

**ST MATTHEW'S PCC
MINUTES**

Meeting held in St Matthew's School on 15th September 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES:	IN ATTENDANCE:
Brenda James	Julia Britten	Tracey Kirkby
Rev'd Dominic Clarke Gill Rooney	Davina Hudson	(minutes)
David J Cooper Chrissy Roots	Pat Searle	
Steve Jolliffe David Wood	Sue Sergeant	
Helen Payne Sorrel Wood	Alan Waterhouse	

1 WELCOME AND PRAYERS

The meeting opened at 7:04pm with a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Julia, Davina, Pat, Sue and Alan

3 Bible Study

Dominic continued with a discussion started at the previous PCC meeting referring to 8 key features of growing churches. 'From anecdote to evidence - from evidence to action.' "A church that understands its context, actively engages with it and those who might not currently go to church." Ideas from this worksheet will be discussed at the PCC away day.

Examples brought up at this meeting were:

- To grow in faith, teach others, bring love, worship God, fight for social justice
- Develop training for emerging leaders
- Look at charities and the wider church
- Have an open air praise service in Whitehill
- Invite school newcomers and parents to a special service

Ideas will be collated by Dominic and discussed at the away day as starter material.

The church should consider the possibility of new housing in the area as an opportunity for promotion. 70% of our congregation already live outside the parish.

A new worksheet was then handed out. "A church needs a clear mission and purpose and clergy who are intentional about and prioritise growth."

Questions on the worksheet will be divided amongst those present as follows:

Q1 Helen, Q2 Gill, Q3 Steve, Q4a Chrissi, Q4b Brenda, Q5a Dave Wood, Q5b David Cooper, Q6 Dominic. The deadline for this is October 6th. Responses will be emailed to Tracey, who will collate them, and re-distribute to everyone.

The PCC have a good understanding of the local area. The church is not in the centre of the town, but the town has no real meeting place.

ACTION

All to do

4 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 21st July 2015

The minutes were proposed by Gill, seconded by Helen, and approved as a true record of the meeting.

5 Matters arising from the minutes

Some PCC members still need to complete their Safeguarding training.

The Parish Quiet Day will be held at Alton Abbey from 10am – 3pm on 17th October. The cost is £20 which includes lunch, and Alice Wood will be the leader. There is no agenda, and the day will include plenty of time for quiet reflection. The PCC were asked to attend if possible.

7c Tearfund. This item is pending as we have not heard back from them yet.

8a. The questionnaire about the proposed changes to the family service will be discussed by the worship committee and then passed back to the PCC. There were mixed responses, largely positive and a brief summary was distributed. It was noted that this is only for one service a month, and that a Communion service will also be available. An open meeting will be held on Wednesday after the Communion service for anyone to discuss this further. The bells would be rung from 8.30-9am. Some older people may find an earlier time more difficult to attend. This is intended to provide middle ground between the traditional services and Sunday Connect. It will not start until Advent 2015. The Worship Committee will be left to discuss the details.

8d Fabric. It was confirmed the brackets for the British Legion Standards were made at no charge to the church, and that they will be out in place in time for Remembrance Sunday. There is no cost to the church at all, and no permission is needed from the Archdeacon after all.

6 Correspondence

Alan has resigned as the Chair of the Deanery Finance Committee.

We have received the report from the Archdeacon's visitation, which highlighted the sinking of the sanctuary steps. The previous report focussed on the churchyard, and the thoughts presented then have been slightly relaxed, giving grieving families more freedom to display the items they feel they need to. Volunteers have been working on the churchyard, and it was agreed to give them a small gift of thanks at Harvest.

7 Items for discussion

7a Parishes have been asked to send their response to the 2016-18 budget back to the Diocese. Alan requested feedback from PCC members, but only received one response, so prepared a draft response (attached). Dom will alter it a little and send it back to the Diocese. At least 70% of our congregation live outside the parish, and this affects the way our Parish Share is calculated.

Dom

7b PCC Away day

Already discussed above.

7b Greatham Update

The two parishes are running in parallel and need to move forwards to work together.

Dominic proposed that from 2016 we have regular shared PCC meetings, possibly moving towards sharing all meetings in 2017. These would be in addition to our 6 meetings per year which are already planned. There would be less on the agenda on these occasions, but they would still be structured, sharing information, and sharing common problems.

It was suggested we start with two additional meetings per year, in the spring and autumn, but on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Potential dates would therefore be 16th February and 18th October 2016. Dominic will check this with Greatham and confirm.

Dominic to confirm

Greatham have serious financial problems, but they have enough reserves to last for three years if nothing changes.

7c School report

Term has recently started, and the Christian distinctiveness group continues.

The school choir have been invited to the family service on 18th October, new reception class children and parents will also be invited.

The school is almost at full capacity. Its popularity is still increasing, and there were not enough places this year for all who applied for reception entry.

It was proposed by Dominic that Jan Ashwell be appointed as Foundation Governor. This was seconded by David Wood, and agreed.

8 Reports from sub-committees

8a Worship Committee

The worship committee are due to meet on 29th September.

Last Sunday, Dominic shared The Peace at the end of the service. This will not happen every week, but may be a good idea for Healing services. This will be deferred to the worship committee.

Worship committee

8b Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

The PCT are now led by Julia, and meet regularly. The formal commissioning of LPAs has now taken place.

8c Fundraising and social committee

Apple day takes place next month, and is our main fundraising event of the year. There will be a café inside the church, a tea stall outside, tower tours, and the Blackmoor Bling jewellery stall.

It was suggested that a discussion be held in the spring as to whom will be leading events in 2016.

Spring agenda

8d Fabric report

At the Archdeacon's Visitation, it was noted that the electrical safety certificate had expired, and therefore invalidated the church insurance. The safety checks were carried out promptly after this, and surprisingly found to be in good order.

The Holiday Club borrowed the church's first aid kit, and found items to be out of date. Julia will arrange replacements. The first aid kit in the tower should also be

Julia

checked.

8e Finances

In his absence, Alan left a finance report, which was read by Dominic (attached). Our end of year bank balance is forecasted to be around £11,000. From this, we must decide what we can and can't pay. This will be discussed at the next meeting when Alan is present.

The re-launch of the Friends of St Mathew's Church will take place on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm after the communion service. The PCC would like clarification about what the money can and cannot be used for.

Alan

Two versions of the balance sheets for 2016 were handed out, starting with a zero balance. Explanatory notes were also read (attached). The first showed no payment of Parish Share, and the second showed all of the Parish Share being paid for the year 2016, but none of the debt accrued.

Victoria James (stewardship advisor) is meeting with Dominic and Alan, and the Diocese is giving lots of support.

The Diocese works out their annual budget, and divides it between parishes. If we don't pay our share, someone else has to.

Our long-term plan must be to increase the number of churchgoers to increase our regular income.

8f Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod are meeting this week

9 Any other business

9a We have been invited to sing Christmas carols in the foyer of Tesco in Bordon. This is not in our parish and St Marks have been invited to join us. It is undecided at the moment how we will divide the money earned. There will be no door-to-door carolling this year.

9b Items are being collected to send to refugees in Syria. Sorrel will put a notice in the pewsheet.

Sorrel

9c The Historic Churches Ride & Stride needs better advertising next year. The event takes place on 10th September 2016

10 Confirm dates and times of next PCC meetings:

- Saturday 7th November 2015 PCC away day 10am - 3pm
- Tuesday 17th November 2015 PCC meeting 7pm
- Tuesday 19th January 2016 PCC meeting 7pm
- Tuesday 16th February 2016 Combined PCC meeting (TBC)
- Tuesday 15th March 2016 PCC meeting 7pm

11 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.30pm with the grace

Minutes confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Signed:Date: