

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

Monday 22nd January, 2018

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Sue Allen, Carol Burt, Nick Burt, Francis Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Antony Herbert, Grace Museve, Nat Okoro, Adam Seymour-Davies, Stephanie Sulaiman, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson, Christina Contreras.

Apologies: Steve Linton, Pauline Pepperrell, Susan Ribeiro.

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 11th December 2017 were considered, accepted unanimously and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Alun & Debbie Burt Update (item 4)

Crosslinks have confirmed that the Burts have 9 support churches including St James, which means our portion of the additional funds needed amounts to approx. £1,500 per annum. Rob will invite church members to become personal supporters, giving donations directly to Crosslinks (Crosslinks have confirmed that any such donations can be marked as coming from St James) and we will allocate £1,500 from this year's Advent Gift Day too.

2. Future of Youth Provision (FYC/FCL) (item 5)

Geoff Vevers, representing FYC Board of Trustees, and Rob, representing Furzedown Churches, are in the process of writing a report for the boards with the objective of deciding the future of the youth provision and possible re-structure. Please pray for a beneficial outcome.

3. Fire Safety (item 6)

Christina to still get other quotes for recommended work.

4. Finance Report

The management accounts for the year show a net surplus of just over £25k. There are still a few amendments to make before finalising the year end position, but these are only expected to be small. The expected surplus compares favourably with the balanced budget which was set at the start of the year. The main reason for the surplus is a significant increase in giving during the year. Apart from a one-off donation of £16k there were also significant increases in giving via the envelope scheme and loose plate collections. Giving via standing orders has reduced as members have left St James. Expenditure was over budget by just over £4k due largely to property repairs and maintenance. It was agreed that the surplus would be added to the General Fund for the time being and the PCC would consider if any should be designated for other purposes at a later date.

Small changes have been made to the 2018 budget to reflect the 2017 outcome but there is no change in the overall position of a deficit of £11,500, which arises from a provision for a feasibility study for the Church redevelopment and which will be funded from other funds if necessary.

John Farebrother proposed to accept the budget for 2018, Nick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the PCC.

The annual finance letter and giving brochure will be sent out in the next few weeks.

5. PCC Away Day Follow up

The PCC spent some time reflecting on the feedback from the Away Day in November when we reviewed our Mission Action Plan (MAP) and identified the main themes for development as:

- Bringing the Church outside
- Employing a Children & Families Worker
- Developing a strategy for nurture with particular focus on small groups
- Developing the welcome, involvement and integration of newcomers
- Developing a strategy for prayer
- Greater involvement of youth in the life of the church
- Recruiting more leaders & volunteers for ministry
- Greater use of personal testimony in services
- Identifying the groups we don't cater for so well (e.g. couples without children, singles, 20-30s)

Rob asked the PCC to pray for discernment as to where God is leading us and he will revise the MAP to take note of the above priorities.

We paused for prayer at this point.

6. Review of Christmas Programme

All the feedback received was very positive.

- The new decoration idea was well received and looked beautiful.
- The atmosphere was great at the Carol Services and the choir was excellent with the help of Di Berry.
- We should continue to encourage the involvement of the hearing impaired.
- Midnight Communion was well attended and the idea of giving out Gideon's New Testaments was appreciated.
- Collaborating with Furzedown Churches brings a lot more people to the events.

7. Building for the Kingdom Update

While the Building for the Kingdom (BftK) Working Group (WG) did not meet in December, they have already met in January and are planning to meet next on 15 February. The main items they are currently dealing with are:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's): they are considering some 20+ FAQ's and drafting appropriate responses to each, ranging from 'What is the BftK project?', to 'What lessons have we learned from previous church building projects?'
- Drafting an Architect's Brief for the proposed Feasibility Study; Myles Taylor has offered to help with this document.
- Drafting a Business Case for submission to the Diocese.
- Considering the WG structure and membership.

8. Church Day Out Update

Adam Seymour-Davies reported that Saturday 9th June 2018 has been set as the date for the Church Day Out with a probable venue of Latimer Minster in Buckinghamshire.

The group organising the Church Day Out had a meeting and drafted a schedule for the day. (Detailed report attached)

The theme will be "Unlocking your Prayer Life" and further details, including costs, will be announced soon.

9. Additional Needs Draft Policy

Rob presented a draft 'Adults and Children with Additional Needs Policy' which had been drafted by a small working group. Rob asked members to email him any suggested amendments so that it can be approved at the next PCC meeting in March.

10. Team Council Update

Glynis presented a report on the work of the Furzedown Team Council. The report covered the Team Mission Action Plan and a review of recent activities (Confirmation, Mental Health Course, Joint Christmas Events). (Detailed report attached)

11. No other business

Meeting closed at 9.50pm with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th March 2018