

Minutes of the Meeting of St. James P.C.C.

Monday 8th July 2013

Present: Rev David Britton (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Joan Botterill, Carol Burt, Nick Burt, Sabeena Coulson, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Chris Hart, Antony Herbert, Alan Hollamby, Dave Ingram, Laura Knight, Steve Linton, Lilian Reddie, Myles Taylor, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson, Simon James-Morse.

Apologies: Catalina Contreras, Judy Douglas, Emma Simmonds, Stephanie Sulaiman, Julie White

1. **Welcome:** David welcomed everyone to the meeting, read verses from Psalm 127:1, and opened with prayer.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings:**

The Minutes of the meeting on 13th May 2013 were considered and accepted unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

1. **Time for God Intern.** David and Laura reported that the Time for God Intern, Zsombor Ádám, would be arriving from Hungary on Friday 6th September 2013. He would be attending a T4G conference for the week beginning Monday 9th September, and starting work at St James' from Monday 16th September. Due to his young age (19), it was hoped that several families would adopt/support Zsombor throughout his internship, and a sign-up sheet would be displayed for church members to provide Sunday lunch. In the absence of alternatives, Zsombor would be living at 171 Mitcham Lane.

4. **Interregnum.**

Nick reported that Rob and Claire Powell were in regular communication via email. Renovations to the Rectory would be completed soon, with carpets being scheduled for installation on Monday 22nd July 2013. The Powell's were planning to move to Furzedown on Tuesday 6th August, but would be on holiday until Rob's Institution on Tuesday 3rd September. Judy was arranging a welcome hamper; contributions were invited.

5. **SPA Report.**

John presented the SPA Report for 2012/2013 and Objectives for 2013-2015. It was noted that the SPA reporting system had been changed by the Diocese from an annual report to a 2-year reporting cycle. The meeting thanked John for the wide range of activities carried out.

6. **Finance Report.**

1. **Management Accounts.** Paula presented the Management Accounts to 31st May 2013, showing a *deficit* for the period of £3,828. This had mainly been due to:
 - i. **Lower than expected regular income.** However, this had been partly offset by a large one-off donation. Nevertheless, there was still the need for someone to be assigned the task of approaching new and existing members to promote the importance of regular giving. A quarterly finance update/graph would continue to be included in the notice sheet.
 - ii. **Lower property income.** Concern was expressed that this was already £6,964 below budget, with a potential shortfall for the year of £16,000. The meeting discussed possible solutions, including advertising the Community Hall on the Furzedown Community Network (Chatroom), at local schools and at the Wandsworth Council.

There was further detailed discussion regarding existing users of the hall; specifically, whether one small Sunday church group (Word of Life Pentecostal Church) could be relocated to the Church Centre, and, whether to terminate the Hall Hire Agreement with the larger Sunday church group (International Assembly of God) due to continued problems with late payment of fees and incomplete documentation.

The meeting voted on the principle of terminating or not renewing the Hall Hire Agreement with International Assembly of God: **15** in favour, **Nil** against, **3** abstentions.

Nick, Judy and Simon would action this decision with appropriate letters and notice periods.
2. **Expenditure Approval.** David reported that the carpet in the Church Centre needed to be replaced. It was proposed to use the Church Centre fund (£1,362) and church minibus sale (£2,000) for this work. The balance would come from additional donations. It was also hoped to redecorate the Centre beforehand using volunteers from the church family.

Simon gave details of the 4 quotations that had been received.

Proposal:

**(a) to spend up to £4,000 (including VAT) to replace the carpet in the Church Centre, and,
(b) to spend up to £500 (including VAT) for supplies to redecorate the Church Centre.**

Proposed by Paula, Seconded by Nick, agreed unanimously.

7. Church Prayer.

The meeting divided into smaller groups to discuss the responses to the questionnaire regarding Church Prayer at St James that David had circulated. On resumption, the meeting discussed the challenges and opportunities of regular church prayer meetings.

David requested that all PCC members return their completed questionnaire to him with further comments if necessary.

8. Any Other Business

1. **Messy Sunday.** In response to David's request, the meeting commented on the effectiveness of the service on Sunday 7th July. Overall, the comments were very positive, with many engaging with the format and 'having fun in church'. It was noted that several new people had attended, attracted by the new format.
2. **Wandsworth Foodbank.** Antony gave a brief update on activities of the Wandsworth Foodbank, which had now been operating for 2 months. It was noted that the Foodbank outlet at St Paul's had now helped around 50 families. On behalf of Rev Sue Clarke at St Pauls, Antony thanked the St James volunteers that had been helping with this project.

9. Date of Next Meeting.

- **Monday 16th September 2013**

The meeting closed with a time of open prayer, closing with 'The Grace' at 10:00pm

Next PCC meeting: Monday 16th September 2013 at 8:00pm