

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST GILES' CHURCH, WHITTINGTON,
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th JULY 2017
IN THE CHURCH HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.45pm**

1. PRAYER

Fr Jason opened the meeting with prayer.

1.2 Declaration of Interest: no conflicts were declared.

2. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Present: Revd. Dr Jason Phillips, Jane Booker, Sara Dyott, Richard Dyott, Anne Colgrave, Gillian Davis, Brian Kempthorne, Clair Kirk, Jonathan Smith, Cath Gibbs, Pamela Palmer, David Clarke

Apologies: Jane Jones, Gill Hollis, Irene Jones,

3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 17th MAY 2017

Subject to a minor amendment, the minutes were agreed, as proposed by Pamela Palmer and seconded by Brian Kempthorne.

4. MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

There were none.

5. CO-OPTING OF AN ADDITIONAL PCC MEMBER

Brenda Olsen was unanimously co-opted, proposed by Cath Gibbs and seconded by Jonathan Smith.

6. CHURCHYARD BENCH APPLICATION

An application had been made to place an additional bench next to the ashes plot. Fr Jason stated that it would be a good pastoral action to take in permitting a bench on this occasion and, if the PCC agreed a faculty may have to be sought. It was noted that a few years ago the PCC had decided that there would be no more benches. It was agreed that the PCC needed to know why this decision had been taken (**Action: Jane J**). In addition the wardens would look at whether any benches needed replacing (**Action: Cath and David**). Failing either option Fr Jason might explore whether a different use of the money would be acceptable to the family.

7. MISSION ACTION PLAN

This was carried over to the next meeting, after Fr Jason had met with the wardens.

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

David apologized for having missed the meeting on 6 June.

Those who had attended the Dementia Friends service led by Linda Collins agreed that it had been excellent. Helpful recollections were: emotions are more stable than memories, avoid black doormats, the brain is like a system of fairy lights, being receptive, keeping calm, offering help, not offering choices.

The four subjects of the longer dementia course attended by David were:

- Pastoral care
- Buildings
- Church services
- Community networks

Each had come with a short self-assessment questionnaire and PCC members took a few minutes to complete 'Buildings' in pairs. The results would be summarised for the next meeting (**Action: David**).

9. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LICHFIELD REPORT

The 'walk of witness' had been very well received, record numbers had attended lent groups, volunteers and a co-ordinator were needed for 'Christmas Day Together' at Wade St Church, a clergy chair would be needed for next year, and three up-coming Inter Faith Forums at Speakers Corner in Lichfield on 5th, 12th and 19th August.

10. CHURCH HALL REPORT

A new piano cover had been purchased. Two new windows had been fitted in the old telephone exchange. A replacement heater for the meeting room had been delivered and will be fitted in August. Ken Booker had advised on various broadband packages but these would need to fit with the external CCTV cameras due to be fitted by Geoff Clark. It was recommended that a 'recording-only' package would be sufficient.

11. OPEN GARDENS AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

Everyone agreed that it had been a wonderful weekend, with beautiful decorations in church and a great atmosphere in the village. Feedback had not yet been received from WFEG, though it was felt that a similar event every two years would be enough for the garden owners. The catering arrangements had worked very well, although more people had been expected to eat. Some costs will be carried over the Countryside Fair. Revenue for the church was likely to be around £2800, plus whatever was in the donations box in the church. It was felt that additional revenue could be raised in future by including a 'grand draw'.

12. FUNDRAISING

It was suggested that we might do more at the Countryside Fair – the advantage of this being that the church is relieved of the organisation of the whole event. Jane would investigate which potential stalls are still available (**Action: Jane B**). Gillian would almost certainly run a Bric-a-Brac stall and Sara and Richard would think about running a tombola if these were not already over-subscribed.

13. FINANCE

There are no current issues. Richard was not confident that now was the moment to encourage everyone to review their regular giving in the light of inflation. There are many demands on the congregation's finances at this time, with the gift day also due shortly. It was agreed that March would be a better time to do this.

14. MAINTENANCE

- The following work had been completed: PAT testing, microphone settings to avoid feedback and the most advantageous lectern microphone position had been established, the old upright PC had been retired, a signal amplifier had been installed between the laptop and projector, plug and switch labelling had commenced, and the church clock had been serviced. The purpose of the legacy round pin plug would be investigated (**Action: David**).
- Instructions have been issued to provide: a padlock, chain and hasp for the church gate, a light over the outer church door, a replacement light fitting for the left hand end of the Reredos screen, brighter bulbs in the nave, a

replacement bulb in the balcony floodlight, a tidy-up of plugs and sockets around the AV system, re-wiring in the boiler house to assure safe isolation of each boiler, and a lightening conductor test.

- Specifically following the Quinquennial report the following has been put in action: a schedule of re-pointing, roof, flashing and gutter work, resetting loose floor tiles in the church, resetting a coping stone at the foot of the car park steps, all at a cost of approximately £2785. Confirmation of consent to prune the tree near the church door is awaited. Pointing of the churchyard wall adjacent to the road has been deferred to 2018 (at a cost of £2260).
- Churchyard bins had been removed with no adverse comment.
- It was agreed to purchase a refurbished photocopier from ACE Copying Equipment Ltd for the Parish Office on a proposal by Jonathan Smith, seconded by Brian Kempthorne. Weeford and Hints PCCs would be advised (**Action: David**).
- The proposal for a Property for Mission Committee was re-presented. There followed a lengthy and animated discussion. It was recognised that the Parish Priest and Wardens are authorized to get on with immediate necessary works. However it was felt by some PCC members that major projects (such as alterations to the internal layout of the church) required a properly formatted committee to work up proposals for PCC approval. On a proposal by Pamela Palmer, seconded by Jonathan Smith, it was agreed that a committee be set up consisting of the Parish Priest, the two wardens and the treasurer plus up to three other appropriate members, to manage such projects.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of a letter from the Bishops of the Lichfield Diocese was circulated. This sought feedback on how we were responding to the call to 'Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad'. Comments should be fed back to David.

16. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20 September at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Meeting Room.

17. CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm with the Grace.