

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC

HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2007

Present: Martin Brown, Myra Brown, Ray Hackney, Richard Harris, Sue Lake, Penny Long, Andy McNeil, Ruth McNeil, Revd. Penny Nash, Debbie Paragreen, Barbara Tooby, (Minutes), Rev. Jonathan Vickery (Chair), Ian Webb, Pearl Wild.

Apologies: Sally Ashton, Joyce Bevan, Geoff Cater, Ian Freestone, Paul Hacker, Robert Lake, Barbara Shore, Ann Smith, Dave Tooby,

The meeting opened with prayer. Jo acknowledged that this would be the last meeting of the current PCC and thanked everyone for being such an outstanding group.

	Action
The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2007 were approved and signed.	
<p>Matters arising not covered in agenda items:</p> <p>Replacement Organist and Choirmaster. Jonathan Crow has resigned as Church Organist and Choirmaster. Easter Day will be his last Sunday at Christ Church. Jo has been in contact with the secretary of the Association of Organists who has been making enquiries on our behalf for someone to replace him. It may be possible for more than one person to job share with a choirmaster coming to work with the choir for Christmas and Easter services.</p>	Jo to follow up
<p>New Business</p> <p>1. Going for Growth : developing a vision and strategy.</p> <p>(i) The proposed structure for Christ Church teams. The document was discussed and has been amended following the comments made at last PCC meeting. The teams namely the Spirituality, Community, Mission and Administration teams remain the same, all working together to build loving relationships in three dimensions, up towards God, in towards one another and out to the world. The focus of two of the teams has changed slightly - the goal of the Community team will be to extend pastoral care to embrace the whole Church community, looking in particular to strengthen Christian family life by offering marriage and parenting courses and the Administrative team to accommodate the needs of the growing Church in the 21st century in ways which reflect God's care for creation. The leadership team will give support where needed to the groups within their area of</p>	

<p>oversight. The leaders of the individual groups could meet 2 or 3 times a year to share best practice and get to know one another. It is hoped that this structure will be less hierarchical, giving teams more autonomy and expression and empowering team leaders. The roles of the PCC and the Standing Committee are to be reviewed and clarified.</p> <p>In future, it is highly unlikely that we will have more than one Curate and this structure is seen as a way of reducing the staff's workload. It is important that the new structure is communicated to the whole Church and receives support. Photos of all team leaders will be displayed so that everyone knows who they are and how to contact them. The PCC accepted the team structure. This was proposed by Pearl Wild and seconded by Myra Brown.</p> <p>(ii) Vision Sunday and Commitment Day. Thanks were expressed to Ray, Geoff, Ian and Jon Tooby for all their work in producing the Going for Growth document. Response Forms are still being received.</p>	
<p>2. Christians against Poverty. Martin Brown's proposal to provide a service to the community with a strong Christian emphasis as a way of promoting the gospel was well received by the PCC and members of the congregation, resulting in 7 people expressing interest and one person interested in the paid post. In view of the interest and general support within Church, Martin will arrange a meeting for interested parties in the near future. CAP is keen to recruit the right person for the paid job. They will need to have a clear call to evangelism. CAP will refuse to appoint anyone they do not consider suitable. A monthly contribution from Church is required, costing about £12,000 pa. Two teams will be needed to support the Centre Manager - a Prayer Team and a team to offer pastoral and practical support. This will be a big commitment for Christ Church, and its impact in terms of human and financial resources must not be underestimated. Publicity will be prepared and the project could be up and running by Spring 2008. CAP would like to visit our church and gauge the support of the congregation. They produce a range of literature which is very Christian focused and free to clients. An office will be required in a High Street location fitted out with a desk, computer and filing cabinet. Much of the work is done in people's home, staff and volunteers visiting in pairs for security reasons. It is envisaged that each centre will have about 30 clients a year. The PCC welcomed this initiative and thanked Martin for his efforts.</p>	<p>Martin to set up a meeting to take this proposal forward.</p>
<p>3. Church buildings for a mission shaped Church.</p> <p>(i) CPL Options Study. Nothing further has yet been received from Derek Kemp.</p>	

<p>(ii) Proposal from Hazel's Home Group to plant a tree in the Church Yard. The PCC welcomed a letter from the group offering to plant a tree, a rowan tree was suggested, in the churchyard as part of our environmental initiative. The PCC welcomed this offer and after discussion, agreed that this should be combined with our project to extend the Church buildings. The group were thanked.</p> <p>It was noted that the grassed area outside the main gates to the churchyard was being ploughed up by cars parking over it. This land belongs to the Council not the church. Andy Mc Neill volunteered to investigate with a view to stopping cars parking there.</p>	<p>Geoff to speak to Tree Officer. Secretary to write to group. Andy to ask Council re tidying up the land outside Church (Downend Road)</p>
<p>4. Administration.</p> <p>(i) Report of the Administration Stream. Following interviews, it was decided not to appoint to the 2nd part-time Admin post in the Parish Office. The job will be re-advertised in the Three Crowns and on the Diocesan vacancies noticeboard. It is hoped that interviews will take place on 2 May.</p> <p>Ian will be moving office to Haven House by the end of May. This will give Ian a chance to work without interruptions. Producing the Church's Vision and Commitment Day booklets had an effect on other work and delayed the production of the Parish Link. Jo has just finished Ian's annual appraisal and proposed that his holiday entitlement was extended to 25 days. The PCC agreed this. It was proposed by Andy McNeill and seconded by Penny Nash.</p> <p>It would be helpful if Ian's days off were given on the pew sheet.</p> <p>Ian reported that a new annual service contract has been agreed for the boiler in the Parish Church.</p> <p>(ii) Presentation of draft Annual Report including Treasurer's report on the annual Church accounts for 2006. Jo was keen that we should first seek God's kingdom and be faithful and careful with the resources we are given. We should concentrate on doing one or two things well, identifying a few areas for growth either in the Parish or in the Diocese. Concern was expressed over the large rate of increase in Parish Share which has gone up by 9%, and the question was raised as to whether we should pay the whole of the Parish Share in view of the limitations it puts on our capacity to use our financial</p>	

<p>resources for mission and ministry in the parish. It has come to light that it is possible to recover 80% of a lay member of staff's salary after they have been employed by the PCC for over 2 years. Ian will have completed 2 years in March 2008. This may release funds for future paid posts in the parish. Thanks were expressed to Ray for all his hard work. The draft report was approved.</p> <p>(iii) Report from the Electoral Roll Officer. New members of Christ Church should be encouraged to sign forms to go on the Electoral Roll. Norman was thanked for all his work.</p> <p>(iv) Minor improvements to 15 Glendale. The Standing Committee have met and agreed that a new bathroom can be installed at Glendale. Penny has been to a lot of trouble to get estimates and a plumber to do the job. The Diocese will be helping financially although the figure is not yet known. The cost is within the budget estimated for Glendale and the PCC agreed that this should go ahead.</p>	
<p>5. Community</p> <p>(i) Update on the appointment of a Children's Worker in the Parish using 8 Farm Court as a House for Duty. Jo explained that he had received a letter from the Assistant Diocesan Secretary which said that the Diocese would be happy for us to use 8 Farm Court as a house for duty for a Children's Worker but the Parish would have to pay 5/7 of the current market rent for the property to the Diocese, i.e. approx. £750 per month as well as 2/7 of the maintenance costs. It was considered that, using the house as a house for duty would place restrictions on who we were able to appoint and that by directly appointing a paid children's worker would give greater flexibility. The Diocese would like to dispose of the property which is currently valued at £215,000, giving the Parish approx. £61,500. The valuation was considered to be very low. It is unlikely that we will ever have a 2nd Curate in the Parish. The Standing Committee after a long discussion came up with the recommendation that the house is sold and a decision on how the money is used made at a later date. The post of Children's Worker will be on hold for the time being. The PCC agreed to sell 8 Farm Court on the condition that the Parish receives 2/7 from the sale to be used without restriction. This was proposed by Pearl Wild and seconded by Martin Brown.</p> <p>(ii) Safe from Harm. PCC approval was given for Helen Johnson, Hannah Lang and Jenny Rawling to work with children and young people.</p>	<p>Jo to contact the Diocese and inform them of our decision to sell on condition we receive 2/7 of sale price.</p> <p>Volunteers working with children at present will be informed of this decision by Penny</p>

<p>6. The licensing and installation of Jo as Incumbent. Before Jo's appointment as incumbent at Christ Church in May 2002, the Diocese decided to amend the existing parish boundaries. To enable them to do this, Jo was appointed as Priest in Charge (Vicar Designate) rather than Vicar. The PCC was promised that when the new boundaries had been agreed, Jo would be made Vicar. Jo was installed as Vicar at a quiet ceremony in Church on Wednesday 7 March giving the Parish greater stability. This was warmly welcomed by the PCC.</p>	
<p>AOB. (i) Downtime for the Vicar and Curate. A member of the congregation had expressed concern that the Vicar and Curate had been on holiday at the same time and now have the same day of the week off. Jo explained that clergy were being encouraged to take more time off particularly after festivals such as Christmas and Easter when their workload is particularly busy. Provision is made in the Parish well in advance of holidays; emergency cover is provided by one of the Church Wardens who can contact either of the clergy on their mobiles anytime, retired clergy are able to take funerals and services are always covered in advance. This was seen as a communication breakdown. It is important that members of the congregation understand the new leadership structure and Jo is happy to explain the situation.</p> <p>(ii) Jo asked the PCC to agree that the 10.30am service on Sunday 12 August 2007 is moved to 10.00am for the wedding of his daughter, Angharad which is due to take place at noon. Everyone would be invited to the service. The PCC agreed.</p> <p>(iii) The PCC gave approval that Mr Andrew McNeill, Mrs Pearl Wild and Mr Clive Wentworth should be recommended to the Bishop to become Eucharistic lay Assistants.</p>	
<p>The meeting closed with prayer.</p>	
<p>Future meetings: Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sunday 29 April 2007 following the 10.30 service</p>	