

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
ST GILES' CHURCH, WHITTINGTON,  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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 at outset but Russell Dickerson, Sara Dyott and Jonathan Smith subsequently declared interests and refrained from participation when fees were discussed at item 9.

**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 Olson, Irene Jones, Gill Hollis, Jonathan Smith and Jane Jones  
**Apologies:** Anne Colgrave.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

Following 1 amendment to clarify the minutes concerning the letter regarding parish expenditure and church cleaning, the minutes were agreed, as proposed by Pamela Palmer and seconded by Brian Kempthorne.

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

**Item 10.**

To clarify item 10 in the previous minutes, the supply of a fire door for the parish office changes nothing with regard to the need for an occupant to evacuate the room if possible in the event of a fire. It provides an additional (though time-limited) safeguard in the event that evacuation is not possible. Standard procedures in the event of a fire should always be followed and the Parish Administrator should be made aware of this.

**Item 13.**

After considerable discussion and noting that 3 extra people have been added to the rota, it was decided to leave the status quo regarding cleaning of the church by volunteers. It was noted with appreciation that people see this as their contribution to the life and ministry of the church. It was further noted that the church has a duty of care to those cleaning the church. The situation will be reviewed in 12 months.

**5. FRIENDS OF ST GILES**

Thanks were expressed to Liz Smith for raising this at the APCM and for forwarding the relevant links which had been circulated before the meeting. Points raised during the ensuing discussion included that similar schemes often concern larger and more prominent bodies (e.g. Cathedrals), and have folded after a short time due to lack of ongoing support. Also it was difficult to envisage what prospective incentive could be offered in response to their support locally. Alternative solutions could be specific appeals – which historically have received great support from the whole parish, especially when accompanied by letters delivered to all houses and an endorsement from the Parish Council.

It was agreed to await the deliberations of the Property for Mission Committee and any attendant projects which might lend themselves to such an appeal and concerted approach.

## **6. THANKS TO LYNNE MILLS**

David mentioned with gratitude the tremendous additional work undertaken by Lynne Mills during Fr Jason's recent illness. She had "borrowed" time from another part-time job to ensure all duties were covered including 99% of services. Several members voiced their additional support and thanks to Lynne during this very demanding period.

## **7. MISSION ACTION PLAN**

Fr Jason advised that from January 2018, all main services on Sunday mornings will take place at 9.30 am (rather than occasionally at 10am).

Parish Praise will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month (rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Fr Jason explained that this worked better for the families he has consulted and fitted in with the schedule of all services within the benefice.

## **8. REPORTS**

**Deanery Synod** – David reported on the meeting attended on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The main topic was "Grave talk" and Linda Collins led discussions about life, death, funerals and grief, plus the need for open and honest conversations beforehand. David is to purchase a copy of the briefing pack and the PCC will consider its future usage. He had been unable to attend the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November (focusing on "Setting God's people free" – all living out our calling) but will share the minutes in due course.

David commented that currently he is the sole DS representative and would welcome additional support, which would be particularly beneficial should he be unable to attend meetings. Russell Dickerson volunteered to attend in David's absence and this offer was gratefully received.

**Church Hall** – Sara reported:

- The gas heater in the office has been repaired
- Signs have been erected externally to advise the presence of CCTV.
- The cooker has been repaired
- Space heaters in both toilets have been repaired.
- The drains have been cleaned out and suggestions for improvements may be considered in the future.
- The shrubs outside have been tidied thanks to Freeford gardeners.
- The two sets of emergency exit doors are the originals and in need of replacement. A quote of £4000 has been received and this seemed reasonable to PCC members. Sara will submit a grant application to the Parish Council and also to the Whittington and Fisherwick charities.

**On a proposal by Sara Dyott, seconded by Cath Gibbs and passed unanimously, it was agreed that these doors should be replaced out of next year's budget.**

Thanks were expressed to Sara for her ongoing work.

**Churches Together in Lichfield** – David considers this to be a very effective organisation. At the latest meeting, it was noted that Robert Mountford, Ecumenical Minister for Christian Unity, explained that the Church of England does not see unity with the Church of Rome as a major objective – rather a wish to work together.

In 2018, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be centred at St Chad's Church. Lent groups are in hand and Ian Hayter is in charge of the Walk of Witness.

Thanks were expressed to David for his ongoing work as St Giles' representative.

## **9. FINANCE**

**Fr Jason** advised that Dr Sam Wells has been appointed to develop a strategy for the financing of Parish Churches of the Church of England over the coming years which is now being taken up nationally. There is more to follow, and it is accepted that whilst his experience seems to have a London slant the application of research is applicable to all kinds of Anglican Church, but themes focus on:

- Building up church communities
- Developing the Arts to retell the Christian narrative
- Making churches self-reliant and sustainable
- Encouraging churches to use all their assets to create revenue.

**Gift Day** – raised £2800 including Gift Aid. This represents a reduction from the previous year but regular donors have contributed during the year.

Thanks to all who have given.

**Richard** advised that currently, the excess of income over expenditure is just over £3000. However, as several bills are outstanding as well as a further £8000 for the Parish Share, there is likely to be a deficit at year end. The Parish magazine covers its costs.

£2800 was raised at the Open Gardens.

**On a proposal by Russell Dickerson seconded by Gillian Davis, it was unanimously agreed to donate the following sums to Mission:**

**£500 - Lichfield Christian Schools Work Trust**

**£250 – USPG**

**£250 – The Baptist Mission**

**Local fees for the coming year-** 2017 charges were noted as:

Organist- £85

Heating- £50

Bells- £145 after the service, and £245 before and afterwards

Spire lights - £10.

Opinions were noted that there should be no increases for the coming year but Fr Jason will mention this to our sister parishes and ensure there is consistency across the benefice. It was likely a rise in line with inflation would result and Fr Jason will bring to the next PCC for them to receive the fees set for the benefice.

## **10. MAINTENANCE**

It was noted that:

- The spire lights could benefit from a clean. Peter Olding and Philp Moore have offered to undertake this shortly.
- The Property for Mission Committee met while Fr Jason was in hospital. They discussed plans for the land behind the church hall and the suitability of the church building. It was a lively and helpful meeting and thoughts will be discussed with Fr Jason before bringing them to the PCC at a subsequent meeting.
- It has been established that the tap at the rear of the vestry is not leaking but the guttering above it needs cleaning. David will undertake this work shortly.
- Following the Quinquennial, the tree outside the vestry has been dealt with and Philip Hamlett is being pursued regarding the other matters.
- The mower has been purchased and John Bishop is to use it shortly.

## **11. FUNDRAISING**

- Thanks were expressed to Barbara Gray and the team for all their work in connection with the Harvest Supper which raised £1000.50.
- Considerable discussion took place concerning a possible Church Fête in 2018. The Open Gardens is not likely to be an annual event and alternative fundraisers including staging a Scarecrow Festival and/or working closer with the Countryside Fair were aired. Whilst it was felt to be desirable to continue with the Fête, (possibly celebrating the Royal Wedding), there is concern about who would lead the team. An approach will be made.
- Sara advised that the Parish Council was meeting at the same time as the PCC and the suggestion that the PCC should run the Grand Draw at the Countryside Fair and share the profits equally, was under consideration.  
*(Since the PCC meeting, Sara has advised that she has received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting and somebody else has taken on the job of running the Grand Draw.)*
- £225 was raised from The Ride and Stride and the next such event is on 8th September 2018. Thanks were expressed to Jonathan for organising this event. Disappointment was however expressed that certain churches (e.g. St John's) were not open and the reception at the Cathedral was unwelcoming.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary read the 2 items of correspondence received as follows:

- A letter detailing the outcome from the Ride and Stride (as above).
- A letter from St Giles Hospice, expressing appreciation to both Fr Jason and Russell Dickerson following their "Time to Reflect and Remember" service held in the church on September 17<sup>th</sup>. They are very much looking forward to the next event on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

## **13. AOB**

Gill advised that she has delivered the house plants promised as a housewarming gift for Helen Woodhead. Helen is delighted with them and is settling in well into her new home.

## **14. NEXT MEETINGS**

These will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, both at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Meeting Room.

## **15. CONCLUSION**

Fr Jason thanked everyone for their kind wishes and support during his recent illness. On behalf of the PCC, the Secretary stated how delighted all were that he is now fit and well and back among us.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm with the Grace.