Readers Licence

It was proposed that David's licence is renewed and agreed unanimously.

b) Communion Assistants

Kath proposed that the following be added to the list of those authorised to assist

with the communion. Kenneth Lamb, Tim and Joy Neville, Nick and Kate Scorer. They were approved unanimously.

c) New Electoral Roll

Kath said that the Electoral Roll has to be completely revised before the AGM and everyone has to come off and re-apply.

d) Replacement of Music Group Equipment

Keith Ovenden said that they needed to spend about £650 replacing music stands, microphones and leads and asked if they could be granted an annual budget of £400. The Choir and Music Fund had a balance of over £400 and it was agreed to use this and for the treasurer to make an annual allocation of £400 from the General Fund.

e) Carol Service Collection

The collection amounting to over £300 has been given to the Youth Minister Fund in accordance with previous year's practice and Martin asked for this treatment to be agreed. All agreed.

f) Revised Bank Mandate

Martin asked for approval to revise the bank mandate to include the following signatories: Treasurer (Martin Warr), Rector (James Dudley-Smith), Secretary (John Brookes), Parish Administrator (Kath Upton). All agreed.

g) Book of Common Prayer

Jenny Salberg asked why we were using the Book of Common Prayer at the 8am communion service. James said that the Diocese had advised that as part of Tim's training he should be familiar with the Book of Common Prayer. Consequently he was using it on the first Sunday of each month.

h) Flag Pole

Roger said that this had been replaced and paid for by our insurers except for the excess of £350 which had been donated by Julian Freke. James agreed to write and thank him. Roger said that we need two small flags, a St. Georges flag and a Union flag and hoped that someone would donate them.

i) Dates of Future Meetings

James said that he had brought the date of the AGM and some other meeting dates one day forward to Tuesdays as the Wednesday meetings clashed with the East Coker bible study group. A revised list will be sent to all council members.

j) Future AOB

James asked that in future the secretary is advised before the meeting if anyone wishes to raise anything under AOB so that it can be included on the agenda.

Date of next meeting:

PCC on Tuesday 19th March

St John's AGM on Tuesday 16th April

The meeting finished with prayer at 9.30 pm