

Minutes of St. Giles PCC Meeting 28th March 2017

The meeting started with a reading from the Letter of St James and a prayer.

Present: Fr. Mark Crowther-Alwyn (Chair), Angela Neale, Brian Legood, Jackie Steele, Joan Link, Fr. John Drackley, Martin Smith, Michael Amos, Peter Steele, Sarah Higgs.

Also present: Emily Brailsford,

20/17. Apologies

Claire Drabble, Peter Taylor, Sue Grant-Nicholas, Helen Legood, Jean Haines

21/17. Approval of minutes of PCC 17th Jan and Standing Committee 7th February and 22nd February

The minutes of the 17th January PCC and of the 7th Feb and 22nd Feb Standing Committee meetings were approved as a correct record and signed by Fr. Mark

22/17. Correspondence

Two items of correspondence had been received;

One from the Diocese requesting information about the various publications we produce and also details of social media outlets we use. Agreed that the Secretary should provide the details. **Action: Secretary**

The second was from the Children's Society thanking us for our donation following the Christingle service.

23/17. Financial Report

a) Accounts for 2016 The Treasurer circulated the detailed accounts, pointing out that they had now been approved by our independent examiner. He outlined the various issues that had arisen in the production of the accounts and pointed out that the 2015 accounts came with copious footnotes. Discussions with the Area Dean had helped. The only major changes in the various accounts were those relating to expenditure on the roof project and the recovery of the VAT element on that scheme. The Treasurer expressed some disquiet about the apparent reduction in income overall, especially that from covenanted giving and collections where there were some obvious differences. There was no clear reason why this had occurred. This led to a discussion on the need for a renewed push to encourage planned covenanted giving and how this could be achieved. The Treasurer was asked to write an article for the Magazine. **Action Treasurer**

b) Current Financial Position. January & February 2017 show an increase in income over the equivalent period last year, (£7780 in 2017 against £4950 in 2016), but expenditure is also up (£6819 in 2017 against £5799 in 2016). See also discussion re covenanted giving above. Main expenditure is of course the roof project.

c) Accountant. Jackie and Peter have worked together on the accounts and it was considered that by doing the work jointly there was no need at this stage to employ an accountant. This was agreed. It was also agreed that we should look into using a simpler accounting system. Apparently this had been suggested earlier by the Diocese and training had been offered, but nothing further had happened. **Action: Treasurer and Jackie to investigate further.**

It was also pointed out that our independent examiner, Roy Turcott would soon be 80 and thus no longer eligible to carry out the role. As we need to appoint an independent examiner at the forthcoming APCM, Joan Link volunteered to look at possibilities. **Action: Joan Link**

It was proposed by Angela Neale and seconded by Martin Smith that the Financial Report and accounts should be approved. This was agreed unanimously and Fr Mark duly signed the report.

Resolved: To approve the Financial Report and Accounts for 2016

24/17. Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

a) Reports. Reports are required from the Treasurer, Churchwardens, Secretary, Deanery Synod, Electoral Roll officer, Safeguarding officer, the Rector and any relevant church organisations, e.g. MU, St Giles Fellowship. The aim should be to keep these as brief as possible and the Secretary asked that all reports should be given to him in advance, preferably electronically as they could then be printed and distributed and this would also make life easier when taking the minutes of the meeting. **Action: Secretary to notify those people who have to do a report.**

b) Elections. Angela has all the nomination forms and she agreed to give copies to the Secretary who has to keep them on file. **Action: Angela to give Secretary copies of nomination forms.**

c) Refreshments. Sarah volunteered to organise refreshments.

25/17. Children receiving communion

Emily Brailsford gave an illustrated presentation about the possibility of children who had not been confirmed receiving communion. A copy of the presentation slides accompanies these minutes. The gist of the presentation was that children who had been baptised and who had received sufficient instruction on and had demonstrated an understanding of, the meaning of communion, should be allowed to partake the sacrament. There was general agreement amongst PCC members that this was a good idea and that it should start with those children who were already regular attenders at church, then be tried out in the school. Fr Mark reported that he had attended a Eucharist at Staveley where children had received communion and he'd been very impressed. It was agreed that PCC members should give the issue serious thought over Easter, discuss the idea with fellow members of the congregation and that the PCC meeting on 16th May should consider the matter again with a view to taking the necessary steps and gaining diocesan approval for such a scheme at St. Giles. **Action: All**

Emily was thanked for her presentation.

26/17. Church Roof and French Drain

Work is progressing swiftly on the roof repair and it looks as if it will be completed well within the timescale allocated. As a result there may be slightly less expenditure than had been anticipated and so there may be a possibility of doing some additional work on the roof whilst the scaffolding is still in place. The roofers have identified the need to replace around 50 slates on the S. transept as a matter of some urgency. In addition, the N. side of the nave needs checking though any work here would be the subject of a completely new project. There is to be a meeting on Friday 31st March where these matters will be discussed. It was however reported that the original Smith and Roper report had included a number of other minor jobs within the original specification of works and it is assumed that these are being, or have been done. It is possible that there will be up to £6000 from the roof scheme pot to go towards the fencing of the French drain (total cost £9500), however, there was a view put forward that if there was some additional work that could be done on the roof while the scaffolding was there, (and has already been paid for) then it would be a good thing to do it. There is a cash flow issue in that the expected VAT refund of £14k will not materialise for some time, so it will be necessary to transfer more resources into the roof fund. WE noted that an application has been made to the Derbyshire Churches and Chapel Trust for funding, but that no decision has yet been made on this request.

Resolved: To note the report.

Action: Fr. Mark, Churchwardens and Treasurer.

27/17. Barn Committee Report

Sarah to arrange another meeting of the Barn Committee after Easter. **Action: Sarah**

28/17. Bells Report

Helen Legood has sent out an e.mail outlining the proposals for repairing/enhancing the bells. It is envisaged that some of the work could be done 'in house' with volunteer labour. As the envisaged work is less than £3000 it is believed that a faculty would not be required, but if it transpires that one is needed then so be it. A thorough risk assessment will be needed and any work undertaken needs to be fully recorded.

Resolved: To approve the report.

Action: Brian and Helen

29/17. Safeguarding

Joan reported that there had already been a session explaining the safeguarding policy and procedures to the Fun Club and Godly Play volunteers. Volunteer agreements were now being put in place and a risk assessment was under way for the Fun Club's use of the Barn. Joan proposes to make a brief report to the APCM and then a full year report to the PCC in October. We noted that the arrangements for progressing safeguarding work at diocesan level were not proceeding as quickly as had been hoped, including training arrangements.

Resolved: To Note the report and thank Joan for her safeguarding work.

30/17. Sanctuary Lamp

Fr. Mark reported that he had asked Tor Electrical to quote for the conversion of the Sanctuary Lamp to electric power and also to check the floodlights. Tor had reportedly dealt with the light in the ringing room (Is this correct?), but Brian thought that the switch had not yet been wired in.

Action: Brian to check the ringing room light and switch. Fr Mark to deal with the Sanctuary lamp.

31/17. Handrail on footpath.

Angela had had to cancel the meeting and was now seeking a rearranged date and time.

Action: Angela.

32/17. Garden Party

2017 Garden Party is 1st July. Volunteers needed. **Action: All.** Note date for 2018 Garden Party, which is 30th June 2018. **Action: All to note**

33/17. Quinquennial Inspection update

We have previously agreed an expenditure of around £3000 p.a. to address outstanding jobs. Noted that repairs to the gas box are complete, likewise the repairs to the Sanctuary carpet, and the clearance of the cellar. The repairs to the lych-gate and the repairs to the store in the churchyard are not yet in progress. Noted also that some of the stones near the altar are still loose.

Resolved: To note the report.

34/17. United Benefice Events;

Fr Mark suggested two date for United Benefice events; 23rd July 2017 and 24th June 2018. These coincided with the 40th anniversaries of his ordination as a deacon and then his priesting. The 2017 event will be at Christchurch Holloway at 11 a.m. followed by a meal in the Florence Nightingale hall. The 2018 event will be at St. Giles and follow a similar format. The proposal was warmly welcomed.

35/17. Churches Together AGM 25th April

The Churches together AGM is to be held at St. Giles this year and refreshments are required. The usual attendance is about 15 people. Cakes and drink are all that are required. **Action: Alison and Helen to organise.**

36/17. Other Urgent Business

a) Extension course for Emily Brailsford. Emily asked for the PCC's approval for her taking an additional course relating to funeral services. The course is run free of charge by the diocese, but there may be a requirement to obtain reading material. **Resolved: To agree Emily's request to take the extension course.**

b) Model Railway weekend in church.

Michael tabled a proposal to hold a model railway exhibition in the church on the weekend of 23/24 September 2017. All proceeds would go to the church. Refreshments would consist of DIY teas/coffees and biscuits. The displays would be in the North aisle. The proposal was agreed in principle and Michael and his colleagues are to prepare a plan showing how the space would be utilised and liaise with the churchwardens about detailed arrangements.

Action: Michael Amos and Churchwardens.

37/17. Future Meetings

- APCM 26th April, followed by brief PCC to co-opt members, appoint a Secretary and Treasurer.
- PCC 16th May,
- Standing Committee 20th June,
- PCC 18th July.

The meeting closed with The Grace.