

## Minutes of PCC

Date of Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Venue The Upper Room

**Members present** Antony Spencer (**AS**), Debby Bridge (**DB**), Dave Atkins (**DA**), Issy Bartram (**IB**), Cassie Beeson (**CB**), Pat Brydon (**PB**), Carol Dealey, (**CD**), Ben Collins (**BC**), Alison Earey (**AE**), Paul Featherstone (**PF**), Stella Jennings (**SJ**), Rezi Kardellemaj (**RK**), Hannah Muthuveloe (**HM**), Helen Nixon (**HN**), James Reed (**JRd**), Kenneth Reid (**KR**), Jeremy Thompson (**JT**), Lis Whybrow (**LW**)

Steve Foster (**SF**) in attendance

**Apologies** Helen Baines, Sue Clegg, Vinod Diwakar, David Harvey, Geoff Heyes, Brennan Horne, Patty McCulloch, Mark Roper

### 1 Welcome

**AS** welcomed recently elected and re-elected members and opened with prayer.

### 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

### 3 Chairman's Remarks

**AS** shared that he felt the church community was in a good place. The new vicar's arrival was eagerly awaited, the financial position was much improved and there had been an impressive response to the appeal to help the Resurrection Church in Beirut. Also encouraging was the increase in number and composition of the congregations. However, he was exercised by the difficulty in filling vital key posts such as Children's Worker as well as children and youth leaders needed for September.

**AS** encouraged PCC members to share what they hoped to see in St John's in the near future. Below is a record of the replies:

An increased sense of togetherness      Greater desire to listen to God

A sense of community and development social action

Walking in God's spirit in the Resurrection Church and in St John's

More opportunities to encourage all at St John's to share in the privilege of prayer

A mission on our doorstep – how people belong and integrate

A new season and a new time – a time of renewal

A need to equip people in their discipleship in the rest of the week

Seeing the church grow in the local community

Drawing the community into the church

A love to see the church building full.

A desire to see more new people discover the joy of volunteering

A longing to see the church as a place of real welcome, especially for newcomers and those returning to our church.

Develop further the sense of community across the diocese

Greater unity and outward looking to our community

Exciting times looking forward to God's future provision, outward looking, enthusiasm, volunteering

Outbreak of joy, church on fire bringing out what God really wants us to do

Natural volunteering            More home groups and more people joining

Learning more to give God the glory in all we do

#### **4 Modus Operandi**

**AS** set out the ground rules on how the PCC is to operate

- 1) The agenda is set by the Standing Committee and is normally sent to PCC members at least seven days in advance.
- 2) PCC members can request items to be added to the agenda if they are submitted two weeks in advance to **DA, AS** or **GH**.  
**DA** to send reminders ahead of this deadline.
- 3) AOB to be sent to **DA** in writing before the meeting.
- 4) Non material amendments to the minutes to be sent by email to **DA** by the given deadline.
- 5) The use of *reply all* and *send to all* is to be avoided.
- 6) **Decisions must be kept confidential until they are made public**
- 7) **All PCC discussions and matters must remain confidential.**

## **5 Meetings**

New members were reminded of the briefing meeting at 7.00 June 20<sup>th</sup>

Safeguarding training for all trustees will be delivered in July.

## **6 Approval of Minutes**

- a) The minutes of the PCC meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> were accepted following a proposal from **JRd** seconded by **LW**. All those at that meeting were in favour. There were three abstentions.
- b) The minutes of the short PCC meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> were accepted following a proposal from **DB** seconded by **CD**. All voted in favour apart from one abstention.
- c) The minutes of the APCM 20<sup>th</sup> April were accepted as a true record.

## **7 Adoption of Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults**

There was some discussion about what ‘ongoing’ meant in practice. Also church members, especially those with any designated role, who see potential abuse and do not report it are considered to have not fulfilled their responsibilities. This is a developing situation and general interpretation of requirements will be led by the diocese and a review made every three years or as required.

Other issues related to the use of the correct term ‘Mental Illness’, the proper storage of documents, procedures to follow if a violent person arrived, photographs, gifts registers etc. All financial gifts are recorded. No financial gifts of any size should be accepted.

It was recognised that all these are ongoing issues but the proposed policy was accepted unanimously on a proposal from **AE** seconded by **HM**

## **8 Governance Report**

**KR** explained the origin of the group, its task and its reporting deadline of Jan 2017. The group had met Steven Skakel (of St Philip’s Dorridge) who had made some useful suggestions.

## **9 History of St John’s Church**

**AS** stated that Gill McIlwaine had written a history of the church and had been encouraged to publish it as a book. The cost would be over £2000 for 350 copies. An alternative would be to publish it in-house. After some discussion it was decided to publish in-house after first exploring other low cost publishing

methods. The motion was proposed by **AS** and seconded by **BC**. There were two abstentions - everyone else voting in favour.

## **10 Diocesan Report**

**CD** reported that the Birmingham Diocese (one of the poorest in the country) is changing its financial method of operation. From 2017 churches will have to bid for financial help and will have to do so within the Growing Younger Project guidelines. Some other projects will suffer.

## **11 Staff Update**

**SF** reported that only one application had been received for the post of Children's Worker by the deadline. A preliminary interview will be held on Sat 21<sup>st</sup>. There is increasing competition for suitable candidates.

Prayer was said for this Saturday's interview and for the situation in general.

## **12 Standing Committee Feedback by DB**

- 1) It was reported that Mr and Mrs Kind had met with **AS** and had visited the vicarage. Some healing was taking place.
- 2) The Safeguarding Officer job description had been tightened up.
- 3) The vicarage upgrading was well in hand and the garden was greatly improved. The driveway remains a problem.
- 4) Alison Browne's parents will be joining Alison and Leonard in the vicarage. Improvements made for them will be paid for by the family.
- 5) There was an update on the new Children's Worker's situation.
- 6) The office layout will be reorganised to maximise efficiency.
- 7) The financial situation regarding Resurrection Church Beirut was discussed.
- 8) The deadline for applying for a new curate for 2017 is May 2016. This involves St John's staff working hard through many different forms.
- 9) Ben Baker and Sean Clancy are going forward for training in the ministry.
- 10) Bob Dunnett's leaving gift was discussed.
- 11) Gill McIlwaine's suggestion of the book was discussed.
- 12) £50 was allocated for the Governance group's work.

### 13 AOB

Services during the week: who specifically are they for, and how they are marketed was briefly discussed. **AS** felt they were growing in popularity and are all services are open to everyone who wants to come even though each has its own characteristics.

The meeting closed in prayer.

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