



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 21st MARCH 2018 IN THE CHURCH HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.45pm

1. PRAYER

Fr Jason opened the meeting with a brief period of silence in commemoration of the life and ministry of Anne Colgrave who sadly passed away on 19th February 2018. The PCC placed on record their thanks for all Anne had done for the benefice and for her personal witness and example over many years. Anne was indeed a “good and faithful servant” and will be sorely missed. Members expressed their appreciation for the thoughtfulness displayed within the service celebrating her life, and in particular for the kind words spoken by Gill on this occasion.

Fr Jason then read a prayer of Thomas Cranmer - this being his Feast Day

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, Russell Dickerson, Clair Kirk, Cath Gibbs, Pamela Palmer, Brenda Olson, Gill Hollis, Jonathan Smith, David Clarke and Jane Jones

Apologies: Irene Jones and Brian Kempthorne

3. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2018

Following one amendment the minutes were unanimously agreed, as proposed by Cath Gibbs and seconded by Pamela Palmer.

4. MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

Item 5: Safeguarding modules C0 and C1 are now available on the Lichfield Diocesan website with completion time of approximately 1hr and 2hrs respectively. David has undertaken the training and recommended it to all PCC members.

(Action: All)

Item 8: 5 e-mailed responses have been received to date concerning the usage of the land at the rear of the church hall. The response date will be extended until Monday 9th April and posters will be strategically placed within the village. **(Action: Pamela)**

5. SAFEGUARDING

The Guiding movement has advised all branches that they should lock exterior doors to prevent access by the public when meetings are underway. Local groups intend to adopt this practice, hanging the key nearby in the entrance hall for safe and easy

egress if necessary. The PCC, noting that other authorised and approved users should have access keys, were happy to accept this arrangement as long as the emergency exits are not compromised.

6. FINANCE

Richard Dyott presented the audited accounts and Trustees' report (copy on file), noting one typing error at item 4b) on page 5 of the accounts.

It was confirmed that "Flicks in the sticks" is appropriately included in the **Trustees' report** as "Pastoral Care" since it provides an opportunity for outreach and coming together to meet a need without a charge. Anne's name should remain on the report as it covers the period until 31st December 2017.

The report was unanimously accepted following a proposal by Fr. Jason. Richard was thanked for his work in drawing together and compiling this document which will be presented at the APCM.

Richard explained one item in the **accounts** regarding accruals and the accounts were then unanimously accepted on a proposal by Richard Dyott, seconded by Russell Dickerson.

Thanks were expressed to both Richard for his ongoing work as Treasurer and also to Richard Newton, the Independent Auditor.

Richard then presented a **projection** showing that at least £7300 needs to be forthcoming from fundraising for the accounts to balance at 31st December 2018.

David thanked Richard for providing this additional information.

Richard advised that cheques for £120 have been sent to Rainbows, Beavers and the Prison Fellowship as part of our agreed **Mission and charitable giving**.

Noting the financial struggles at Hints, it was also proposed that £379 should be donated as part of our missional giving thus reducing their share of parish expenses in order to support ongoing mission work within the benefice.

This was seconded by Russell Dickerson and unanimously agreed.

A query has arisen as to whether an additional license is required in order to **photocopy and scan** magazine and any non-musical items for church use. After discussion, and based on current and proposed access/usage, this was deemed unnecessary.

7. DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Richard referred to the paper circulated prior to the meeting in which he outlined impending legislative changes and his opinion that a Data Protection lead was necessary. Debate ensued and, whilst accepting that a lead should be sought by 25th May, it was felt that compliance could be tightened by the use of "blind copying" of emails and/or obtaining permission for the sharing of email addresses.

This matter will be discussed further at the next PCC meeting.

8. REPORTS

Deanery Synod: David Clarke reported on the meeting held at St Giles on 8th February 2018 with opening worship led by Fr Jason.

He thanked all who had helped with/provided **refreshments**, adding that these were much appreciated.

The main topic was **training for the laity**, highlighting that there should be no hierarchy, rather everyone should find their vocation (possibly using a Quiet Day) and seek the various available options for training. All are encouraged to explore "What is God asking me to do?" (**Action: All**)

Another feature was “**This time tomorrow**” where an individual in attendance describes what they are planning to be engaged in on the following day and provides their associated request for prayers.

Lynne Ingham, who works for **Ecclesiastical Insurance**, outlined the services that company provides and the help they can offer parishes. She also spoke about grants available via the Churches Trust.

Thanks were expressed to David for representing the parish on the Deanery Synod. **Churches Together in Lichfield**: David also reported on the meeting held at Holy Cross church on 6th February 2018.

Linda Collins spoke about the proposed **Memory Café** which will hopefully open in Lichfield by the end of April 2018. A care agency will establish and manage the venture as a service for those suffering from dementia, but volunteers are also sought.

Updates were provided by a number of bodies, including Keswick in Lichfield, Christian Schools Work Trust, Places of Welcome and those considering help for rough sleepers.

Joint services and initiatives were reviewed.

Thanks were expressed to David for representing the parish for Churches Together.

Church Hall: Sara Dyott advised that

A grant of £500 has been received from the **Parish Council** towards the cost of the **emergency exit doors**.

She will be submitting an application to the “**We love Lichfield**” fund.

Two **Girl Guides** have asked whether they can hire the church hall for free in their campaign to raise funding for an overseas guiding trip in 2019. Sara has asked them to confirm if they will be representing their troupe or if others are also attending. The PCC decided to defer a decision on this matter until such clarification is received.

David expressed the personal opinion that, given the female uniformed groups were now advising that they would lock the church hall when using it, it would be a good time to talk to all uniformed groups about **vacating the hall** when there was an important church event, providing a good notice period was given. David suggested three months and expressed the view that this was unlikely to happen more than once or twice a year. Jonathan noted that there was already a precedent for this when Harvest Suppers were held on Friday evenings. The suggestion seemed to be favourably received.

David further expressed his personal disappointment that the Pilates group had not been approached to vacate the church hall to allow **Anne Colgrave’s** family their first choice of venue for the wake following her funeral. Sara said that she had not asked them to do so, as they are a long-term commercial renter whose business would suffer if they were unable to run the session, but had suggested to the family that the wake could easily be accommodated on the other days of the week. (Anne’s family wished to hold the funeral on Monday 19th March and did not pursue the matter). David suggested that we might need to compensate the business for loss of profit on such an occasion for a very important member of the church. Sara noted she does not charge the Pilates Group when they take the decision to cancel themselves.

9. HEART OF ENGLAND/BITAIN (WHITTINGTON) IN BLOOM

Documents concerning this initiative had been circulated before the meeting and received favourable consideration by the PCC. Peter Olding has also expressed interest but time constraints and conflicting commitments prevented attendance at meetings/activities. Lynne Lacey has additionally raised the question of entering the

Lichfield Diocesan Churchyard competition. Sara suggested inviting Mike Kingham to see the churchyard when in full spring bloom and seeking his views on what would be required. All agreed. (**Action: Sara**)

10. CHURCHYARD

The PCC agreed to approach Terry Woodward and ask him to quote for maintaining the churchyard for the coming year. (**Action: Sara**)

Fr. Jason will contact the Archdeacon and seek his views on possibly planting bulbs/placing gravel on certain graves with low kerbing. It was acknowledged that permission would need to be sought from surviving family where appropriate/known. (**Action: Fr Jason**)

11. MAINTENANCE

David reported that he has received no response from Andy Tunnah as yet about the **railings**.

Fr Jason asked whether a hard edge should be inserted in the **steps** rather than repainting the edges. Although initially more expensive, this might prove more cost-effective in the long term. The PCC agreed to the hard edging.

PCC requested the **timer for the lights on the steps** is changed to operate from dusk to 10.00pm every night, as there are now more services and events on different days. Flaking internal **paintwork** in the church was noted.

It was mentioned in the Quinquennial report that the **road side wall** needs re-pointing. The PCC agreed it will be completed in 2019. Other quinquennial work includes **pointing, repair of lead flashing and res-setting of floor tiles in the nave**.

(**Action: Richard Dyott**)

A local resident has queried the state of the **lime trees** and seeks assurance that they will not damage her property. Richard is investigating. (**Action: Richard**)

12. FUND RAISING

A letter has been issued asking the congregation to review their **giving**.

Arrangements for the **Fête** are in hand. Raffle tickets were issued for all PCC members to sell. (**Action: All**)

13. CORRESPONDENCE

There were five items – all ‘thank you’ letters from; Lichfield Christian Schools Work Trust, Christians Aware, The Bible Society, Médecins sans Frontières, and the Pathway Project.

14. AOB

No additional matters were raised.

15. NEXT MEETINGS

The **Annual Parish Church Meeting** will be held in the Church Hall meeting room on **Sunday 15 April 2018**, after Evensong and commencing with refreshments at approximately 7.40pm.

The next **PCC meeting** is on **Wednesday 16th May** at 7.45pm in the church hall meeting room.

16. CONCLUSION

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