

ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SHEPTON MALLET
PCC MEETING MINUTES - 9th January 2017

Present: Nick Bennett NB, Helen Bennett HB, Richard Brook RB, Sue Crisfield SC, Wendi Davis WD, Matthew Dawkins MD, Revd Jonathan Hunter Dunn JHD, Sylvia Ingham SI, Vaughan Ives VI, Emma Kendall EK, Alison Maidment AM, Maggie Massey MM and Keith Wetherill KW.

1. JHD **welcomed** everyone to the meeting. He then read from 1 Corinthians 12 regarding spiritual gifts, highlighting that we have different gifts but one Spirit. The Church needs *everyone* and their gifts to thrive and if we have all these gifts but do not have love, then we are nothing. Jesus is the perfect expression of God to us; we look to Him to see this range of gifts. We should each be growing in our Christ-likeness in order to flourish and as we do so, the more those gifts will be manifest in us and we become more the person God has created us to be. JHD then led us in **prayer**.
2. **Apologies** had been received from Dave Crisfield and Pat Penn.
3. **Minutes from the meeting of November 7th 2016** were proposed by MM and seconded by SI and were unanimously approved by the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - i) Communication - HB has begun working on improving many areas, including; the notice sheet, contact response times, availability of PCC minutes, notice boards, newspaper publicity and prayer diary. MD, WD and HB are meeting soon about social media.
 - ii) Baptism - JHD continuing to develop faithful practice.
 - iii) HB guidelines re. letting of PSR rooms - RB to look at this in due course
 - iv) Still in need of a treasurer, a secretary and a chair of F&GP. We prayed for this need.
 - v) DC is working on policies for Risk management, Conflict of Interest, Complaints, etc.
 - vi) Deanery Synods are 15th March Pilton, 7th June St Thomas & 11th October, Shepton Mallet. All 7:30 pm

5. Correspondence

EK reported that we had received an invitation from the Bishops to a 'Community Conversation' to discuss vision. Nearest event is at the showground on February 27th. **Action: NB, JHD and VI will attend and JHD to contact school heads**

JHD reported that Andrew Rainsford has written with a church survey on giving which he has developed and some guidelines for the PCC. **Action: JHD to put this on the agenda for March PCC.**

6. Safeguarding - there are none.

7. Health and Safety - there are none.

8. Review of Christmas Services

Comments were invited to reflect on all the Christmas services:

Christingle:

- *Great fun, well received - everyone who came to the party came into church*
- *Great witness opportunity for those with an existing connection with the church*

December 18th Carol Service:

- *Worked well to have refreshments on the way in.*
- *Good to have a shorter service and a brief talk - worked well*

December 24th 4pm and 6pm:

- *Numbers were up on last year*
- *JHD would be interested in developing the narrative and nativity aspect*

December 24th midnight:

- *66 people, most of whom not regular to church*
- *Good to consider how to develop this service*

Christmas Morning:

- *Good, broad and family friendly - Celebratory*
- *Worked well - best for a long time - very positive feedback*

General Comments:

The new candles worked well and were beneficial to logistics

There is room to develop and improve all of these services

There is a need to advertise clearly the style and focus for each service

Follow up to services:

JHD had written a tract this year to be given out, with an invitation to a course. One response had been received and we need to continue to consider what opportunities we offer to the wider community to explore faith. SC mentioned the 'Tough Questions' that DC and Julian Tucker have done some training for. WD suggested this could be connected with 'Who Let the Dads Out?' JHD suggested Julian is invited to do a talk at a future event. **Action: JHD and WD to develop**

9. Children's corner (*See sheet previously circulated*)

WD noted that a few people had asked whether the children's corner could be moved for practical reasons, perhaps being swapped with the prayer corner. Currently, most church children only use the corner after the service, whilst visiting children use the corner during services. It was noted that from the point of view of the AV desk it would be good to move [the children's corner] for safety and that refreshments would be easier if the children's corner is moved.

It was noted that the prayer corner could be moved to the Lady Chapel, rather than swap with the children's corner. Although, it is worth considering that it would be difficult to conduct prayer ministry there if the organ is playing.

In summary, we agreed that we are trying to do too much in the children's corner; AV set up, children's activities and refreshments. Agreed to have a trial of moving children's corner into prayer corner and prayer into the Lady chapel. JHD and WD will also speak to a few more parents and the prayer group and based on that feedback we will have a trial for 6 months.

10. Fabric

a. Reordering up-date

VI reported that he had submitted the statement of need to the DAC and the next stage is a visit from them with the architect, JHD, VI and NB this week. The various options will be discussed and they will give us a steer regarding the most acceptable options for those other bodies that have a say in the plans. VI will update this statement of need in the light of these discussions. We paused to pray for this meeting.

b. Security and Maintenance

WD reported there was a flood in the Cave during November and at one point there was about 6 inches of standing water in there. Sofas now need to be taken to the tip. The room has been damp for some time and this has obviously made things worse. The young people have moved upstairs but this does not yet feel settled. JHD reported that he is meeting with WD and others to discuss how we can offer them a space that they can 'own'. The young people have no particular heart for staying the Cave and there is little need to invest too much here, beyond fans to help the air circulate and improve the damp situation. **Action: Agreed to decommission this room and have a clear out.**

NB reported that the Security system has been installed by Protec. F&GP approved the expenditure. The system includes; a camera downstairs with a monitor in the office; this records all day and night. Panic button in the office, connected to a loud alarm in the courtyard and in the room.

NB reported on an inspection on the organ and it is looking in good condition but there are some improvements needed in the next 5 years. We may get a grant for maintenance and will need this report as evidence of what is needed.

NB also reported that one boiler in the church is not working currently and there is an issue with the timer for the boiler in PSR. He is looking at the possibility of a remote system for PSR.

It was noted that our Quinquennial inspection is this year.

(AM left the meeting at this point.)

11. Treasurer's report and 2017 budget *(circulated in advance)*

RB gave an overview of the current finances and also noted that he still needs to hear from people in the coming week regarding budgeting. VI noted that it would be good to include a vision fund in the budget. NB also noted that it would be good to budget some funds for work needed following the Quinquennial report.

RB is working with Linda Holder on some of the small charities work. There is a definitive plan worked out by NB, SC and RB. We paused to pray for our finances and the decisions on budget.

12. F&GP *(reports and minutes previously circulated)*

- a. Minutes - KW noted a recommendation that we have a focus on legacies during lent.
- b. SI has put together an overview of fees and there is a plan for HB to rationalise these. JHD offered his thanks for all SI's work.
- c. Planned giving - John Lyde has distributed a report in advance, noting at least a 7% increase in giving. Letters went out to all active members.
- d. PSR costs, investment and future use - RB highlighted that PSR costs us more than the income it generates, but moving somewhere else would cost more. It is an asset that is perhaps more valuable than we think, as a resource and it is worth considering how PSR might be developed for future use. **Action: all to consider the report and pray into possibilities for PSR**
- e. Cleaner for PSR - approximately £2K per year is spent on cleaning and there is a question about whether we could cover this ourselves. This is an employee and we need to consider the nature of their contract. In the first instance it would be good to discuss hours and tasks with her, but recognise this needs to be handled sensitively.

13. Parish Share banding - in preparation for APCM. At the March meeting we will need to decide which band we are in (Currently E). **Action: JHD to look into it with NB and VI.**

14. AOB

- Monthly Sunday markets are starting in March in the town centre.
- New Archdeacon is Revd Canon Anne Gell.

15. Dates of future meetings:

- a. PCC - March 6th, May 8th, July 3rd, September 4th, November 6th
- b. F&GP - 2nd February, 6th June, 3rd October, 5th December
- c. APCM - April 30th potentially with a Benefice 10am service and lunch following the meeting.