

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, READING STREET

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday, 7th September 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Item		Action
1	<p>OPENING PRAYER <u>Present:</u> Rev'd Philip Musindi opened the meeting with prayer. <u>Present:</u> R. Collins, C. Eldred, D. Foster, S. Foster, J. Graham, P. Jackson, P. Long, R. Owen, F. Pearse, G. Silsbury, B. Turp</p>	
2	<p>APOLOGIES: None received.</p>	
3	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2016 were approved, proposed by G. Silsbury and seconded by P. Jackson.</p>	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING 4.5: <u>CPAS course:</u> No further information had been received. 4.8: <u>Group Ministry:</u> The next meeting is scheduled for 13th October. Two new Ministers now having been appointed at St. Peter's and Holy Trinity, their relationship and work within the Group can begin. 4.11: <u>Lark in the Park:</u> Rev'd Musindi had attended during the day and found it to be well supported. 4.11: <u>First Aid boxes:</u> two boxes had now been replaced and updated; one in the church and one in the kitchen.</p>	GS
5	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: None received.</p>	
6	<p>COMMUNITY HALL PROJECT: G. Silsbury had written an article in the magazine as an update. The project group was continuing to meet, with Charlotte McCaulay and now with Richard Collins. Unfortunately the Bernard Sunley Group had replied that they were unable to support the project, but we could re-apply after twelve months. Mr and Mrs Naumann had worked very hard at looking at all the conditions around other similar funding and it had become increasingly obvious that it would be very difficult to obtain, as we don't appear to be "wanting"; being in a good eco and social position. The approach would now be a "salami slice" one, in order to bring this to a workable level. To this end a meeting will be held with Philip Graham on 13th September to plan the various phases, with costings and project managing being addressed. £25,000 has been earmarked in the fund and £4-5,000 has been identified from parishioners. Interest-free loans scheme is being looked at by the Legal Dept at Diocesan House and will require several presentations to get this going. Experience from another church undertaking this has been helpful. The most urgent phase will be the cladding, expected to cost in the region of £80,000. In the meantime, appeals have been made to two more organisations, but expectations are not high. There was agreement to G. Silsbury's suggestion of making enquiries regarding a loan from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. If this were to be taken up, it could impact the interest-free loan scheme from parishioners, as the insurance company would take priority with re-payments. Also, we would need to be certain that the refurbished hall's income would be sufficiently increased to support a loan. Rev'd Musindi mentioned that at a residents' meeting held recently to discuss</p>	

	<p>the building of new homes on nearby land, an employee from a timber company had offered help with the hall. (Some of those present were unaware there was a community hall nearby!). There was agreement to Rev'd Musindi's suggestion that the community hall project be mentioned at intercessions. A vote of thanks was passed to G. Silsbury and Mr and Mrs Naumann for all their work on this.</p>	
7	<p>FINANCE: The Treasurer had pre-circulated his financial report and income and expenditure details. August's Quota had been paid but not yet paid September's. This had been the pattern last month so the Treasurer was not unduly concerned; however, it was hard going to keep finances up-to-date. Tax refunds are largely right.</p> <p><u>Gift Aid:</u> Claiming Gift Aid was undergoing a change from M. Bruce's paper-based system to a computer-based system. Claims amounting to £2-2,500 up to and including August had been submitted. Malcolm Bruce is relinquishing his control of Gift Aid and a letter of thanks to him will be sent once his involvement ends completely. The Treasurer proposed in future that a Gift Aid secretary and a Stewardship secretary be appointed to relieve the pressure on the Treasurer's role. B. Turp is setting up the new system and once this is done, it should be simple to run.</p> <p><u>Community Hall:</u> income continues to improve. Refunds of £200 electricity charges for the church and £100 for the hall had been received. The Voyagers' bank account is now up and running with £500 received in compensation for earlier set-up errors. Trustee Eligibility Declarations were now complete, with members checking their individual entries at this meeting. The Treasurer reminded members that they would not be able to see their details on the Charity Commission's website but that they were there.</p> <p><u>Gift Day:</u> Following consideration of a Gift Day in 2017 by the Finance Committee, it was proposed to the PCC, and agreed, that this not be held in 2017, the main reason being that people were going to be asked to consider the interest-free loan scheme and it was felt that asking them to give at a Gift Day would be too much. (In fact, out of the £7,500 received at the last Gift Day, £6,000 of that was from the congregation). Also, F. Thorley had offered to hold another auction around March. A TRIO may be held towards the end of 2017 although this would have more impact on the 2018 budget.</p> <p><u>Parish Share:</u> The Treasurer and Finance Committee will work up a draft letter appealing for the arrears of £22,400 to be written off, in view of the increase in the Parish Share over the next few years. This will be brought to the next PCC meeting for discussion.</p> <p><u>Pension Auto Enrolment:</u> A proposal will be worked up at the Finance Committee meeting on 27th September for discussion at the November PCC.</p> <p><u>Photocopier Lease:</u> The Treasurer requested PCC agreement to the new lease before this is signed. Agreement was given to a five-year lease at £165.31 per quarter, with an initial set-up fee of £165. The new photocopier would produce colour as well as black and white copies; cost estimated at 2p per colour copy and 0.5p per black and white copy. The same supplier will be used.</p> <p><u>Treasurer:</u> B. Turp announced that he will stand down as Treasurer in 2018 and proposed that a new person be appointed at the 2017 APCM, so that he/she had a year to learn the role.</p>	<p>BT/JG</p> <p>BT/FC</p> <p>BT/FC</p>
8	<p>MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT: R. Collins had pre-circulated his report, most of which would form a large part of the upcoming Away Day.</p>	

	G. Silsbury's offer to organise a Christmas dinner at St. Andrew's after the 10.00 a.m. service on Christmas Day had not elicited much response. Instead he will notify via the newsletter that he and his wife will kindly offer Christmas dinner at their own home for up to six people.	GS
9	BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY AND HARVEST: Rev'd Musindi had invited schools to take part in the Back to School service on 11 th September, with letters going to parents and teachers. The speaker will be Kate Grant. He will arrange for a reader, with prayers being said by J. Vince. The Harvest celebrations will be on 2 nd October, with a morning service and a combined churches "Songs of Praise" in the evening, after which there will be a sale of produce. Proceeds from sales of non-perishables to go to the Food Bank; fresh produce to the Voyagers. B. Turp kindly agreed to provide "nibbles" again. A brief discussion ensued on the fact that the harvest suppers held mid-week in the past had been successful, with people providing a pre-agreed menu. The suggestion of a social committee had been made before, could be a discussion item for the Away Day.	
10	Away Day: This will be on Saturday, 1 st October from 10.00a.m. - 4.00 p.m. with Facilitator Neville Emslie, Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, at the Salvation Army Church, 11 Tothill Street, Minster, kindly offered by Major Trevor Green. The strategy document had been pre-circulated and members were asked to focus on item 2 of the strategy (numerical growth in membership and depth in personal commitment to Jesus and spiritual growth) and get a collective view by asking opinions within the church family and other contacts. In addition, we should measure the results we get from this exercise and see this time next year what progress had been made. Rev'd Musindi offered to see if lunch could be arranged via Major Green. Gifts of wine to be made to Neville Emslie in appreciation. Neville will meet with the Leadership Team on 26 th September.	All PM GS
11	ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and Talents Directory: A printed copy was circulated and agreed by the PCC. S. Kemp to be asked to print copies, with the same shape and design as the previous one. • Dropbox: R. Collins has been working on this to evaluate its use by the PCC as a means of accessing reports etc. on line without having to email and print off documents. Access levels will have to be worked out and in the first instance, the Leadership Team will be used as a pilot scheme. For further discussion at the next PCC meeting. • Church's Ministry Among the Jews: This was a proposal from M. Hawthorne – to exhibit a model of the Temple at Jerusalem in church, and invite school children to see it. This could be probably sometime next year. Photographs of the model were circulated, which is about 12ftx8ft. It was suggested to display this on a Sunday and a Monday, so that both congregation and children could see it. This was agreed, and Rev'd Musindi offered to check the schools' calendar for next year. • Junior Church: F. Pearse reported that a rota of helpers had now been established with parents Maxine, Laura and Dan assisting. A nativity play was again scheduled for Christmas. There was no progress on plans to recruit older children and this was suggested for the Away Day agenda. 	JG/SK RC/LT PM LT

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m. <i>N.B.</i> The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16th November, changed from 9th November.	
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