

**ST MATTHEW'S PCC  
MINUTES  
Meeting held in St Matthew's School on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm**

<b>PRESENT:</b>		<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>
Rev'd Dominic Clarke	Chrissy Roots	Julia Britten	Sara Hiscock
David J Cooper	Sue Sergeant	Gill Rooney	Tracey Kirkby
Davina Hudson	Alice Wood	Alison Waterhouse	(minutes)
Brenda James	David Wood	Sorrel Wood	
Steve Jolliffe	Alan Waterhouse		

**1 WELCOME AND PRAYERS**

The meeting opened at 7:39pm with a prayer.  
Alice was welcomed to her first PCC meeting.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Julia, Gill, Alison and Sorrel

**7a Youth and children's work**

Sara Hiscock, representing the junior church came to speak at the meeting. She informed the PCC there is not much space for children in church, and not much space for toys. She suggested a wooden toy store and a notice board where children's artwork could be displayed. This would be good promotion, and would give the message that our church welcomes children. When entering the church, there is no evidence that children go to church. Also, a back-up team of more helpers is required. She would also like some musical instruments so that children can join in with the songs.

Sara agreed to make a list of items which may be suitable. The congregation may be willing to buy some toys or equipment. Sara was thanked for her work, and left the meeting at 7.56pm.

**3 Bible Study**

Dom read Acts 2.42-47, which inspired the Vision for our church. There are 6 main objectives (which can be found on the accompanying Vision document) and these will become our focus and priority. The Vision evening will be repeated at the same time next year.

**4a Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**4b Minutes of the Extraordinary PCC meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The minutes were proposed by Alan, seconded by Brenda, and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**ACTION**

**Sara**

## **5a Matters arising from the minutes (17<sup>th</sup> November)**

- 5a.3. Worksheet on 'growing churches', this will now be deferred in favour of the new Vision.
- 5a.8a. The worship committee have still not met. It was suggested by Dom that throughout Lent, the Peace be shared at the end of the service. The Peace will be introduced at the end of the service, just before the choir process out, and people will be able to share the Peace during coffee time.
- 5a.8c. Arranging event leaders for Apple Day - for the March PCC meeting.
- 5a.8e. What can money from the Friends scheme be used for? Repairs or improvements to the building, work outside, and insurance costs. Not: for purchase of 'religious' items, e.g. wafers, candles, service books; stationery or printing, Parish Share. The PCC would ask the Friends for money when needed. Torben (the Friends Treasurer) will be asked to let the PCC know their financial position. The Friends scheme is designed to attract people from outside the congregation who care about "their church".
- 5a.9a. St Matthew's jumpers were not needed for singing carols at Tesco. It was rather cold, and Christmas outfits were more suitable! It was suggested that next year a banner be displayed.
- 5b. A wedding preparation course will be offered in 2017. Wedding couples have been invited to the family service on 21<sup>st</sup> February, and to a talk afterwards.
- 7d. School/church notice board - completed.

## **5b Matters arising from the Extraordinary minutes (13<sup>th</sup> December)**

It was confirmed that PCC approval has been given to 2 Children's craft workshops per year, and for church meetings that take place in individual houses, as written.

The money from singing carols at Tesco was divided into 3 equal parts, going to our church, St Marks church, and Naomi house hospice, from whom we have received a thank you letter.

## **6 Correspondence**

A letter about the Deanery Pastoral Measures has been received. When this process is complete, the 2 churches of St Matthew's and St John's will be held in plurality, but will continue to have separate PCCs. Greatham will be separated from its current benefice with Empshott, Hawkley and Priors Dean. Dominic will become the vicar of Blackmoor (rather than priest-in-charge), and rector of Greatham. Feedback is required by 20<sup>th</sup> February, and if there are no queries this will then go ahead.

A leaflet has been received about the Deanery Pilgrimage from Liphook to Portsmouth at the end of April and all are welcome to sign-up.

## **7 Items for discussion**

### **7a Youth and children's work**

Already discussed - see above

## **7b APCM**

A date of 17<sup>th</sup> April at 11am was agreed for the APCM.

## **7c Pompey Chimes**

A letter was received from Neil Pugmire about the distribution of the Pompey Chimes newspaper, asking us to review how many copies are needed and whether distribution could be improved. The PCC didn't think any change was needed.

## **7d Creating space in church**

At busy times, there is a lack of space at the back of the church, for example, socialising after the Christmas carol service, at All Souls, and other busy services can be difficult, especially when there are hot drinks involved. The church is busiest at Easter, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, and some large weddings and funerals.

Dom suggested removing three rows of pews from the back of the church to create more space for the children, and for bistro-style tables and chairs. Additional furniture could be put at the sides, the wiring boxed-in, and the area (including the aisle) could be carpeted to create a more welcoming feel. There would also be space for Taizé worship, or the Seder meal, and possibly even a space that other groups could use. At the end of a service, those using the chairs could be asked to help clear them away before other people leave their seats.

In removing the pews, seating for about 30 people would be lost (or 40 schoolchildren) and additional chairs would be needed. When the school is on church, the class presenting the assembly usually use the choir stalls, and the bottom two classes could sit on the floor at the front.

What would be the potential cost of this, and where would the money come from? Where could the chairs be kept? The Nativity scene needs the porch, so the chairs couldn't stay there, although some chairs are designed to take up very little space and could be hidden behind notice boards.

The cost of a carpet to cover the back area and aisle was estimated at £4,000+vat. The sale of the pews themselves may pay for their removal. Chairs may be £100 each. We could ask other churches who have completed similar work for their advice. People could be asked to sponsor a chair, perhaps placing a little plaque on it?

The first question is are we willing to do this? Should we pay off the Parish Share first? We would, of course, have to inform the Diocese of our idea and ask if they were happy to support us while we still owe them the Parish Share. The Diocese is owed half a million pounds from various parishes combined!

If a majority of people agree to the plan, then we can start working towards it, and the logistics of how to carry it out. At this stage we are not committing to actually doing to work, but to the idea of removing three rows of pews, re-carpeting, and boxing in the electrics. The PCC will research the facts and present them to the congregation, but there will not be a congregation vote, the PCC have been voted in and given the authority to make the decision.

Other options could also be explored. The porch area is uninviting and could be improved, moving the screen or creating a second floor. Or an extension could be put on the north-east side of the church.

Perhaps the nativity scene could be set up in the back of the church?

Those who are fond of the pews may be comforted in that only a few will be

removed, and that some have been taken away in the past. The way a church is used has changed since Victorian times.

Another issue with chairs is that manpower is needed to set them up and clear them away at the end of a service before people get up for their coffee.

The PCC will work on this idea first, before presenting it to the congregation. It is stressed that the PCC will be responsible for the decision making.

The Quinquennial report is due in May 2016, and our architect, Simon Goddard will be asked for his professional opinion. A faculty would be needed, the Victorian Society would need to be consulted, and English Heritage would also need to be informed.

Action points - project to be completed by the end of 2016

- Pray about it
- Explore how we might get the money needed
  - Dom & Alan to talk to the Diocese
  - Seek grants
- Find prices and options for chairs (David J Cooper to do)
- Dom, Alan and the Churchwardens to meet with Simon Goddard
- Draw up a plan - before Easter
- Get a price for moving the large screen

A vote was held on the proposal. 9 people voted in favour, with 1 abstention.

#### **7e Greatham Update**

The combined PCC meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February has been cancelled and a new date will be arranged

#### **7f School report**

The church notice board in school has been completed. A school notice board in church will be put in place and kept up to date by the school.

The school and church are supporting Tearfund together. A representative of Tearfund spoke to the church at a family service, and the school are also arranging for a speaker to come to them.

A 'rich man/poor man' supper is planned on 21<sup>st</sup> May following Christian Aid Week (11-18 May). It will be held at the school and catered by the school cook, with the help of Year 6 parents and children. 5 people chosen at random at the event will be given a posh meal, 5 people will be given only rice to eat and will sit on the floor, and everyone else will be given an ordinary dinner, perhaps soup. This is to highlight the differences between our country and the developing world.

The open day in January was moderately well-attended. The next one will be on 14<sup>th</sup> July and combined with a tea party at 3.15pm. The congregation will be invited, along with school parents and local people from Drift Road and Plantation Way.

#### **8 Reports from sub-committees**

##### **8a Worship Committee**

The Worship committee have not met

**To do**

## **8b Pastoral Care Team (PCT)**

The PCT are under more pressure, with lots of people in different locations in need of visiting. More people are needed to help the team, and a course may be available for volunteers.

## **8c Fundraising committee**

(The fundraising and social committees have divided back into two separate committees)

- A Valentine's Day lunch has been arranged.
- The quiz night was a success.
- A murder mystery evening is planned for April.
- Barn dance in September
- Apple Tasting Day in October.

## **8d Social committee**

Julia is now leading the new social committee. A meeting is to be arranged.

Julia

## **8e Fabric report**

The quinquennial report is due to take place in May. Telltale measures will be added to the chancel steps to measure the sinkage.

A working hot tap is needed in the cloakroom.

Dominic is concerned about the safety of those using the wooden step behind the lectern.

## **8f Finances**

The building work is paid for and all the money has now been received.

The whole of the Parish Share for 2014 has now been paid. Nothing has been paid for the year of 2015. We plan to start paying contributions towards the 2016 Share. A direct debit will be set up to show we are working to move forward on this. It was suggested that £300 per month would be affordable. This is not enough to cover the whole of the Parish Share, but will be a good start. We will still have £36,000 of debt to clear. Dominic, Alice, Alan and the churchwardens will meet to discuss this.

## **8g Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod meet this week.

## **9 Any other business**

**9a** Some readers at the Festival of 9 lessons and Carols could not be easily heard. The microphone must be kept near to the mouth to make it work. Readers could be rehearsed in advance, as some people speak more quietly when they hear their own voice on the PA system.

In the past, Robin has offered to lead a workshop on voice projection, and it was suggested this be arranged for everyone on the readers list.

**9b** Fewer people are attending the House Group. The congregation will be asked to challenge themselves during Lent by signing up for something new. Gavin will be

asked to make a presentation at a Sunday service.

**9c** It was suggested that a meeting be held in late summer to arrange Christmas dates. This will be kept for the PCC agenda in July.

**July**

**9d** Palm Sunday falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, so there will be no Communion in the main service. A decision has yet to be made on the format of the Passion Reading.

**10 Confirm dates and times of next PCC meetings:**

- Tuesday 15th March 2016                      PCC meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 17th May 2016                      PCC meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 19th July 2016                      PCC meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 20th September 2016              PCC meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 18th October 2016                Combined PCC meeting (TBC)
- Tuesday 15th November 2016              PCC meeting 7.30pm

**11 MEETING CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 10.11pm with the grace.  
It was requested that PCC members arrive early, so that meetings can start on time.

Minutes confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Signed: .....Date: .....