

**ST MATTHEW'S PCC
MINUTES**

Meeting held in St Matthew's School on 21st July 2015 at 7.00pm

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

1 WELCOME AND PRAYERS

The meeting opened at 7:07pm with a prayer.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Brenda, Chrissi and Alan

3 Bible Study

Dominic read from 1 Corinthians 3, and went through some of the material he had prepared for the PCC away day, based on a 2014 report 'From anecdote to evidence - from evidence to action'. In 1960, 24% of the population went to church, in 2000, this was 12%. Growing our church must be a priority.

For more details, have a look at www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk and www.fromevidencetoaction.org.uk.

His presentation identified 8 key features of growing churches and core values and these will be further explored at future meetings and away days:

1. Churches need to have a clear mission and purpose
2. Clergy and congregations are intentional about and prioritise growth
3. Clergy and worshippers who are willing to change and adapt
4. Churches where lay people as well as ordained clergy are active in leadership and other roles
5. Churches that actively engage children and young people
6. Churches with a welcoming culture who build ongoing relationships with people
7. Churches that nurture disciples
8. Clergy and leaders who innovate, envision and motivate people.

Dominic circulated a worksheet entitled 'Growing churches'. Does St Matthew's have a clear mission? Some thoughts from the meeting were:

- We serve our community through the drop-in and soup café, pastoral care and school.
- We are good at welcoming everyone and developing friendships. Would you go and sit with a stranger in church?
- Some people do not leave their pews during The Peace. Some do not enjoy or perhaps understand it.

ACTION

- Mission is about bringing more people to God.
- We already offer a broad range of worship services to attract people with different needs.

The PCC were asked to take the worksheet away and think of some ideas, returning them to Dominic by 8th September in time for the next PCC meeting.

All to do

4 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 9th June 2015

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

5 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June

5. The British Legion standards will be discussed later in the fabric report.

7a. The Safeguarding Policy update is complete

Completed

7d. The PCC away day planned for 18th July was cancelled as not enough people were available to attend. The new date is Saturday 7th November from 10am-3pm at Greatham.

7d. Alice Wood has agreed in principle to lead a Parish Quiet Day, and Saturday 17th October was agreed. Possible venues are Alton Abbey, or our own church.

7h. Dom has asked Mayfield Jays, and they do not see a problem with moving the cupboard which houses the altar frontals into the porch, as long as it is not damp there. If moved, moisture evaporators must be used, and the fabric carefully monitored. Alison Waterhouse from the Fabric Committee suggested placing the cupboard on a piece of carpet to keep it off the floor. Current dehumidifiers are rather old and will likely need replacing. The top of the cupboard in its current position does make a useful surface to put things on!

It was noted that the church looks nice and tidy with the children's area at the front by the pulpit. Moving it has already created more space.

People are being encouraged to sit down with their coffee to talk, and a coffee table will be moved to the back of the church to help with this.

The Waterhouse table could possibly be moved to the porch, or used to serve drinks from.

It is not a good idea to keep hymn books in pews as suggested. Apart from the songbooks falling off, it would make it much harder for the church cleaners.

A large sign is needed to go above the wall safe to say it is there. An alternative would be to get a new safe and have it installed inside the cupboard.

6 Correspondence

None

7 Items for discussion

7a PCC Away day

Already discussed above.

7b Greatham Update

There is no real news from Greatham. Dominic is now taking more services there. Messy Church is still going without Beth's input, but does need advertising better.

7c School report

The school has a Christian distinctiveness group, with a mixture of people from the congregation, the school and the PCC.

On 1st July, a successful open day for church members took place and was well received. This will be repeated in the future. Attendees went to Collective Worship (assembly), had a tour of the school, were able to spend time in class, and even stayed for school dinner!

The school staff continue to attend family services. The school choir will come to a family service once per term, perhaps singing alone, or with our own choir. The first date planned for this is 18th October.

This may also be a good date to invite someone from Tearfund to come and speak about their work. The school and church are planning a shared project in Malawi.

The school will also be taking part in the toilet twinning project.

To do

8 Reports from sub-committees

8a Worship Committee meeting 7th July

There was a feeling that the consensus of the worship committee may not have been exactly as written in the notes, and that the notes may not reflect a true record of the meeting.

A questionnaire about the possibility of changing the format of the family service is now in church, and includes explanatory notes. The decisions will be made by the PCC, and not rushed in to.

Communion would be offered at another time in the day, or perhaps at Greatham. Holy Communion should be offered at every parish church every Sunday.

When would the bells be rung if an earlier Communion service was also offered?

Could Communion be offered in a more informal way? Perhaps in smaller groups? Maybe this could help people learn more about Communion.

Sunday Connect brings people into church, but they do not learn about or take Communion.

A non-Eucharistic family service could be good middle-ground as a place to start growth. It could then lead to other groups and further learning for those who are interested.

The PCC were encouraged to try and get the whole church interested and give their support to this as a 12-month experiment. It is only one service a month, and will be reviewed at the end of the first year. It would not start until Advent at the earliest.

Questions were raised about what attraction the family service holds for adults who already attend church regularly, and especially those without children. Isn't taking away the Eucharist patronising, and shouldn't people be educated about it? Can't we explain the Eucharist better, with more about what happens and the reasons behind it.

If the questionnaires come back with strong opinions - what will the PCC do?

Look at results

The non-Eucharistic service may not meet everyone's spiritual needs, but it may encourage other people to come. Jesus asked us to go out and make more disciples.

People from school and Sunday connect who don't come to Eucharistic services should be asked whether they would come if there were no Communion.

The worship committee will discuss it again at their next meeting. There is time to talk about it, and no decisions will be made until a majority of people are happy with the idea.

It was suggested that we need a publicity officer (or team) who would contact the newspapers about our events and make posters. Dom will ask Chrissi if she is interested.

The list of planned services has been updated.

Midnight Mass has been changed to start at 11pm, and will finish at around 12.15am, so Communion will be taking place at around midnight. It might be appealing to more people if at the earlier time, we will give it a try and see how it goes.

8b Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

The PCT are meeting regularly, carry out visits, and participate in the healing services. The LPA commissioning takes place at St Peters on 16th August at 6pm.

8c Fundraising and social committee

The Fundraising and social committee have not met yet.

A quiz night is in the planning stages, with a possible date of 19th September at Blackmoor Village hall, but this is not confirmed. The PCC are happy with this in principle.

8d Fabric report

The fixings for the British Legion standards have already been made and Steve Johnson is ready to put them up, but needs help to do so. First, we were supposed to get permission, and then seek quotes, so this is a little premature! The Legion have agreed to pay for the fixings, but we may have to pay for (faculty) permission. The idea is that they will be sited on the kitchen side of the church, one wither side of the memorial plaque, as high up as is practical. The churchwardens will sort out the finer details.

It was proposed to seek an Archdeacon's certificate to fit two standard flag-bearing brackets on the south-west wall either side of the memorial. The churchwardens will do this and check the costs, and also apply for retrospective permission for the kitchen refurbishment. The PCC are happy with this proposal.

Julia suggested adding to the certificate the possible removal of one row of pews in principle. The PCC were not happy with this suggestion. It then puts pressure on to do so, and they felt it was wrong to seek permission for something just in case it may be required one day in the future.

8e Finances

In his absence, Alan left some notes, which were read by Dominic (attached). In summary, we are going to pay £6,000 towards the Parish Share this month. We are already behind the plan to pay the full Parish Share in full this year as well as some

of the debt.

Another increase is expected next year and Alan will present the budget at the November PCC meeting.

8f Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod have not met.

9 Any other business

9a The appointment of Sue Sergeant as a Foundation Governor was proposed and agreed.

9b A headstone in the churchyard has suffered weather damage, and the family asked if they were allowed to write on the stone. The answer is no, they must use proper stonemasons.

10 Confirm dates and times of next PCC meetings:

- Tuesday 15th September 2015 PCC meeting 7pm
- Saturday 7th November 2015 PCC away day 10am - 3pm
- Tuesday 17th November 2015 PCC meeting 7pm
- Tuesday 19th January 2016 PCC meeting 7pm
- Tuesday 15th March 2016 PCC meeting 7pm

11 MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.18pm with the grace

Minutes confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Signed:Date: