

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

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Present:** Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Sue Allen, John Farebrother, Steve Linton, Carol Patterson, Pauline Pepperrell, Lilian Reddie, Richard Reddie, Adam Seymour-Davies, Glynis Wilkinson and Simon James-Morse.

**Apologies:** Carol Burt, Liz Gibbons, Alan Hollamby, Dave Ingram, Nat Okoro, Stephanie Sulaiman, Myles Taylor, Paula Thomas.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer.

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

The Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were considered, accepted unanimously and signed.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Nurture & Discipleship Questionnaire** (item 3.2). The final version of the questionnaire was presented to the meeting. Rob indicated that this would be given to the congregation for completion at the Sunday services in September/October 2015 as part of the sermon series on Nurturing and Discipleship.
2. **Furzedown Churches Youth Minister** (item 3.3). Rob reported that 4 applicants had been interviewed on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015 of which 2 were considered in more detail at an FCL board meeting on 22nd June. Subsequently, it was decided to continue exploring possible appointment with 1 of these candidates and he would be meeting 2 of the Youth Team leaders on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015. If successful, the applicant would be offered a 3-year contract, with a 6-month probationary period. Overall, Furzedown Youth Centre and the Furzedown Churches Board were encouraged by developments.
3. **Parish Support Fund** (item 7). Rob reported that he had advised the Diocese regarding the pledge to the Parish Support Fund for 2016, which had been accepted.
4. **Photocopier Lease Renewal** (item 8). Simon reported that the new photocopier lease had been signed and accepted by Toshiba TEC UK Imaging Systems Ltd.
5. **Appointment of New Church Architect** (item 9). Rob reported that, following interviews, Nick Weedon of HMDW Architects Ltd had been appointed as the Church Architect. Confirmation of the appointment was awaited from the Diocese. A provisional inspection date had been set for 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
6. **External Signage** (item 5). Rob reported that text on the proposed new Notice Cases should be able to be read on the pavement, providing the font size was the same as the current 'red' signage. However, ad hoc notices had not been tested. After discussion, it was **agreed** to defer the decision until the next meeting, and to test notices over the current notice boards.

4. **Finance Report**

The Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015 were presented, showing a *deficit* for the period of £5,643. Although a budget deficit of £8,636 had been forecast, the results showed a favourable variance of £2,993. The meeting were encouraged that Donations and Property Income were in line with budget and that total expenditure was below forecasts.

The meeting noted that Centre lettings were low and discussed ways of marketing the Centre to increase lettings.

5. **Mission Action Plan (MAP): Welcome & Hospitality Follow Up**

Rob presented a sheet listing Welcome & Hospitality ideas proposed at the last meeting. The Church Leaders had discussed 3 of the suggestions:

1. *Informal Badge Month*. This would be experimented with in autumn 2015.
2. *Pew Shuffle*. This would also be tried out in the autumn term.
3. *Newcomers Stand Up*. This would be tried initially on Messy Sundays

Other suggestions would be reviewed in future meetings.

## **6. St James', The Bible & The Sexuality Debate**

Rob reported that there had been a 'mixed' response following the Sunday sermon on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 on same-sex relationships. Healthy and open discussions had taken place with several people in the congregation, but it was clear that this was a significant issue that needed to be addressed.

The Church Leaders had discussed the situation and had agreed to hold an "open forum" (for the St James congregation), held *outside* the Sunday services, and where both viewpoints could be presented. It was hoped that this would allow the congregation to express their views openly, encouraging the church to grow as they recognise different viewpoints on a contemporary subject. The event would be held in autumn 2015. Background materials may be provided beforehand to assist the discussions.

The meeting were positive towards having an open forum event, and hoped that this kind of event could also be used to address other 'contentious' topics.

At this point, the meeting paused for prayer.

## **7. Stipendiary Curate Accommodation**

Rob reported that St James' was still being considered for a Stipendiary Curate in 2016. However, as St Paul's vicarage would not be available, the meeting discussed the accommodation requirements. The 2 main options both related to the use of the property at 171 Mitcham Lane, being:

1. To sell the property (in its current condition) and purchase a smaller property nearby.
2. To refurbish the property to a suitable standard for the new curate, funded by the Sibley legacy fund.

The meeting noted that either option would negatively impact rental income, i.e. the property would need to be vacated during the refurbishment and for the period when we have a curate. The current 6-month Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreements with the 4 tenants living at 171 Mitcham Lane all expire on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

After detailed discussion the meeting unanimously **agreed**:

- a) Not to sell 171 Mitcham Lane at this time.
- b) To defer the final decision regarding the refurbishment of 171 Mitcham Lane until the next PCC meeting; to allow further detailed information with costs to be collected.
- c) Not to offer new 6-monthly Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreements with the tenants in 171 Mitcham Lane.
- d) To advise the tenants in 171 Mitcham Lane that, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, only a month-by-month Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement would be available.
- e) To advice the Diocese that we wish to continue to be considered for a curate for 2016.

## **8. Team Council Mission Action Plan (MAP)**

Rob presented a copy of the Team Council Mission Action Plan (MAP) to the meeting for information.

## **9. PCC Away Day**

Rob indicated his wish to have a PCC Away Day in autumn 2015. He would circulate suggested dates by email. The subject focus of the day would be our buildings.

## **10. Church Manager**

Rob reported that Simon James-Morse had resigned as Church Manager, with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, to be the Minister of Goldstone Church in Hove. The meeting thanked Simon for his work.

Rob also reported that applications for the vacancy were being received. The closing date was 20<sup>th</sup> July, with interviews to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July. The interview panel would consist of Judy Douglas, Nick Burt and Rob Powell.

## **11. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

## **12. Date of Next Meetings**

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015

The meeting closed with the Grace at 10:05pm.

Next PCC meeting: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 8:00pm in the Centre