

Minutes of the Meeting of St. James P.C.C.

Monday 21st January 2019

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Nick Burt, Frances, Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Monica Gordon, Steve Linton, Millie Miller, Grace Museve, Femi Nzegwu, Mark Pybus, Adam Seymour-Davies, Glynis Wilkinson, Christina Contreras.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Carol Burt, Yvonne Mason, Peter Neill, Stephanie Sulaiman

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Rob proposed as Chair to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 10th December and they were agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Fire Safety (item 4.1)

Christina is still looking to receive revised quotes for the recommended works.

2. Review of Corporate Prayer (item 4.2)

The new small groups' material will be rolled out on the 2nd week of February.

3. Church Day Out (item 4.3) & Church Weekend Away

Bookings for the Church Day Out will start after February Half-Term and bookings for the Church Weekend Away will start after Easter.

4. Deanery Syrian Refugee Project (item 7)

Rob reported that some PCC's in the area are still to discuss the project. The project will be on hold until it is further discussed.

5. Future of Furzedown Youth Centre (item 5)

FYC's board meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd January, discussing further the future of FYC. Rob asked to remember the board members in prayer.

5. Safeguarding

Judy Douglas, our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), updated the PCC on the latest changes in safeguarding policies and shared a Self-Audit she had recently completed on behalf of the church. This highlighted some issues that the PCC will need to address in the coming months.

Please see document attached.

6. Finance Report

Management accounts for the year to 31 December 2018

Overall

The result shows a surplus of £24,817 v budget of -£3500 which is a variance of £28,317. As mentioned previously, this is largely down to £11,500 in the budget for feasibility fees, which has not been spent to date. Without this the budget for the period will be reduced by £11,500 with a variance of £16,817.

Income

We have an income of £218,846 v a budget of £210,565 with a variance of £5,338 This surplus is largely down to the receipt of generous Advent Gifts. Without this we would be looking at a deficit of £9516. So, we again, have lots to give thanks to God for.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year was £194,029 compared with a budget of £214,065 – an underspend of £18,836. After considering the amount set aside for the feasibility study (£11500), this leaves an underspend of £7336.

Budget 2019

There is a budgeted deficit of £33k, due to the inclusion of expenses relating to fire safety and the BFK feasibility study and an anticipated drop in monthly Standing Order giving and the hall losing a couple of hirers. The budget also accommodates the increase in Church Manager salary, pension and Church support wages in relation to the increase in the London Living wage.

John highlighted that £167 are supposed to be allocated to the Pastoral Care Fund, this will be rectified.

Rob as the Chair proposed that we approve the Budget for 2019, subject to levelling out £6,000 of the projected deficit by increasing the projection from income and not cutting expenditure. Approved unanimously.

Staff Salaries

The PCC approved a raise of 3% to the Church Manager's salary and to apply the London Living Wage hourly rate to support staff.

7. Fabric Issues

The fire exit steps at the back of the upper hall are deteriorating rapidly and they are causing concern.

We paused for prayer at this time.

8. Away Day Follow Up: EVANGELISM

Rob reminded the PCC of the session on evangelism held at the PCC Away Day last November. Statistics suggest that 85% of practising Christians came to faith through the influence of a parent or friend and the majority of non-Christians know a practising Christian and many of them would like to hear about Jesus.

Ephesians 2 shows us that the reason evangelism is so important is the fact that without Christ people are spiritually dead, separated from God and heading for eternal judgement. But, in His grace and through faith in Jesus Christ, God raises the spiritually dead, reconciles them to Him and sets them on course for eternal life. This happens when ordinary Christians share the good news about Jesus with their non-Christian family, friends and neighbours.

Rob then shared some of the practical suggestions and ideas from the Away Day on how St James might develop our evangelism and asked the PCC to choose the ideas they believed God might be calling us to put into practice.

The three main areas for action are:

- How can we help the people who are already connected to St James to become Christians?
- How can St James get out into the community to share the good news with those who are not yet connected to us?
- How can we help each other to grow in confidence and competence in sharing the good news with the people we know?

See the attached paper for the PCCs choices.

Rob will now reflect on the PCC's views and bring suggestions back, so a strategy for evangelism can be developed.

9. Christmas Review

Rob opened the floor to hear feedback about the general sense of how services went.

- Furzedown Nativity Play was better organised this year, it covered a shorter distance and attracted lots of people who are not church goers.
- Christmas Decorations were great.
- Evening Carol Service was very enjoyable, but we should think of something to take away at the end of the service.
- New children's costumes for the Children's Carol Service were well made and looked very nice.
- Christmas Market Stall – kids from church get involved but maybe we need to consider refreshing what we do to attract people from the community. It is important to have more information available about who we are.

10. No other business.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25th March 2019