

Minutes of PCC

Date of Meeting 18th July 2016

Venue St John's Church

Members present Antony Spencer (**AS**), Debby Bridge (**DB**), Brennan Horne (**BH**), Dave Atkins (**DA**), Helen Baines (**HB**), Issy Bartram (**IB**), Cassie Beeson (**CB**), Sue Clegg (**SCI**), Ben Collins (**BC**), Carol Dealey (**CD**), Alison Earey (**AE**), Paul Featherstone (**PF**), David Harvey (**DH**), Geoff Heyes (**GH**), Stella Jennings (**SJ**), Patty McCulloch (**PM**), Hannah Muthuveloe (**HM**), Helen Nixon (**HN**), James Reed (**JRd**), Kenneth Reid (**KR**), Mark Roper (**MR**), Jeremy Thompson (**JT**)

1 Welcome and Communion

GH opened on prayer followed by **AS** who reviewed the past few years stressing God's goodness throughout some difficult times. Using the analogy of a ship **AS** stated God had brought a measure of healing to the church having been battered as if in a storm. He believed St. John's is now ship shape and in good order and the work of the Governance Group is a part of that. A new captain had been appointed and the finances were in good order and were further evidence of God's blessing. People's faith has increased and some services are really buoyant although there is still work to be done. **AS** thanked the PCC but more so thanked God for all His blessings on the church.

This was followed by prayers from the group and then by Communion.

2 Apologies Pat Brydon Rezi Kardellemaj Lis Whybrow

3 Declarations of Interest

Sue Clegg – Safeguarding Stella Jennings - Communications

4 All Age Worship Ben Baker

In a paper distributed before the meeting Ben set out his reflections on the value of bringing together people of all ages for collective worship, prayer and teaching.

Addressing the PCC Ben said that being integrated in the church is key. Done properly everyone should be able to find a home in worship. He quoted the Russ Parker day as being an example of good practice. In the 24hour prayer

time coming up 1 hour will be given over to families. Marcus Pagnam intends to write a worship song especially for young people.

Answering questions Ben acknowledged the problems of combining the two morning services once or twice a month but thought there was value in coming together. He valued the joining of the whole congregation at the start of the 9.15 service. Maybe there was scope for more teaching for parents on how to develop the faith of young people.

Other contributions included the issue that many young people especially boys prefer practical work. The view was expressed that some parents value the peace and relative quiet away from their children for a short time as well as using it as a time for prayerful reflection and learning.

There was a vote of thanks for Ben's work for this meeting and over the last few years.

5 Minutes of June PCC

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by CD and seconded by JDRF. There were four abstentions. All those voting voted in favour.

6 Matters Arising

AS reported that the History of St John's was now being printed privately by Karl and Gill McIlwaine.

The driveway of the vicarage was being re-laid the next day.

The asbestos survey had been completed and results were being awaited.

SCI stated that it was her intention to remain on the PCC if re-elected and to carry on as Safeguarding Officer.

7 Governance Group

CD reported that due to email difficulties not all PCC members had been able to complete the survey, therefore there would be a presentation of responses at the next PCC meeting.

8 Deanery Synod

CD stated that there had been an ongoing discussion about the Common Fund with differing views as to the desirability or otherwise of publishing the contribution of each church.

CD outlined the progress of the Growing Younger initiative. More details would be available in time for September's PCC meeting.

9 Staff Update

AS reported that Diana Hopkins had accepted the post of Children's Pastor as from January 2017.

AS also stated that Stella Jennings was retiring from her communications post at the end of October.

10 Communications Paper

Commenting on the paper previously circulated the view was expressed that the website redesign ought to come earlier than in three years' time. In response it was stated that this was a resource issue. The current site was described as 'clunky'. It became clear that a revamped or totally rewritten website was desirable but expensive in view of the skilled technical people needed. The possibility of an off the shelf package was mooted. The meeting was generally in favour of paying for the expertise required. The view was expressed that the current website seemed designed for church members whereas some other churches design theirs for the community to use.

Leonard Browne is closely involved with this and other issues.

A motion to approve the move to make the communications post a full time appointment was proposed by **BH** and seconded by **HN**. All voted in favour with one abstention.

Thanks were expressed to Stella and Fran for all their hard work over the years.

11 Safeguarding

SCI gave a presentation during which she stated the following key points

The PCC as trustees have responsibilities and a legal duty of care.

Leonard has a specific responsibility for safeguarding.

The church needs to be a safe organisation

- with zero tolerance of abuse

- ability to support the abused

- provide protection from the abuser.

An unsafe organisation is where

adults fail to notice or report abuse

the institution is regarded as being more important than those they serve

unsafe practices become the norm.

SCI spoke of the danger of untrained workers not spotting potential abuse situations and/or not reporting it.

The church should be a welcoming respectful environment safe from abuse.

The PCC are required to:

- 1) Review policies and procedures annually
- 2) Publish a Safeguarding Statement together with details of the Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Bishop's advisor.
- 3) Appoint and support a Safeguarding Officer.

All appointments (voluntary and paid) must comply with Safe Recruitment Guidelines. Ministry leads together with SCI fulfil this for those working with children and vulnerable adults.

SCI stated that this year's Holiday Club volunteers have been processed.

Currently, the whole church 217 volunteers had been vetted, 9 were in the process of being checked and 35 require safeguarding training in the next 3 months. **SCI** would hope to do this in the autumn, before the Diocese releases plans for training in 2017.

Recruitment, vetting, training and incident records must now be kept for 75 years.

PCC must ensure all complaints are properly handled to protect

children and vulnerable adults

leaders and volunteers

the reputation of the church and Diocese

Failure to do so could invalidate our insurance cover with very clear consequences.

The presentation was very well received. In response to questions **SCI** suggested that a safeguarding booklet be created as a crib for PCC members.

SCI was thanked for her presentation and the work put into it.

Antony Spencer

This was **AS** 's last official appearance at the PCC meeting. Thanks and appreciation were expressed for all his hard work over the past few years and in particular his work with Standing Committee and PCC.

AS then left the meeting.

12 Standing Committee Feedback

GH listed the main items discussed as follows.

Fabric

Vicarage

Church offices

Staff changes

Finance (some building work had been deferred leading to a possibility of a small financial surplus)

Communications paper

Leonard's Institution details

General review of volunteering in the autumn to be led by Leonard.

13 AS Sabbatical Leave

GH put forward the proposal for the PCC to agree to fund **additional** costs associated with a sabbatical for Antony Spencer (and associated costs for Pat Spencer) from October to December 2016 totalling approximately £2700. All expenditure should be fully receipted and paid as expenses, however an advance payment will be made so that sufficient funds are available for the trips.

In support of the proposal **GH** stated that Bishop David and Rev Mark Price agreed to this 3-month sabbatical. The normal pattern is for a sabbatical every seven years. The Diocese and the BDBF would fund most of the cost. During this time AS would travel to the USA to meet Anglican clergy who have been through Russ Parker's Wounded. Churches process. Later AS will spend some time in Devon reflecting and writing on his ministry and experiences and how the Lord may want to use that in the future. Back in the Midlands AS will spend time meeting with other clergy sharing and receiving support. At Christmas time will also be spent with family something that has been sacrificed in recent years.

The proposal was seconded by **HM**. There were two abstentions. Of those voting all voted in favour with no objections.

DB closed in prayer