

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

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Present:** Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Frances Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Monica Gordon, Steve Linton, Yvonne Mason, Millie Miller, Femi Nzegwu, Mark Pybus, Stephanie Sulaiman, Jane Thorpe, Christina Contreras.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Carol and Nick Burt, Grace Museve, Susan Ribeiro, Adam Seymour-Davies, Glynis Wilkinson, Peter Neill.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Rob proposed as Chair to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 and they were agreed unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
  1. **Fire Safety (item 4.2)**

Christina reported that two quotation inspections were done at the beginning of June, however two of the companies have not forwarded any quotes yet. Christina will continue seeking quotations to carry out the works hopefully during the summer.
  2. **Church Day Out**

Feedback forms were handed out to attendees and expected to be received back by September. Once all feedback is back there will be a debrief. There is momentum and positivity for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Out in 2019 in preparation for a Church Weekend Away in 2020.
  3. **Review of Corporate Prayer (item 6)**

This item will be discussed in detail in our September meeting.
  4. **Building for the Kingdom (item 8)**

The first draft of the Architect's Brief is complete and we are working towards producing a final version. This will enable us to commission a Feasibility Study for which a shortlist of architectural practices is being currently established. Meanwhile, the first stage in the process which will eventually lead to the Full Business Case, namely the Project Mandate, has been completed and sent to the diocese for approval and sign-off.
  5. **Small Group Strategy (item 10)**

A working group has been meeting on behalf of the PCC and has developed an approach which will build on what St James already have regarding Home Groups. They will now be called Small Groups instead. There are two main purpose statements:  
"Small Groups at St James are small, Christ-centered communities meeting regularly for Bible study, fellowship, prayer, worship and service, fun, mutual support, accountability and mission."  
"Group members will encourage each other to grow as active disciples, rather than passive spectators, encourage others to join a group and support those who wish to grow in leadership."  
The new Small Group strategy will be launched on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July with encouragement for people to join a group in the autumn.

## 5. Finance Report

### Overall

The result shows a surplus of £6,579 v budget of -£6,235, which is a variance of £12,814. As mentioned in the last report, this is largely due to the inclusion of £11,500 in the budget for feasibility fees for the Building for the Kingdom project, which has not been spent to date. Without this the budget for the period will be reduced by £4,792 with a variance of £8,022. Although this report is for five months, and not the full second quarter, these are encouraging figures.

### Income

Our income over this period has given us much to give thanks to God for. Taking into account the Gift Day receipt, we have an income of £85,149 v a budget of £81,485 with a variance of £3,563. This is thanks to new regular, and increased, donations being received. Church/centre receipts are above budget, and property income matching its budget currently at this point. Variances are largely due to timing.

## **Expenditure**

Expenditure during this period was £78,569 compared with a budget of £87,720 – an underspend of £9,151. After considering the amount set aside for the feasibility study (£4,792), this leaves an underspend of £4,359. Once again, the most significant area this arises from is in property costs where there were no major repairs to cover.

These expenses also include those associated with the recent Church Day 2018. Again, due to invoice timing, the full breakdown will appear in the next set of management accounts. However, the full cost was £1,236.40 and this has been offset using donations received of £500 and receipts of £489, leaving a shortfall of £247.40 which has been settled using church funds as agreed by the PCC in March 2018, and is reflected in the June 2018 management accounts under Church Activities.

## **6. Future of Youth Provision**

Fiona Nzegwu gave a presentation to the PCC on the future of our joint youth provision with the other Furzedown Churches. (See attachment)

This covered both the Youth Ministry (FCL) and the Furzedown Youth Centre (FYC). The two trustee boards have identified two areas of disconnect in the current set up – between FYC and the Youth Ministry, and between the Youth Ministry and the churches.

Fiona also reported that MLBC is considering having their own Youth Ministry provision, this would have a massive impact on St James youth provision.

Various options are being explored to address these issues and it is hoped a decision on future direction will be made in the autumn.

1. Do nothing – keep things running as at present.
2. Amalgamate the current Furzedown Churches and FYC roles (i.e. create a new post to oversee all Furzedown youth provision).
3. Churches take their own youth provision in-house. FYC continues with some changes.

### Feedback from PCC Discussion:

- Every challenge is an opportunity and as such this might be an opportunity for St James to prepare for the wave of new young people coming through and growing up.
- Do nothing is not an option.
- Amalgamating will be very powerful, as a church we need to engage with the young people and try to retain their enthusiasm.
- This will have an impact on the 'Building for the Kingdom' Project.

Rob proposed to take the options into a vote although this will not be binding as the options could change.

1. Do nothing – 0
2. Amalgamate – Unanimously agreed.

We paused for prayer at this time.

## **7. St Paul's Application to join FCL**

St Paul's Church has applied to join Furzedown Churches Limited (FCL). This would give St Paul's a place on the FCL board and they would also contribute financially.

Johan proposed to accept the application, Steve seconded the motion and it was agreed unanimously.

## **8. Staffing**

Rob presented a proposal paper concerning the future of staffing in the church office (see attached). After discussion, the PCC approved the proposal in principle and asked Rob to discuss it with the Church Manager and Admin. Assistant before reporting back to PCC at the next meeting.

## **9. No other business.**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018