

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

Monday 7th December 2015

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Sue Allen, Carol Burt, Nick Burt, John Farebrother, Antony Herbert, Dave Ingram, Nat Okoro, Carol Patterson, Pauline Pepperrell, Lilian Reddie, Adam Seymour-Davies, Stephanie Sulaiman, Myles Taylor, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson and Christina Contreras.

Apologies: Liz Gibbons, Steve Linton, Richard Reddie, Julie White.

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 21st September were considered, accepted unanimously and signed.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Mission Action Plan (MAP): Welcome & Hospitality Follow Up (item 3.4).**

Informal Badge Month was conducted as planned in October and P.C.C. members have noted the following feedback: - It was well received by the congregation

- It broke barriers

- It was good for older people to know new people

- People in general were happy.

It is suggested we do it again termly or even monthly, Messy Church could be a good Sunday but it is agreed that continuity is important.

Pew Shuffle – This will be postponed for a later date.

Newcomers Stand Up will be introduced in the New Year 2016 when a new Welcome Pack has been developed.

2. **St James', The Bible & The Sexuality Debate (item 3.5).** The debate will be held on 13th December in the Church Centre, the debate will have both main views on the issue formally presented by Rob Powell ('Traditional View') & Imogen Vibert ('Affirming View') with Rev. Sue Clarke chairing the event. There will be a short break after the presentations during which people can write questions and submit them. In the second half Rob & Imogen will answer the questions. Rob asks for prayers for people to come and for the preparations.

3. **Church Manager (item 3.6).** Christina Contreras has passed her probation period and her position is now permanent.

4. **MAP: Prayer Ministry Review (item 6)**

Rob had a meeting with the prayer ministry team and it has been decided that there will be 2 prayer stations from January 2016. One station in the prayer corner and a second one in the side chapel.

This also means that more volunteers will have to get involved in the ministry. Pauline is engaging new people and preparing a new rota for this.

Prayer Corner will have new screens very soon as they have already been ordered.

A photo board of the team will be created together with guidelines about expectations when coming forward for prayer.

A training session will be held in January and it will be extended at a later date to people from the congregation to join in.

5. **171 Mitcham Lane House (item 9)**

The request for a Curate for 2016 was not approved by the Diocese; hence 171 ML will be available for rent for another year.

Plans on renovating the house will start in January with the objective to let it out again in summer 2016 at a market rent price of £2400 - £2600 per month.

6. **External Signage. (item 5)**

Rob extended his apologies for the length of time this matter took on the last meeting and made the following proposal: To go ahead with the project as already presented: buying 2 lockable noticeboards and the static double sign board for the front of church.

Cost of the signs will be budgeted from 2015 and 2016 budget together.

Seconded by Johan Allen and agreed unanimously.

7. Finance Report.

The management accounts to the end of October show a deficit of £12,640 against a budget deficit for the same period of £19,647. Although income from regular giving is down by more than £6k on budget, this has been more than offset by reduced expenditure. The forecast for the year shows a deficit of c£3k. There is concern over the fall of regular giving as a number of members have moved and understandably stopped their giving.

The draft budget for 2016 was presented and currently shows a deficit of c £12k. A couple of small amendments were agreed and the budget will be updated once the 2015 results are known. The final version will be presented to the January meeting.

A series of questions and opinions were shared at this point regarding the finances.

- It is stated that standing orders are decreasing per year and the explanation for this is that some people have moved away and new people are not yet signing new standing orders.
- We could encourage new people and push for more direct debits and standing orders from the church office.
- Fundraising – Are we missing out?
- Encourage people to increase their giving by £1 from the new year.
- P.C.C members should lead by example.
- Teach about sacrificial giving.
- Share inspirational stories.
- Keep an eye on expenditure, such as ministry and office costs.
- Advertise the church centre by leaflets and website.

1. **Hall and Centre rates** - Christina to research about prices and make a proposal at the next meeting.

2. **Staff salaries** – Glynis and Christina left the meeting at this point.

It was decided that Catalina and Glynis' salaries will increase in line with the new London Living wage rate from January 2016.

Christina's salary will increase by 2% will from 1st of September 2016, the anniversary of her appointment.

8. PCC Away Day (Item 7)

PCC Away day went very well on 21st November 2015.

A schedule should be drawn up for building repairs in category A.

A new prayer meeting should be established to specifically pray for the project, the vision for the building and it will be great to engage the congregation.

We need a Statement of Needs – Needs in terms of mission and buildings.

Small group discussion followed on two questions: *How do we decide what our needs might be? Are there any limitations the PCC would like to place on the project at this early stage?*

Feedback:

- Involve the congregation in discerning what our needs are.
- Headhunt people with experience in buildings.
- There should be no limitation in what the building is used for, but the church's needs should always be a priority.
- Prayer to find vision for God's work. Wednesday's mornings.
- Congregation should have a say in what we may use the church for.
- Further along explore ideas from stakeholders and the wider community, but this should be done once we have a clear idea of our own needs and purpose.
- Put together a working group to put together a Statement of Needs.
- Neighbourly insight, consultancy.

9. Nurture & Discipleship Questionnaire (item 3.1).

Johan Allen reported that 100 people completed the questionnaire.
Please see report in attachment.

10. Diocesan Synod Report

Nick Burt will send report. Please see attachment.

11. Any Other Business

- Christmas Publicity is ready – Please help to distribute leaflets if you can.
- Sunday 20th December - No morning service, meeting at MLBC instead, but we will have 2 carol services.
- Rev. Geoff Vevers has moved in to St. Paul's vicarage. Licensing Service will be held on 21st January 2016 at 7pm and Team Council will meet straight after at 8.30pm.
- Please fill in a date on the rota to have Claudia for lunch.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- PCC Meeting – Monday 25th January, 8.00pm in the Church Centre
- PCC Meeting – Monday 14th March, 8.00pm in the Church Centre
- PCC Meeting – Monday 9th May, 8.00pm in the Church Centre
- PCC Meeting – Monday 4th July, 8.00pm in the Church Centre

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