

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST GILES' CHURCH, WHITTINGTON,
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017
IN THE CHURCH HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.45pm**

1. PRAYER

Fr Jason opened the meeting with prayer.

1.2 Declaration of Interest

Fr Jason reminded members that any potential conflict of interest should be declared now or as it might arise during the meeting. No conflicts were declared.

2. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Present: Revd. Dr Jason Phillips, Jane Booker, Sara Dyott, Richard Dyott, Anne Colgrave, Gillian Davies, Brian Kempthorne, Clair Kirk, Gill Hollis, Pamela Palmer, David Clarke

Apologies: Jane Jones, Jonathan Smith, Irene Jones, Cath Gibbs

3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 15th MARCH 2017

Subject to various amendments, the minutes were agreed, as proposed by Richard Dyott and seconded by Clair Kirk.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

There were none.

5. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There had been no meeting recently. The next one is on 22 June 2017. The Dementia Awareness Course, being run over four sessions at St Michael's, was being attended by David, who reported that it had so far covered 'Pastoral Care', 'Buildings' and 'Worship. There will be a report after the final session (**Action: David**). Three key things that had struck him so far were the need to have some recognisable elements in services, the possible lack of inhibition displayed by dementia sufferers, and the benefit of asking them and their carers what would most help them. There was a short discussion around our responsibility as a church to an individual in the wider non-church context. It was felt that we should extend the same courtesies as we would to any individual we saw to be in difficulty in our community. A spare key to the vestry toilet has been placed in the top drawer of the desk in case anyone should lock themselves in and remove the key from the lock.

Fr Jason noted that the churchwardens had been sworn in by the Archdeacon. Simon Baker had spoken about 'vocation' and how this applies to all members of the church and to Churches as a community.

6. CHURCH HALL REPORT

6.1 Molly Maids have been engaged to clean the church hall for a six-month trial. PCC thanked Sara, Sue Elliott and Joanna Perceval for their hard work recently.

6.2 The Parish Office line rental and unlimited-broadband bill has increased from £25 to £43 as its second year began. The current package includes a number of phone calls

which are not used. It may be possible to find a cheaper package (**Action: Jane B**). CCTV cameras will shortly be installed which will be linked to broadband.

7. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LICHFIELD REPORT

The next meeting is in June. CTIL is driving the election hustings (at Wade Street Church and Speakers Corner), will feature at the Bower, and is supporting 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The Good Friday Walk of Witness had been very successful with worship and prayer at several stops along the way. The Bishop of Lichfield had carried the cross through the city centre. Thanks were expressed to Rob Hilyer for his continuing faithful organisation of this key witness event.

8. FINANCE

8.1 £250 had been donated to Whittington Good Neighbour Scheme as approved by Standing Committee.

8.2 Contributions to 'Ministry expenses' from Weeford and Hints had been paid.

8.3 The letter regarding stewardship is to be considered and actioned (**Action: Richard**)

9. MAINTENANCE

9.1 Quinquennial

Richard had met Phillip Hamlett and was awaiting a quotation for the category A work (cracks in the door, lead flashing splits, lead on the top of the clock and vegetation in the brickwork). He had asked for a separate quotation for re-pointing the roadside churchyard wall. A parishioner had expressed concern about the Lime tree immediately opposite their house during Storm Doris and, while it appears to be in excellent condition, the District Council tree surgeon would be asked to look at it when he inspects the tree on the right at the top of the steps, which needs pollarding. (**Action: Richard**)

9.2 Heating

The impact on the bill of the church heating being left on at 18oC was queried. It was noted that gas and electric are aggregated in the accounts, which were showing an increase of £300 to the end of March, although April was £20 down. Fr Jason noted that the church was much more comfortable under the new arrangements.

9.3 Churchyard

John Bishop has agreed to carry out whatever mowing and maintenance we require using his own equipment (**Action: Sara**)

9.4 Burial of Ashes

It was noted that sometimes a cremation plot is filled in at the point of burial of ashes, by request of the family. This was often difficult to predict and the best recourse to avoid a wasted journey by the gravedigger was to check with the funeral director at the time of booking.

9.5 Churchyard Bins

An unknown individual clears the bins of cut vegetation. This has resulted in him cutting his hands whilst scraping out thorny debris. It was felt that the bins were unsightly and should be removed as a trial (except for the one behind the vestry) in

the hope that it would encourage people to put rubbish directly into the skip (**Action: FR Jason to organize**)

10. FUNDRAISING

10.1 Grants

Sara had managed to gain grants of £650 each from the Parish Council for the church and the church hall. The latter would go towards the imminent CCTV cameras. The church grant must be used in the churchyard. Sara would ask Peter Olding for suggestions. The PCC thanked Sara for a great result and the work she had put in on what is a tedious task (**Action: Sara**).

10.2 Flower Festival

Preparations are on track. Fr Jason would lead an evening service of ‘Songs of Praise’. It is hoped that the bells would be rung during the day and that Russell would also play the organ at some points. Catering will be in the church hall and there will also be an art exhibition on the stage. Gillian Davies may take the opportunity to run a bric-a-brac stall on one of the days.

10.3 Fundraising Diary

It was suggested that a diary of public fundraising events, inclusive of the church and other village organisations would help ensure that we do not clash. A volunteer to compile this is sought. It was noted that forecasting income from fundraising events is notoriously difficult as many are weather dependent.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Three letters had been received:

- Thank you from Terry Tricker on behalf of the Good Neighbour Scheme for the £250 donation for a new computer and database upgrade.
- Thank you from Nikki Archer at St Giles Hospice for the use of the church for the ‘Time to Reflect and Remember’ service in March. Nikki also asked that special thanks be extended to Russell for playing the organ so beautifully.
- Letter from Peter Olding confirming what he would like to continue to do towards churchyard maintenance. A copy has been passed to Sara so that she can use it to help define what we need John Bishop to do.

12. MISSION ACTION PLAN

Fr Jason asked for comments on the draft plan that he had presented previously, noting that in many cases this focused on things that we do well and can develop. It was of course hoped that that through this work we might grow the congregation.

Points noted were:

- A ‘St Giles’ Children’s Choir’ might work on similar lines to that at St Mary’s, Stafford, with a paid teacher and children committing to attend church once a month to sing. This might include some life-skills such as learning to succeed and fail (as per the Liverpool Cathedral Junior Choir)
- The church is a charity, both locally and nationally, and, as such, money should be invested to grow our numbers. Not to do so might possibly be contrary to charitable objectives
- The plan would cover action over a couple of years

- Potentially exploring how other churches have developed their healing ministries, gathering ideas when visiting elsewhere. There is a lot happening in Whittington but the healing ministry could be something distinctive that the church can add
- Retreats are part of Fr Jason's ministry and developing Whittington as a centre for retreats would keep the parish on the map and use the many things that we have to support them (excellent church hall, good parking, beautiful churchyard, potential for labyrinth and garden in which to reflect)
- Service booklet replacements would be proof-read before printing. Gill offered to do this if required.

Anne, Gill and Brian requested a soft copy of Mission Action Plan (**Action: Fr Jason**).

Fr Jason will talk to the wardens and bring an updated plan to the PCC including proposed action owners and timescales (**Action: Fr Jason**).

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Geoff Clark had quoted £50 + VAT for Portable Appliance Testing (up to 25 items) in the church. It was agreed that this should go ahead. (**Action: David**).

14.2 Following difficulties experienced by Fr Jason and Gill at services and by the 'Flicks in the Sticks' team, AVT had quoted £120 for attendance and 80 minutes work to check out the audio/visual system. Any recommended work would need a quotation. It was agreed we should go ahead with this (**Action: David**). Quotations would also be requested for a flat microphone on the lectern, moving the soundbox to the back of church (although it was unclear where it might be placed) and advice would be sought in terms of microphones and the proximity of speakers to avoid 'feedback'.

14.3 David gave advance notice of a proposal for the July PCC meeting to replace the current photocopier/printer.

15. NEXT MEETING

This will be on Wednesday 19 July at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Meeting Room.

16. CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm with the Grace.