

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

Monday 24th September 2018

Present: Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Anthony Alale, Rev Johan Allen, Nick Burt, Frances Christian, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Steve Linton, Yvonne Mason, Millie Miller, Grace Museve, Femi Nzegwu, Adam Seymour-Davies, Stephanie Sulaiman, Jane Thorpe, Glynis Wilkinson, Christina Contreras.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the council on Mark and Keren's baby and also on Tessa's and Winnie's health. Rob also asked for prayer for Edgar Lewis as his health was deteriorating. The meeting was opened with prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Alan Burrows, Lisa Burrows, Carol Burt, Monica Gordon, Peter Neill, Mark Pybus.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Rob proposed as Chair to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 9th July 2018 and they were agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Fire Safety (item 4.1)

Nothing to report at the moment.

2. Building for the Kingdom (item 4.4)

Nick reports that the Project Mandate was approved by the Archdeacon on behalf of the Diocese and the working group is now working on a final version of the Architect's Brief. The group is also working on compiling a list of architects who will be approached to conduct the feasibility study.

3. Small Group Strategy (item 4.5)

The new Small Group system has started and we have an initial number of 70 people signed up in 8 small groups. At the end of term, the leaders will have a review and will develop the strategy to continue growing.

4. Future of Youth Provision (item 6)

Nothing to report following Fiona's presentation at the last meeting. We are still waiting on MLBC's decision as this will have a great impact on our decision.

5. Finance Report

a) Management Accounts

Overall

The result shows a surplus of £7,422 v budget of -£11,533, which is a variance of £18,955. As mentioned in the last report, this is largely due to the inclusion of £11,500 in the budget for feasibility fees for the Building for the Kingdom project, which has not been spent to date. Without this the budget for the period will be reduced by £7,667 with a variance of £11,288. This report is for the second quarter, and into the 3rd quarter, currently these are very encouraging figures, and give us much to thank God for.

Income

We have an income of £129,752 v a budget of £130,377 with a variance of -£724. The deficit is largely due to being under budget on property income which includes 171 Mitcham Lane, Church & Centre and Hall lettings, as we are expecting payments to arrive that have fallen outside the presentation of these accounts. Once these payments have been received we will undoubtedly see a surplus income at the next set of accounts in November.

Expenditure

Expenditure during this period was £122,330 compared with a budget of £141,910 – an underspend of £19,580. After considering the amount set aside for the feasibility study (£7,667), this leaves an underspend of £11,913. Once again, the most significant area this arises from is in property costs where there were no major repairs to cover.

These expenses also include those associated with the recent Church Day Out 2018 - the full cost was £1,236.40. This has been offset using donations received of £500 and receipts of £489, leaving a shortfall of £247.40 which has been settled using church funds as agreed by the PCC in March 2018.

At the end of the second quarter our mission tithe was £6,210 which was £369 above the budgeted tithe, thanks be to God.

Once again, as we near the end of the third quarter, there is much to give thanks to God for.

b) Advent Gift Day 2018

Advent Gift Day has been set as 2nd December, advertising will start in November to help people decide on their giving. We will be tithing as usual the first £3000 from which £1500 will be going towards our Crosslink missionaries, Alun and Debbie Burt. We are yet to decide where the other £1500 will go.

6. Review of Corporate Prayer

Background:

We currently hold a monthly prayer meeting, In Touch, which was established by Dave Britton about 4 years ago, and was meant to focus on prayer for growth of our church in depth and numbers.

The meeting is held on the third Sunday of every month from 5 till 6pm and initially took the form of prayer zones with some sung worship. The attendance initially was between 20 to 25 people but it has dwindled down to around a dozen in the last year. We certainly believe that this area needs a review.

Feedback received after discussions on the 2017 Away Day:

- People would like to have more collective prayer in In Touch.
- The day and time are not the most suitable.
- The meeting needs more publicity.

Rob proceeded to ask the PCC to gather in small groups and discuss the following:

1. Do we still want a prayer meeting?
2. If yes, what would be the right day, time and frequency?
3. Any thoughts about format?

Feedback following discussion:

- There should be a meeting, absolutely yes.
- If we change the times every month, it could create confusion
- The event needs more publicity, specially in what goes on during the meeting.
- The meeting should include something for everyone.
- Small groups could start an initiative.
- The meeting could be once a term.
- We could make a Sunday a prayer meeting, where people share their testimonies and encourages others.
- We could set topics for prayer
- Corporate prayer in small groups is the best format but also give the opportunity for individual prayers.
- Saturday could be a good day to meet at around 10:30am, once a month or fortnightly. Termly could be too long between meetings as it will only be 4 times a year.
- If it is held quarterly the meeting could attract more people who are willing to make the effort.
- Saturday or Sunday later on in the evening at around 7pm could be an option.
- Prayer requests are important, same as time of worship.
- Praying together or in zones, it depends on people needs.

Leaders will look at the feedback and consider options.

We paused for prayer at this time.

7. Church Day Out

The planning group had a review meeting where all the feedback given was looked at. General feedback was positive, travelling by coach was an important key to the event, people enjoyed the venue although we need to look carefully at mobility issues for some of the attendees.

All comments were good and Rob believes we have gathered momentum for another Church Day Out in 2019 and also for a Weekend Away in 2020, as per the original strategy set by the PCC.

Research for 2020 has started and 2 reasonable Christian Centres have been shortlisted, namely High Leigh Conference Centre in Herts and Ashburnham Christian Trust in Sussex. The costs for the weekend would be between £140 to £150, 60% of the price for children up to 16 and free for under 3's.

Rob asked the PCC if they will be happy for the same working group to make the decision and it was agreed unanimously.

The cost of a Day Out to either of these venues in 2019 will be around £25 to £30 per person plus travel. Rob asked the PCC whether going to the 2020 Weekend venue for the 2019 Day Out was a good idea and the PCC agreed to let the working group decide on the best venue.

8. Mission Giving

St James tithes 10% of all the donations received through the year and it is shared equally between the following:

1/3 to Alun and Debbie Burt - Crosslinks

1/3 to Amy and David Roche – CMS

1/3 to F.Y.C.

We are committed to CMS for 2018 although not necessarily to a specific mission partner since David and Amy have now left. CMS has not yet approached us about adopting a new mission partner with them. Rob has been in touch with Crosslinks recently and the Burts are significantly low on funding for the next few years, with a shortfall of about £10,000 p.a. Rob explained that Alun and Debbie were sent out by St James and we really don't want to see them having to return to UK because of lack of funding. Hence Rob proposed that we put our giving to CMS on hold in 2019 and give 2/3 of our tithe to Alun and Debbie and 1/3 to FYC and review this for the following year.

Agreed unanimously.

9. Staffing

Rob reported that, since the last PCC meeting, he had spoken with Glynis about the future of the part time Admin Assistant's post and the proposal for redundancy. This still seemed to be the most sensible option in light of the reasons outlined in the proposal paper.

Proposal: The post of Part Time Admin Assistant become redundant with effect from 31st December 2018 and Glynis be formally notified of this immediately with notification of statutory redundancy pay. Proposed by Johan Allen, seconded by Nick Burt. Passed unanimously.

10. No other business.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 10th December 2018