

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST GILES' CHURCH, WHITTINGTON,  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017  
IN THE CHURCH HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.45pm**

**1. PRAYER**

Fr Jason opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Brenda Olsen to her first PCC meeting at St Giles.

**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, Gillian Davis, Brian Kempthorne, Russell Dickerson, Clair Kirk, Cath Gibbs, Pamela Palmer, David Clarke, Brenda Olsen, Irene Jones, Gill Hollis, and Jane Jones

**Apologies:** Anne Colgrave, Jonathan Smith, Steve Lane

**3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017**

The minutes were agreed, as proposed by Cath Gibbs and seconded by Brian Kempthorne.

**4. MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

**Item 6.** The Secretary confirmed that there was nothing specific in past minutes to clarify the policy regarding additional benches in the churchyard. Considerable discussion ensued and it was felt that each future application should be considered, based on circumstances/perceived need at that time. **On this occasion, subject to the design and quality/sturdiness of the bench being satisfactory and the wording on any plaque being acceptable, it was proposed that the application should be approved. This was proposed by Cath Gibbs, seconded by Pamela Palmer and passed on a majority vote.** It was noted that it will need a faculty which the family will have to obtain.

This decision is not to be regarded as setting a precedent.

**Item 8.** The synopsis of views expressed about Dementia friendly access has been recorded and circulated (copy on file). This will be considered further by the Property for Mission Committee with any suggestions brought to the PCC at a later date.

**5. SAFEGUARDING**

Thanks were expressed to Liz Smith for her hard work and care in drawing up the revised policy documents – copies of which were circulated and retained on file. It was agreed that these should be reviewed by the PCC annually at the first meeting following the APCM. Fr Jason and Liz have both undertaken the relevant training and others were encouraged to do so also.

**6. LAND BEHIND THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE**

David has spoken to Roy Baxter who is happy for the land to be used as the PCC sees fit, as long as it is well maintained. At the meeting David referred to the original plans for a garden of remembrance and possible labyrinth, and other views were expressed regarding the need for additional cremation plots. Fr Jason suggested its use as an area of quiet reflection consistent with spiritual development initiatives. Grants and/or sponsorship may be available. After considerable discussion it was agreed to refer the

matter to the Property for Mission Committee who will report back to the PCC with suggestions at a future meeting.

## **7. MISSION ACTION PLAN**

Fr Jason outlined the various elements of the MAP, which had been circulated before the meeting and a copy is held on file.

He explained that the ideas had been expressed by many and were incorporated in a desire to ensure the sustainability of the Parish. They focused on providing widening opportunities for access and growth both spiritually and socially, and were based on the premise that all members should be missional. Discussion followed regarding how to evaluate the various elements and which suggestions were most favoured and/or perceived viable. Proposals to attract young people to the church featured highly in the debate.

On an ongoing basis, Fr Jason and the wardens will suggest items for further discussion at future PCC meetings.

## **8. RUACH**

Fr Jason explained the background to Ruach as detailed in the paper circulated before the meeting and retained on file. He reminded the PCC that the advert for a Parish Priest had stipulated a desire for developing spirituality and this has been his focus. The provision of additional services was one way of achieving this but he was also attempting to enhance spirituality by developing the Parish as a centre for retreat. This would put Whittington “on the map” and aid sustainability. Fr Jason advised that he sees this as an immensely important aspect of his mission here and would like to develop it further in time. It is not about money making and has the support of the Diocesan Bishops, for example them writing for the Ruach Journal available on our church website.

The view was expressed that this should accompany outreach within the local community.

## **9. REPORTS**

**Deanery Synod** – no report as there has been no meeting in the intervening period. Next DS meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Churches Together in Lichfield** – no report as there has been no meeting in the intervening period. Next Churches Together meeting 3rd October.

**Church Hall** – Sara reported:

- The gas heaters have been serviced and one replaced. The heater in the Parish Office is not working but the necessary replacement part is hopefully being sourced.
- 4 CCTV camera have been strategically placed on the outside of the hall and there is secure access to the memory on the hard drive. This is retained for 10 days. The cost has been covered by the Parish Council grant of £650.
- Signs are to be erected externally to advise the presence of CCTV.

**Churchyard** – Sara advised that John Bishop has undertaken the major cut of the grass. It was felt that the requirements of the PCC had not been sufficiently specific and this should be addressed to provide ongoing guidelines. Peter Olding has continued to do some of the mowing and feels the rotary mower should be replaced. The Parish Council have already given a grant of £650 towards grass cutting equipment and Peter has stated that he wishes to pay something towards the total cost of £1050.

**It was proposed by Sara Dyott, seconded by Richard Dyott that a new rotary mower should be purchased with the PCC making up the shortfall. This was agreed unanimously.**

Thanks were expressed to Sara for her ongoing work.

**Countryside Fair** – Sara referred to John Smith's letter which had been circulated and a copy is held on file. It was noted that the church benefits from the Countryside Fair and it would be a pity to see it cease due to lack of volunteers to organise the event. After discussion, it was agreed that Sara would suggest that the Church could undertake the Grand Raffle, sharing the proceeds equally.

## **10. MAINTENANCE**

David advised:

- The 2 church boilers have been serviced.
- Geoff Clark has completed various jobs in the church, replacing bulbs and erecting a light outside over the porch.
- A test of the lightning conductor was conducted and it just passed! Extra work may be needed on this in the future.
- The Parish Office only has 1 standard internal door which is insufficient for H&S purposes. **It was proposed by Brian Kempthorne, seconded by Russell Dickerson and passed, that the current door be replaced with a Fire Door incorporating a safeguarding viewing panel.** The wardens will progress this.
- **On a proposal by Cath Gibbs, seconded by Russell Dickerson, it was agreed that the PCC should offer Fr Jason payment to replace the sign for the Vicarage of his design – the previous sign having disintegrated. This was agreed on a majority vote.**

## **11. FAIRTRADE CALENDAR**

The PCC agreed to take a page in this publication. A relevant and appropriate photograph is to be supplied.

## **12. FINANCE**

Richard advised that at the end of August, the excess of income over expenditure was just £154 year to date. As several bills are outstanding as well as a further £15000 for the Parish Share, it is unlikely that the accounts will balance at year end.

Consideration therefore needs to be given to fundraising and it is hoped that the Gift Day attracts a good response.

£146 was raised at the last village market.

£213 was raised from the Bric a brac stall.

Thanks were expressed to all concerned.

## **13. FUNDRAISING**

The PCC endorsed the Quiz Night which will take place on the last Saturday in January 2018.

## **14. CHARITABLE GIVING**

- A copy of the Charitable Giving and Social Justice programme was circulated and it was agreed that we should be more engaged and raise the profiles of those we support.

- Clair commented that “Operation Christmas Child” was now requiring a contribution of £5 per shoebox in addition to the contents. The PCC agreed this was a large expense when the items themselves are increasingly costly. It was hoped to send 10 boxes and **on a proposal by Clair Kirk, seconded by Sara Dyott, the PCC unanimously agreed to cover the admin costs of £5 per box.**
- **On a proposal by Sara Dyott, seconded by Cath Gibbs the PCC agreed to send a donation of £300 to Christian Aid to assist the Rohingya refugees.**

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary read the 3 items of correspondence received as follows:

- A letter from Rosemary Smith advising that she feels unable to continue with church cleaning and suggesting that a paid cleaner might be an option to ensure this continues in the future since the current team is ageing. She also expressed concerns regarding certain aspects of church expenditure. The PCC noted this and will consider at the next meeting.
- An email from Sue Bowring querying the necessity to padlock the church gate, channelling pedestrians towards the car park entrance as well as possibly giving a negative impression regarding welcome. Fr Jason stated that he has already advised Sue that, although not perfect, this is regarded as the best option from an H&S perspective. It is indeed on the direct instruction of the Archdeacon who issued an immediate faculty, so must remain.
- A card from Liz Hollis thanking the PCC for their support – both financial and prayerfully – towards her ongoing training.

## **16. NEXT MEETING**

This will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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.