

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

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Present:** Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Sue Allen, Carol Burt, Nick Burt, Francis Christian, Liz Gibbons, Antony Herbert, Steve Linton, Grace Museve, Nat Okoro, Pauline Pepperrell, Stephanie Sulaiman, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson and Christina Contreras.

**Apologies:** John Farebrother, Susan Ribeiro, Adam Seymour-Davies.

Rob reported that Alix and Myles Taylor had resigned and their places will stay vacant until next APCM.

**1. Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone and started the meeting by reading Matthew 9 v 9-13 reminding us of our mission at St James; a radical welcome to a radical change. The meeting was opened in prayer.

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

The minutes of the meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were considered, accepted with 3 abstentions and signed.

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

#### **1. News Sheet Review (item 3.3)**

Rob and Christina are working on the suggestions made by the PCC.

#### **2. APCM (item 3.4)**

Antony Herbert is the only warden at St James since the APCM and has made some new arrangements to cover Sunday duties. He will cover three Sundays per month and Dan Obene will be covering the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Steve Linton, Nick Burt and Judy Douglas will also step-up to cover on occasions.

Rob extended his gratitude to Antony for his hard work and to all others who help.

#### **3. Parish Support Fund 2018 (item 4.b)**

Rob received a letter from the Diocese of Southwark to thank the PCC for the Pledge for 2018 and the generous offer of £75,000 towards the Parish Support Fund (please see letter attached).

#### **4. 171 Mitcham Lane (item 5a)**

New tenants have settled very well. Unfortunately they were burgled and lost all of their electronic devices including TV's, laptops and gaming stations. They didn't have contents insurance and our Residential Let Insurance will not cover their losses. However a claim will be submitted to cover the lock repairs that had to be done to the sash window in the kitchen.

#### **5. Electrical Inspection (item 5b)**

All work has been done and a certificate has been issued. All invoices have been paid in full.

#### **6. Front Garden (item 5c)**

Initial work was not done properly and Easigrass has had to come back to fix it. The work is now done and a discount will be applied for the trouble.

#### **7. Try Praying Campaign (item 7)**

Pauline reported that the church was divided into different zones, the church was open for 3 days and a slow trickle of people attended. There was very good feedback and there are still booklets left that could be used next year.

Feedback:

- It was good for contemplating.
- Lovely decorations in the church and centre, beautifully done.
- It was peaceful and calm, inviting to prayer.
- It raised questions from people in the community.
- We need wider publicity next year.

### **4. Finance Report**

Paula reported that the finances are in a very healthy position with a surplus of £11,397 for the first six months of the year against a budgeted deficit of £6,000. This is due predominantly to the increase in giving and in particular to an anonymous one-off donation of £16,000. All other areas of giving are also up. Property income is down but some of this is due to the timing of the receipt of some letting income. Expenditure is

above budget due to property costs where several significant projects have been undertaken in this first half of the year e.g. belltower, lightning protection, artificial grass.

Rob expressed that this is a cause for much thanksgiving. However, we cannot afford to become complacent, as several families have recently moved away from St James and this is likely to have an impact on income for the remainder of the year.

## 5. PCC Development Action Plan: Communication Strategy

Rob reported on the sub-group meeting looking at this area. The following proposal was presented:

- PCC Digest to be produced for the first Sunday after PCC meetings. Insert in News Sheet, place on all social media platforms, attach to News Sheet email.
- Hold a Focus Group post-service on the Sunday following PCC meetings – an opportunity for congregation to ask questions arising from the Digest.
- Publicise the date of the next meeting with the publication of the Digest and invite contributions for consideration for the agenda. Contributions to be made via email to church office or 'suggestion box' on Information Desk.

Discussion followed and comments included:

- The PCC Development Plan is part of a radical change and inclusiveness of the congregation.
- St James PCC has been congratulated recently by a newcomer on the transparency of what is discussed at PCC, through publication of the minutes on the website.
- Report after 6 months to check how we are doing.

Glynis proposed to accept the new communication strategy; Steve seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

## 6. PCC Away Day

Next PCC Away day clashes with Diocesan Synod Meeting and Rob proposed to move it to 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Rob has booked Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church for the next meeting and although the programme is still not finalised he suggested that a major item could be the Building for the Kingdom project as considerable progress should have been made by then.

Another item could be reviewing the MAP. Other suggestions included how to get more people into home groups and how to create small discipleship groups; and the possibility of employing a Children and Family worker as we seriously need one for the size of our church.

## 7. Church Weekend Away

Following the Church Leaders meeting, there is a proposal that we plan for a Church Weekend Away in 2020 and work towards it by holding a Church Day Away in both 2018 and 2019.

A working group will be set up to begin planning, set priorities and objectives.

Volunteers for this group are: Pauline, Carol, Glynis, Rob and one more person, preferably with children, will be needed.

## 8. Staffing

a) Mark Pybus – Mark has been training with the Church of England to be ordained but cannot do so for another 2 years. So, Mark will be volunteering at St. James in order to continue his ministerial formation as he awaits ordination. Rob will be meeting Mark to discuss in which areas Mark will be volunteering and to agree a title for his role.

b) Confidential – Item 1, please see attachment. *(For PCC members only)*

c) Confidential – Item 2, please see attachment. *(For PCC members only)*

At this point the meeting paused for prayer.

## 9. Fire Safety

PCC agreed to do more work on our Fire Safety procedures, working towards a fire drill on a Sunday in the autumn. Rob will set up a sub-group to work on this.

**10. Events**

- Summer Holiday Club – 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Holiday at Home – 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August – Theme: Rivers
- Romania Mission Trip – 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August
- Summer Services – see publicity
- Discipleship Centre – Autumn – More information 30<sup>th</sup> July
- LICC Whole Life Worship Conference – 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Balham Baptist Church
- Understanding Mental Health – 23<sup>rd</sup> November - run by Wandsworth Mind for Furzedown Churches.

**11. Any other business**

None

**12. Future Dates**

- PCC Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- PCC Away Day – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- PCC Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

The meeting closed with the Grace at 10:00pm.