



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Monday 10th February 2020 at 7.30 pm

In the Chair: Nigel Williams

Secretary: Jill Mather

Present: Caroline Adams (CA), Anita Atherton (AA), Tim Bayton (TB), Mark Davie (MD), Anne Killingback (AK), 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), Nigel Williams (NR).

1. Fr H opened the meeting with prayer at 7.30 pm.
2. **Apologies** were received from Susan Coombs (SC), Stuart Macwilliam (SM), Fr Martin Poolton (Fr M)
3. **A report from the Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) Conference, October 2019**

Fr S reported that he, JR and JM had attended a conference run by LYCIG, an organisation which has worked for 20 years with churches of any tradition and denomination who are interested in exploring ways their churches can be helped to grow. This course was run for a group of local churches from the Anglo Catholic tradition and was led by Bishop Philip North. The course recognises 12 steps of growth (some of which we already have taken) and then explores several approaches. The course is “intentional” – very much focused on a desire to prayer for growth. Fr S ended by leading the PCC in the LYCIG prayer for church growth and encouraged us all to take away the prayer and use it daily.

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

JR then spoke of her experience – the encouragement she had found in exploring how churches of the catholic and sacramental tradition can grow. She mentioned the ways that we are already welcoming and outward-looking. But she also pointed out that at St James' we are a group of about 150 in a parish of 9000, one with no other churches in the parish. There are, therefore, opportunities to reach out with the tools given us in the course to lead more people to Christ.

JM spoke of the impact the course had had on her thinking about the ways we provide for young people at St James'. A statistic which had remained vividly with her was from the Church of England's own 'Statistics for Mission': that over 80% church members become Christians before they are 20. That puts a huge responsibility on our shoulders – to care and nurture the faith of our youngest members. We have seen growth in recent years with the Messy Church initiative and there are children attending JAM each Sunday on a fairly regular basis. Once they get to 11, however, numbers fall away – for a number of reasons. Teenagers are becoming independent of their families and are often busy on Sunday mornings with other activities.

So perhaps we might ask ourselves some serious questions: are we welcoming of young teenagers in our church community and in our services? Are we providing for their needs – spiritually and physically and financially? Are we providing the right activities – at the right times? Do we have leaders with time, energy and the right skills to give to this age group?

She proposed an action: that a group be set up comprising more than just the 11-ups leaders to plan strategically for young people. That it be tasked with thinking of new ways of working with teens and young people and that it should report to the July PCC.

The PCC discussed briefly some of the areas for exploration and who might be involved: opportunities to work with other churches; the need also to be considerate of older teens, university students and young parents; the need to link up young people with others in the city; the need to explore initiatives already in existence in the city and to seek guidance from other church leaders.

It was agreed that ideas be shared by email at first and then a group of volunteers should follow up those ideas and report to PCC on 20.07.20 with specific proposals.

Action: JM to seek suggestions from PCC members at first by email and then to coordinate the strategic planning group.

4. Correspondence

- i. In addition, letters of thanks had been received from Exeter Gateway Centre, Families for Adoption, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Tearfund and Compassionate Friends.
- ii. TB asked that the letter of thanks for the Contact magazine be sent to the Communications group.
- iii. CP's request for a stall in Fairtrade fortnight: agreed on 08.03.20 after the 10.00 Eucharist.

The meeting moved to **Part 2 – Confidential Minutes not for electronic distribution.**

The Meeting returned to **Part I.**

5. Approval of the Minutes of the last PCC Meeting (25.11.19) and Receipt of the Notes from the Standing Committee Meeting (13.01.20)

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

6. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

From the PCC Minutes

- i. Minute 2 iv: CP had emailed scans of Canon Murch's art work.
Action: JM to forward them to PCC for consideration.
- ii. Minute 5: MP reported that the Deanery has some funds to support ICT purchases. JW thanked MP but reported that he had received several donations of second-hand laptops already and would be upgrading them from Windows 7 before they could be used.
- iii. Minute 10 iii: the Sculpture of Christ which had been taken down for renovation was found to be a sculpture of Christ recumbent. A decision needed to be made about how it should be re-mounted in church.

Action: NR to discuss with PCC members and to action its re-positioning.

From the Standing Committee notes

- i. Note 2 ii
Fr S had received this reply from the Operations Manager of Network Church, Roseanna McClune:

We are still on the lookout for a space for the Malayalam church to meet, however we haven't yet spoken to them about it - as we were wanting to see what possible options there were first. Jon Soper, our church leader will have a chat with them on Sunday to see if they would be open to moving.

But basically they meet currently on Sunday afternoons (from about 2.30 - 6.30pm) at Sidwell Street Methodist church, and they used one room, but do also use the kitchen to make some hot drinks. They also do have a little cupboard to store some of the kit - like an amp. They are currently paying £75 a month to the Methodist church, which I know is not much for room hire, but they are a small church made of up basically 2 families.

If there was anything you could offer, I would be really interested in having a chat with you about this.

Action: the PCC agreed that Fr S should discuss the matter further with Roseanna, bearing in mind the need to be flexible in the use of buildings.

7. Rector's Report

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

He added:

- i. It was unlikely the Guides' pancake party would go ahead as there was not enough interest.
- ii. MP had volunteered to help host the event, Prayer in a Secular Age, on 12.03.20.
- iii. Correction: the concert will be on 08.05.20.
- iv. The 2020 ordination schedule had been released: in Central Exeter, Bishop Robert will ordain Fr S, the Revd Sarah Cumming and the Revd Julia Hocking on 27.09.20 at 10.00 am in St James'. Fr S's first celebration of the Eucharist will be on 01.10.20 at 7.00 pm.

8. Curate's Report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by Fr S (see file). Fr S added that he would be working more closely with the Headteacher of Stoke Hill by planning assemblies jointly and welcoming the classes into some sessions at St James'.

9. Wardens' report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by NR and NW (see file). Thanks were extended to RM and NR for their work on reporting Statistics for Mission.

10. Treasurer's report

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

- i. RM added that the annual financial statements indicate that the overall financial situation is secure. The annual hall income is particularly significant: about £9000, 3000 people using the hall each year. She made the offer to go through the accounts in more detail outside the meeting should anyone wish to know more.
- ii. PR asked why the income from Messy Church did not show: RM replied that donations from people attending Messy Church are held by Sue Pinn and used each month for people to claim expenses. If claims exceed the amount held, a request is made to the treasurer with receipts for payment. Many volunteers do not claim expenses but see their expenses as contributions to Messy Church. The main expenses claimed are for food purchases.
- iii. MP asked whether the uniformed organisations were still encouraged to come to church as numbers at church parade had dropped recently. It was explained that Guides and Scouts are no longer affiliated to the Church of England in the way they had been previously, although they are still very much welcome at services should they wish to attend.

The PCC approved the annual financial statements (proposed MP, seconded MD).

Action: annual financial statements to be sent to the Charities Commission and Diocesan Office with the Annual Report (see file).

The Chair thanked the treasurer for the report.

11. Charities to be supported 2019 – 2020

- i. The Chair opened the discussion by asking whether there were any charities on the list the PCC no longer wished to support.
- ii. NR had circulated information on the financial situation of the charities supported last year by St James'. He suggested we look carefully at the needs of each of the charities as we make a decision.
- iii. CP had requested by email before the meeting that 'Sons and Daughters' be considered.
- iv. TB asked why USPG should receive so much more than others and why others should be evenly supported. He said the Charity Commission website showed USPG to have assets of around £46m and an annual income of around £4m, of which £3M come from investments. He felt, therefore, that USPG was not dependent on our donation in the way we had been led to believe.
- v. JW proposed a group of interested parties be convened to make a proposal to the PCC on the list of charities and allocations.
- vi. MD supported this proposal.

Action: a sub-group of MD, TB, RM, MP, PR, NW, CS, NR, with MD to convene, will bring the proposed list of charities to the next PCC meeting.

- vii. TB asked about the standing order to USPG: he was concerned that USPG alone received its donation by standing order, a method not approved by the PCC.

It was agreed that USPG be informed that the standing order would be cancelled after 31.03.20 and replaced by an annual donation like the other charities. (Proposed TB, seconded CA: the vote unanimously in favour.)

12. Committee Reports

Safeguarding

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

Health and Safety

The PCC received with thanks the report previously circulated by CA (see file). She added that a new fire blanket had been installed in the kitchen.

Fabric

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

- i. Interested PCC members looked at the placing of the sculpture after the meeting.
- ii. An arboreal expert had been consulted on planting for the memory glade and assured the PCC that the proposed planting would not affect the buildings.

- iii. Paths and ramps on the site to be checked to ensure they are suitable for those with mobility problems; the PCC approved NR to seek quotations for the work.
- iv. The office computer had been replaced and the vestry carpet is to be replaced.

13. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.30 pm.

Jill Mather, PCC Secretary

