



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 pm

In the chair: Mark Davie

**Present:** Caroline Adams (CA), Tim Bayton (TB), Susan Coombs (SC), Mark Davie (MD), Stuart Macwilliam (SM), Rachel Martindill (RM), Jill Mather (JM), Charlotte Payne (CP), Mike Payne (MGP), Marilyn Pegg (MP), Fr Henry Pryse (Fr H), Pat Read (PR), Joan Ridgway (JR) Nigel Ridgway (NR), Cherie Snell (CS), Fr Steve Turner (Fr S), Jim Weeks (JW).

Fr H opened the meeting with prayer at 7.33 pm with reference to St Catherine and Isaac Watts, both remembered that day in the church's year, a mark of the great variety in the universal church.

**1. Apologies** were received from: Anita Atherton (AA), Anne Killingback (AK), Fr Martin Poolton (Fr M).

### **2. Social Justice Group – an update**

- i. CP thanked the PCC for the opportunity to speak to the PCC.
- ii. She then updated the PCC on the trial of Traidcraft coffee over Sainsbury's Fairtrade coffee on Sunday mornings. Some people had indicated the former was weaker and would cost more to achieve the same taste.  
In response to JW's question of how many had responded, CP said about 5 had voiced this opinion.  
As Traidcraft coffee includes a donation to the growers in its price, JR suggested that the church make an extra donation to the charity while continuing to use the Sainsbury's Fairtrade coffee brand.  
The PCC supported this proposal, agreeing that it was most important that the money went to the growers.
- iii. Sons and Daughters charity – the organisers had spoken to the Social Justice Group and are asking for support from St James'. CP commended the article about the charity in the December Contact Magazine. A decision will be made at the February PCC meeting when charities are chosen.
- iv. CP said that Canon Robin Murch had asked if St James' would be willing to offer him a temporary exhibition of his theological paintings or an opportunity to talk about his work.  
NR asked if there was a link with Social Justice which CP confirmed.  
TB asked if he was hoping to sell his paintings and CP explained that they were not for sale and any donations were given to Christian Aid.  
MD said that it was difficult to make a decision without knowing his work. It was agreed that PCC members would be given the chance to see them before any decision was made.

**Action: CP to email scans of some paintings to the PCC.**

- v. Being an Eco Church: CP requested a PCC slot to discuss the idea of St James' exploring this initiative.  
Fr H added there was a new team in the diocese, replacing Martyn Goss, the Social Responsibility Officer, who had retired earlier in the year. He suggested Chris Keppie might address the PCC in 2020 on this subject.
- vi. MD thanked CP for her exemplary presentation of exactly 15 minutes and for all the work done by the Social Justice Group.

### **3. Correspondence**

In addition, CA referred to the diocesan guidance on refresher safeguarding courses: the training is now targeted to the level the various positions in churches require rather than a general update course.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of the Last PCC Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> October 2019) and Receipt of the Notes from the Standing Committee Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Proposed RM, seconded TB).

### **5. Matters Arising**

#### **From the PCC Minutes**

- i. Minute 7: see Fr H's report.
- ii. Minute 9: JW has received two laptops from Sue Fallon and Annamaria Blackwell and two further have been offered by Sue Lane.

**Action: JM to write letters of thanks to Sue, Annamaria and Sue.**

#### **From the Standing Committee notes**

None arising.

### **6. Rector's Report**

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by Fr H (see file).

- i. Fr H added his thanks to TB and others for the new Contact magazine and Christmas card.  
For information and prayer:
- ii. Win Swift's funeral will be held at 11.30 on 04.12.19.
- iii. Sue Pinn is in hospital awaiting an MRI scan.

### **7. Curate's Report**

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by Fr S (see file).

- i. He had met Alison Stock at a training session on legal matters for curates. He will send her contact details to church officers.
- ii. He reported that he and Fr H had spent an entertaining afternoon at Toronto House where they had met both a bearded dragon and the Community Builders.

### **8. Treasurer's report**

The PCC received with thanks the report and statements previously circulated by RM (see file).

- i. RM reported a slight downward trend on collections and stewardship in recent months and a rise in hall hire income. MD asked if it was due to the increase in hall fees. RM: partly, but also due to three extra months over summer.

- ii. Next year the Common Fund payment will increase by 2.7% to £82723 (£6794 monthly).

## 9. Churchwardens' report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by NR and NW (see file).

- i. Christine Lee wishes to gift the Compassion sculpture of two angels to St James'. NR asked the PCC to consider carefully this legacy gift, seen by Ms Lee as her "children". TB asked if the legacy were accepted would it be for all time.

SM asked us to consider the artistic and spiritual merit of the sculpture without the 'back story'.

PR, CP and MP mentioned that the sculpture was becoming very well known in Exeter, MP calling us "privileged".

NR reported that Hugh Harrison had declared it "perfect".

SM liked the idea that it might be loaned occasionally to other churches.

JM thought it was aesthetically in keeping with the building.

The PCC resolved that NR should gratefully accept her gift.

**Action: NR to communicate with Ms Lee.**

- ii. NR suggested that the church should continue to be alarmed with links to the police.
- iii. Fr H thanked JW and Stuart Cook for their help over the theft of his bicycle on the evening of the Deanery Synod meeting.

JW said that with higher resolution cameras we could have identified the criminal who took it from the bike rack.

CS asked the cost of better cameras: NR said a few thousand pounds, so possibly to be considered for the future if incidents continue.

## 10. Committee Reports

### Safeguarding

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by CA, the Safeguarding Officer (see file).

- i. CA will be approaching new PCC members for DBS checks.
- ii. CA is currently consulting with groups on the updating of Risk Assessments.

### Health and Safety

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by CA (see file).

- i. CA will be updating some of the risk assessments for the regular events, for example, bell-ringing during the eucharist.
- ii. Risk assessments are shared with all those involved in activities.
- iii. CA reminded PCC members that all incidents relating to drug-use in the churchyard should be logged and the churchwardens and parish administrator informed so they can alert groups who hire the hall. Needle-proof gloves, litter-pickers and sharps boxes are available in the office and in the Wardens' cupboard in church.

### Fabric

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by NR (see file).

- i. Barry Holland and Barry Wedlake have submitted a plan for "Creating a Sacred Place Outside" where trees could be planted in memory of past members of the church. TB asked if there might be a problem with planting so close to the building.

JW wondered whether it might be an area for drug-users to use.

SM reminded the PCC of its ecological responsibilities.

PR suggested we spend some time pondering the plan as we had only received the document hours before the meeting.

NR suggested an arboreal expert be consulted.

It was agreed that the PCC liked the idea proposed but wished to follow up concerns about proximity to building and density of planting.

- ii. Sculpture of Christ in the Lady Chapel: NR and JR had found it to be both fragile and precariously fixed when they tried to dust it. Hugh Harrison FSA, specialist in woodwork, examined the piece, declaring it be an early 19<sup>th</sup> century (or earlier) lime wood statue, from a church bombed in WW2. HH said it had been painted about 150 years ago, although not intended originally to be painted. He also said it was a recumbent Christ in the tomb, not an erect one, and so suggested a different way of displaying it, for example, on a plain oak shelf. Eva Kasper, the donor, will underwrite costs for cleaning and repair by HH.

**Action: restorers from HH Conservation will remove the statue and secure it safely while they repair it.**

## **11. Confirmation of Allocation to Charities**

- i. NR explained that St James' gives 5% of its unrestricted funds to charity. Two thirds of the giving goes to overseas charities and one third to home-based ones.
- ii. The charities to be supported were decided in February 2019.
- iii. NR had proposed allocations (see file). RM asked why less (£200) was proposed for St Peter's Malawi project than the other charities and proposed they be given the same as other overseas charities (£400). As St Peter's students help at Lunch Club and have given talks about the charity over several years, there was general approval for this suggestion.

TB thought USPG received a disproportionate amount in relation to others and was also supported by proceeds from Lent Lunches. MD explained it was a long-standing charity at St James' and one which received our donation by monthly standing order. TB suggested we give the extra £200 to St Peter's and reconsider the standing order to USPG from January.

JW proposed that, as we were not in a position to investigate charities during the meeting, we should accept the allocations as proposed by NR and make changes in the 2020 allocations (see SM).

10 in favour, 5 against

## **12. Report from Deanery Synod**

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by MGP (see file).

- i. In response to NR's question about the relevance of these minutes, JR explained how inspirational the talk on the psalms James Mustard had been. Fr H added his thanks to CP, MGP and JR for providing the opening worship.

## **13. Any other business (notified to JM 48 hours in advance)**

- i. “Joy 2020”: the Bishops’ mission initiative to “serve the people of Devon with joy”. In the Exeter Archdeaconry, Bishops Robert, Jackie and Nick will join with churches in the archdeaconry in a number of mission activities over the weekend of 20-22 March. Local churches are encouraged to be involved and supportive of this mission initiative. JR was of the opinion that the main focus seemed to be the towns and villages of Devon outside Exeter, the people of Exeter perhaps having many opportunities to “see a Bishop”. Our main input, therefore, could perhaps be on the Mothering Sunday weekend, when Bishop Jackie would be at the Pinhoe Road Sainsbury’s: St James’ could support by their presence and by making and distributing posies.

**14. Date of next meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room.

For information: Standing Committee meets 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020; APCM on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**15. Closing prayer** at 9.15 pm.

Jill Mather  
Secretary to the PCC  
25.11.19