

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

Monday 16th January 2017

Present: Richard Reddie (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Sue Allen, Carol Burt, Nick Burt, Antony Herbert, Steve Linton, Alix Taylor, Myles Taylor, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson and Christina Contreras.

Apologies: Rev Rob Powell, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Alan Hollamby, Nat Okoro, Pauline Pepperrell, Adam Seymour-Davies.

1. **Welcome:** Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting, Richard extended Rob's apologies for his absence due to illness and opened by giving a small reflection on Mark 1 about seeking to further the Kingdom of God and how do we reach out to our community. We prayed together.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

The minutes of the meeting on 12th December 2016 were considered, accepted unanimously and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Lightning Conductor (item 3.1 – 19th Sept)

Work will be carried out on Tuesday 17th January

2. First Aid Training (item 3.6 – 19th Sept)

Richard explained that Rob was still exploring potential training options as it was felt that the training given to FYC volunteers was a little too basic.

3. External sign (item 1 – 19th Nov)

Faculty was approved and work will be done in the coming week.

4. Children & families Worker JD (item 4c)

A copy of the job description was circulated for information as requested at the last meeting.

5. Away Day follow up (item 5)

Rob will use the next Pew Shuffle in February to seek some input from congregation about perceptions of PCC and particularly the issue of communication, and then set up small working group to put together an action plan to be presented to PCC for approval in March.

4. Finance Report & 2017 Budget

Management accounts

The draft outturn for 2016 shows a surplus of nearly £18k on regular activities. This compares with a forecast of just under £9k and a breakeven budget. There may still be a few expenses to include but these are not expected to be significant. The main reasons for the surplus are:

- higher level of donations than budgeted (one-off donations and gift day), more than making up for the loss of income from the delay in letting out 171 Mitcham Lane
- lower staff related costs (no Time for God intern since August)
- lower property costs (some costs will fall into 2017 and have been allowed for in the budget)

Budget 2017

Adjustments have been made to the draft budget presented to the PCC in December to reflect revised Hall letting income projections, anticipated reductions in regular donations, provision for a Time for God or similar intern from September 2017 and minor adjustments based on 2016 actuals. This has resulted in a balanced budget rather than a surplus of £8k. However most of the income figures are conservative so there may be a favourable result at the end of the year.

Johan proposed to approve the 2017 Budget, seconded by Myles and agreed unanimously.

Rob will be preaching about giving on Sunday 22nd January and will follow up with the usual letter/brochure to all church members setting out the budget for the year, thanking people for their giving over the last year (including the gift day), encouraging people to review their giving and setting out the various methods of giving.

5. Building for the Kingdom Update

Nick reported that the working group met a few weeks ago. (Rob Powell, Michael White, Kirk Douglas, Steve Linton, Carol Burt, Sue Allen, Pauline Pepperrell, Nick Burt, John Farebrother). Myles Taylor joined the group for an architectural point of view. Comments given will need to be taken further to have a clear idea of where we are going next. There are still a lot of options to choose from and for that, we need to see the needs of the future and its practicalities.

The team will be giving a presentation to the congregation on Sunday 29th January to keep them updated. It is important to keep a steady progress although the project is still in the early stages and needs a lot of preparation.

6. Christmas Review

Feedback – The Nativity Service had a good turn-out with a lot of new faces, attendance was around 80 adults and 70 children, a total of 150 people.

The Carol Service had around 330 people and the atmosphere was really good. With attendance increasing every year we need to be mindful of H&S regulations. Exit doors cannot be blocked by musicians or extra chairs in the Centre and a notice should be given at the beginning of each of these services advising people of the fire exits and meeting points.

There was a question raised in regards to a Christingle Service and it was clarified that this service is usually held at St. Alban's.

Bible Readers should be coached or rehearse before the service and it will be helpful if the reading is also on the screen.

How do we measure the impact and what do we do with the new opportunities presented?

Should we have a New Year Service?

Information about weekly activities on the Christmas Service Sheet, so people could follow it up in the New Year.

7. APCM 2017

Richard explained that we will need to elect 4 reps to the Deanery Synod at this year's APCM.

The Deanery Synod looks for ways to cause a greater impact on the community through mission, it promotes co-operation among the Tooting area churches, the Deanery brings expertise from outside on very critical areas like homelessness, prison, refugees, etc. Glynis informed that there is an open evening on the 26th January at All Saints, Franciscan Road, if anyone was interested in knowing more about the Deanery Synod.

Richard also informed the PCC that he will be standing down as Warden this year, so we will need to seek a successor.

Rob will be in touch soon with those members who have served their 3 years on PCC to ascertain whether they are able to serve a further term.

Next APCM will be on Sunday 30th April.

At this point the meeting paused for some reflective prayer.

8. Mission Action Plan Review

Richard made sure everyone had received the revised St James MAP and the group was divided into small groups to discuss a) is there anything to add to or remove from the MAP, and b) is there a sense of which item/s on the MAP we should focus on next?

Feedback was:

- strike a line across the points achieved and the date it was achieved
- fill up the cost column with an estimate figure so there could be a reference/guide of how big or small the project is.
- review MAP once or twice a year.

- Add a point to the MAP to seriously look at the youth, create youth forums, youth involvement in Sunday Services, apprenticeship models and how gradually they could take on more responsibility and how can they get involve in sessions, even in the building team.
- Create a community presence which will open up opportunities.
- Action Sunday should have priorities, we could create a score table to rate priorities.
- Communication between church members and PCC should improve.

9. Future Events

The Marriage Sessions - 21/01 and 04/02, 7.30pm @ MLBC

Renewal of Marriage Vows Service - 12/02, 4.30pm @ St James

Ash Wednesday Service - 01/03, 7.30pm @ St Alban's

Lent Course, Reflecting on the film 'The Mission', 5 Wednesday evenings from 08/03, 7.30pm @ St Alban's

10. Any other business

None

11. Future Dates

- APCM – Sunday 30th April 2017
- PCC Meeting – Monday 8th May 2017
- PCC Meeting – Monday 10th July 2017
- PCC Meeting – Monday 18th September 2017
- PCC Away Day – Saturday 18th November 2017
- PCC Meeting – Monday 11th December 2017

The meeting closed in prayer and with the Grace at 9:59 pm.