



The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

He has told you, what is good and what the Lord requires of you; to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

“Promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church”

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST GILES’ CHURCH, WHITTINGTON, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 2018 IN THE CHURCH HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.45pm

1. PRAYER

Fr Jason opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians and a prayer for the Feast of St Anthony of the Desert.

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, Brenda Olson, Irene Jones, Gill Hollis, Jonathan Smith, David Clarke and Liz Smith (item 5 only)

Apologies: Anne Colgrave, Jane Jones and Steve Lane. All were asked to hold Anne in their prayers.

3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 20th SEPTEMBER 2017

Following one amendment to clarify the minutes concerning the quote for Church Hall doors (£4000 not £400), the minutes were unanimously agreed, as proposed by Pamela Palmer and seconded by Jonathan Smith.

4. MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

Item 11: Jonathan advised that he was still awaiting a cheque for the Ride & Stride. Thanks were expressed to Jonathan for his role in organising this, noting that St Giles’ was always exceptionally well represented.

5. SAFEGUARDING

Liz Smith, as requested by the Diocese, read out a letter from Neil Spiring, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. (This had been circulated to all members prior to the last meeting). The Lichfield Diocesan website is a good reference source. There are four new safeguarding policies; Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 2017, Diocesan Safe Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy 2017, Diocesan Social Media and Safeguarding Policy 2017, and Diocesan Recording of Care Policy 2017. Other policies will be updated over the next eight months. The Diocese has requested that all PCC members undergo safeguarding training. This is accessible online. Live training will be available but could be anywhere in the Diocese. There are two modules (C0 and C1) for lay people, plus C2 for anyone who leads a church group, and C3 for priests

(completed by Fr Jason). Please advise Liz when you have completed the training (**Action: All**). Liz was thanked for her diligence in carrying out this important work.

6. FUNDRAISING

Margo Christie has taken on the role of Chair of the Church Fete Committee. The fete will take place on 9 June 2018. Margo has asked for PCC and community help and that we all pull together. As well as help on the day Margo needs more committee members to make the fete work. Anyone willing should please contact Margo and attend the next committee meeting on 21st February at 7.30pm at her house (**Action: All not already on the committee**).

7. BISHOPS INSTRUMENT FOR BANNS OF MARRIAGE

For the purpose of establishing a connection qualification for marriage in one of our churches, attendance at any of the three churches will count. This means that, for example, someone may attend St Giles' on twelve occasions and be married at St Mary's. The Bishop's sealed document is on file.

8. MISSION ACTION PLAN

David had at last (though only the previous afternoon) brought Fr Jason up to date on the discussions at the Property for Mission Committee.

David recommended that we ask the village (through 'Connect') what they would like us to do with the land behind the Church Hall. We recognise that the community cares about the church and churchyard, as evidenced by the fact that they come to both regularly, and we would like to be able to provide a facility that they would also value. PCC approved this approach provided a list of suggestions for some alternative uses was included (as discussed at PFMC). Pamela offered to write the article and David would provide some notes (**Action: David/Pamela and Fr Jason to approve**).

Church re-ordering had been discussed at the PFMC meeting and Richard had produced an existing scheme, with full supporting documentation, that had been proposed in June 2008. This was a church extension, the advantage being that the interior of the church would be left largely untouched. David advised that he would contact Kristina Williamson, secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, to see if there was anything on record as to the definitive reason this was never progressed, and how it would be viewed if re-submitted (**Action: David**).

Allowing for time for both actions to be completed, along with feedback, a PFMC meeting would be convened, when hopefully all members would be able to attend.

9. FUTURE CHURCH STRATEGY

Fr Jason provided everyone with a copy of the vision document from The Revd Dr Sam Wells for the future development of the Church of England. Fr Jason spoke with measured passion about the thrust of the document and highlighted the four key focuses: congregation, compassion, culture and commerce. The prime purpose of church (the body) is to worship God. Everything else follows from this. He noted that 'compassion' is done well at St Giles', though change may be needed. The 'cultural' aspects are to tell the Christian story and encourage us. 'Commerce' suggests we need to be salt and light in our community and be sustained in different ways. Could we use some of our capital to raise money in different ways? Are we always standing up

for the disadvantaged? Might this impact out thinking in what we do with our church building? Can we fund our church into the future? All PCC members are asked to read and consider the document in full (**Action: All**).

10. MAINTENANCE

Fr Jason asked that the edges of churchyard paths be trimmed back (**Action: Sara**). David advised that we should wait until warmer and drier weather before deciding what to do with the chancel door which appears to have swollen in the wet. He would attempt to replace the light bulb by the shed outside of the church but had in any case switched these lights off as the wind and branches means that the motion sensor is continually activated. The churchyard tap is leaking again. Richard has kindly agreed to mend this in due course, saving the cost of getting a plumber (**Action: Richard**). David also advised he would be getting quotes to replace the railings between the car park and the churchyard. It was noted that this was likely to be expensive. Irene suggested he contact Andy Tunnah in the village. David would also ask for advice from the DAC as to what form of fencing would be acceptable. (**Action: David**)

11. REPORTS

Deanery Synod: There has not been a meeting since the last PCC. The next meeting is on Thursday 8 February at St Giles' (in the church) when the subject will be 'Lay Training'. David apologised to Russell as he had not made him aware that this would compromise choir practice (following a relatively late change from the original Wednesday date). Fr Jason, as incumbent, has agreed to lead the short act of worship, though both Gill and Russell offered to help. David requested help with refreshments. Brenda, Cath and Jane B all kindly agreed to bake a cake but were personally not able to help on the night. No other offers of help were forthcoming.

Church Hall: Sara was still awaiting news of a possible grant for the church hall doors. She also noted that Molly Maids are doing a good job of cleaning.

Churches Together in Lichfield: There has been no meeting since the last PCC.

12. FINANCE

Richard presented a slightly updated set of 2017 accounts to the one circulated prior to the meeting and talked through the main changes from 2016. Richard proposed that the revised document go forward as a draft to be examined and this was seconded by Brian Kempthorne, and carried unanimously. Richard noted that the small surplus for the church and larger one for the church hall were both well down on 2016.

Various donations to charity had been made according to the recently adopted plan. Thanks were expressed to Richard for his hard work in keeping accurate accounts.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

There were three items – all 'thank you' letters from; Lynne Mills, Christmas Boxes and the Baptist Mission

14. AOB

Jonathan reported on a successful introduction to the church, its organ and bells, for some of the uniformed groups whose members are working towards their 'Faith' badge. Clair, Sara, Sue Bowring and Peter Olding had all been involved and to whom thanks were extended.

Gillian reminded us of the Children's Society lunch. Jane reminded us of the Quiz Night on Saturday 27 January. There are still spaces at 'Lunch 'n' a Laugh'.

15. NEXT MEETINGS

This will be on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7.45pm in the Church Hall meeting room. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Church Meeting would be held in the Church Hall meeting room on Sunday 15 April 2018, after Evensong and commencing with refreshments at approximately 7.40pm.

16. CONCLUSION

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm with the Grace.