

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

Monday 25th March 2019

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Nick Burt, Frances, Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Steve Linton, Millie Miller, Peter Neill, Femi Nzegwu, Adam Seymour-Davies, Stephanie Sulaiman, Glynis Wilkinson, Christina Contreras.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Carol Burt, Monica Gordon, Yvonne Mason, Grace Museve, Mark Pybus, Susan Ribeiro.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Rob proposed as Chair to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 21st January 2019 and they were agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

5. Finance Report

a) Management accounts for January 2019

Overall

We were blessed to have lower than expected expenditure in 2018 which allowed us to carry forward into 2019 a total of £78,675.

Income

So far in 2019 we have an income of £15,079 v a budget of £17,887 with a variance of -£2807. This deficit is largely down to Christmas closure of church activity and timing of receipts.

Expenditure

Expenditure during January was £14,729 compared with a budget of £19,397 – an underspend of £2,533.

b) Approval of 2018 Accounts

The PCC received the accounts reports and it was pointed out that we should add a definition of the designated funds on page 8 under point 1b.

Nick Burt proposed to approve 2018 accounts together with the audit letter, Johan Allen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

c) Church Manager Pension

Christina was asked to leave for this discussion.

The PCC agreed to increase our contribution to the church manager's pension by 1% to 5% per annum, matching the church manager's own contribution.

Proposed by Johan, seconded by Peter. All in favour.

6. Evangelism Strategy

Following discussion at the last PCC meeting, Rob reported on the most popular ideas for a future evangelism strategy. Work now needs to be done to plan for the implementation of the strategy.

So far,

- A Christianity Explored Course will be running in the early summer.
- A series of "Soul Seasons" events are also planned by Furzedown Churches as an opportunity to invite the community to hear the Gospel in a more relaxed environment with music and food.
- Autumn sermon and small group series will be on evangelism.

PCC members were asked to discuss 4 topics which were the more relevant from the last PCC exercise.

- Create space where questions about faith can be asked.
- Prayer on the streets – offering to pray with passers-by in a prime location.
- Food service – serving people in need.
- Equip/Enable church members to be able to talk about everyday problems/issues with non – Christians.

Full feedback on notes.

We paused for prayer at this time.

7. Safeguarding and Serious Incidents

Rob informed the PCC that he had received a letter from the Charity Commission concerning the reporting of safeguarding and non-safeguarding incidents.

We will need to delegate the responsibility to a member of the church for reporting said incidents.

Rob proposed to delegate the non-safeguarding issues to the Church Manager in liaison with the Rector and Church Wardens and the safeguarding issues to the Safeguarding officers. Agreed unanimously.

8. Fabric and Buildings

The PCC was presented with a plan to upgrade our AV screens in church, with new screens in the side aisles, a new main screen at the front and a camera. The project is being fully funded by an anonymous donor.

The project is integral to the journey towards becoming paperless on Sundays.

The Diocese and an appointed AV advisor were consulted and if the PCC approves these changes, the church will apply for a faculty.

Most of the new hardware could be reused in the BFK project but the cabling might not all be reusable.

The 2 quotes are for £15,900 and £21,000.

Adam Seymour-Davies proposed to accept the cheapest quote, Peter Neill seconded the motion and it was agreed unanimously.

Fire Safety – the initial remedial quote for a number of fire safety measures in the church and upper hall, including emergency lighting and alarms, was around £35,000 but after careful consideration the list of must-do tasks was reduced to a reasonable list.

Steve Linton proposed to accept the quote of £6,744 from Electrosmith, Millie Miller seconded the motion and it was agreed unanimously.

9. Welcome and Hospitality

Rob has been working with Keren Pybus bringing new ideas on how to improve the church's welcome and hospitality. Plans are coming together for a new Welcome Pack, the introduction of a regular Welcome Event for newcomers, and the formation of a new Welcome Team whose job it will be to ensure newcomers are looked after well on Sundays.

10. Corporate Prayer

The sermon series is coming to an end and Rob will be presenting the congregation with a very simple questionnaire. The question will be: 'If we are carrying on with a regular prayer meeting, when are YOU available?' This might steer where we will be going with the InTouch prayer meeting in the future.

11. Volunteer Thank you Event

Our bi-annual event to thank all our volunteers will take place on Saturday 25th May and invitations will be sent out soon.

12. APCM

The APCM will be held on Sunday 28th April.

We need two nominations for church wardens, Femi Nzegwu and Yvonne Mason have agreed to be nominated.

We will also be electing 5 PCC members. Monica, Jane, Anthony and Yvonne's period is expiring but can be re-elected for a second period.

Carol Burt will be stepping down and we will need to fill that space.

13. Any other business.

Diocesan Synod & Council of Trustees

Nick Burt reported on the recent meeting of Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Council of Trustees and was encouraged by the increasing focus on mission and church growth.

Full report attached.

Meeting closed at 10pm with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20th May 2019