

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

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Present:** Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Nick Burt, Francis Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Steve Linton, Millie Miller, Peter Neill, Adam Seymour-Davies, Glynis Wilkinson, Katherine Striesow, Mark Pybus, Yvonne Mason

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

**2. Apologies:** Susan Ribeiro, Noah Reddie, Femi Nzegwu, Grace Museve, Christina Contreras, Liz Gibbons.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Rob proposed as Chair to approve the minutes of the meetings on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and they were agreed unanimously.

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

1. Evangelism Strategy: Plans are in place for a prayer box at The Well. Prayer requests will be brought to staff meetings where they will be prayed for. An Honest Question Zone will be introduced at Messy Sunday services soon. The Prayer on the Streets strategy is still being finalised. Discussions are taking place with the other Furzedown Churches, and Rob is also discussing this with the Balham Churches who successfully do this on Balham High Road. There will be a sermon and small group series in the Autumn on evangelism.
2. Safeguarding and Serious Incidents: Rob gave the PCC copies of the Delegation of Reporting Serious Incidents policy which was approved at the last meeting. He also asked the PCC to study a draft Complaints, Grievances & Whistleblowing policy with a view to formally signing off at the July meeting. Any suggested amendments should be e-mailed to Rob in the meantime.

## **5. Finance Report**

### **a) Management accounts for April 2019**

#### **Income**

So far in 2019 we have an income of £68,059 vs. a budget of £65,880 – giving a positive variance of £2179. Income on Gift Aid envelopes was down slightly, and this is due in part to some regular givers leaving St James. John Fairbrother highlighted an encouraging and substantial increase in Church Centre lettings income; the PCC agreed that Christina should check that we're not under-charging clients.

#### **Expenditure**

We were blessed to have lower than expected expenditure in the first quarter of 2019: £68,502 vs. a budget of £76,988. This is partly due to the fact that we have incurred no large costs for building and maintenance.

### **b) Parish Support Fund for 2020**

The Diocese suggested that St James contributes £78,417 for the year 2020. Bearing in mind we have some areas of ministry which will require extra funding in the year to come, the PCC decided that we should pay the suggested amount of £78,417 rather than any extra.

This was proposed by Katherine Striesow and seconded by Yvonne Mason and was approved unanimously with the exception of one abstention.

## **6. Corporate Prayer Strategy**

Rob reminded the PCC that we had a sermon series on corporate prayer last term. It was designed to review how we approach this at St James. The PCC was invited to discuss our current prayer meetings – specifically InTouch which isn't very well attended – and asked what could be improved. Further to a recent questionnaire which the congregation was invited to complete, the results showed that there was an appetite for a Sunday evening meeting together with a morning prayer service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (typically three or four times a year). The PCC agreed unanimously to try this for a year and review it in May 2020.

We paused for prayer at this time.

## **7. Youth Ministry & FYC**

Further to MLBC's decision, yet to be finally confirmed, to take their youth ministry back in-house and employ their own youth worker, this effectively leaves the other Furzedown Churches without a full time Minister due to affordability issues. The current FCL Youth Minister position would be made redundant. Rob suggested to the PCC that this presents us with an opportunity to re-shape our youth ministry, bearing in mind the recent discussions concerning a perceived disconnect between our young people and their church. The likely scenario will be for each church to cater for its own young people on Sunday mornings with occasional joint events and activities with the other churches, so that what is good in the current set-up isn't lost. Katherine Striesow, Peter Neill, Alan Burrows and Glynis Wilkinson will join Rob Powell to represent St James on a working group along with reps from the other Team churches to take this forward. It was also agreed that a change of direction for FYC is required due to falling attendance at club nights and the current dangers of knife crime. Rob reported that the current role of p/t Youth Work Manager could be made redundant, replaced by a f/t Outreach Youth Worker who can engage externally with the local community on the Furzedown Rec and in local schools, and to encourage young people to connect with faith. The PCC agreed that this idea should be explored further and the PCC will be updated and consulted further at the July meeting.

## **8. Fabric Report**

1. Appointment of Online Faculty Applicant: Rob suggested that the Church Manager should fill this role. All in the PCC were in favour.
2. AV screens: Further to the appointment above, it was agreed that Christina could now formally apply online for the required faculty.
3. Fire Safety Works: Rob advised the PCC that these were almost complete.
4. Building for the Kingdom: Nick Burt advised that key issues are being addressed over the next three months; the next step is appointing an architect to carry out a feasibility study.

## **9. Time for God Intern**

Rob left the meeting at this point due to a conflict of interest, handing the Chair to Adam Seymour-Davies. Our Time for God internship post will be coming to an end in August and will not continue. In view of this, Johan Allen brought a proposal to the PCC for creation of a temporary post of 'Interim Children's Worker' for a term of one year from September 2019. This would cost an additional £5,500 above the amount we currently pay. Johan Allen proposed this to the PCC, and the motion was seconded by Nick Burt. It was approved unanimously with the exception of one abstention.

## **10. Any other business.**

None.

Adam closed the meeting at 10.06pm with a prayer from Johan and the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 8pm in the Church Centre.