

Christ Church Downend
Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
12 January 2009

Attendance: Joyce Bevan, , Geoff Cater, Brenda Greet (Secretary), Geoff Greet, Paul Hacker, Ray A Hackney, Richard Harris, , Martin Jefferies, Helen Johnson, Adrian Lewis, Andy McNeil, Pauline Pearce, Bill Robbins, Stuart Bunting, Rev Jonathan Vickery (Chair).

Apologies: Martin D Brown, Myra Brown, Patrick de la Hunty, Penny Long, Rev Penny Nash, Debbie Paragreen.

Opening Worship:

RH led a time of Evening Prayer, and meditation considering the overflowing of God's gracious and abounding love.

01/09

MINUTES:

Following two minor corrections related to names, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November were accepted as a correct record and signed.

02/09

MATTERS ARISING:

ACTION

i. Treasurer's report (RAH)

The ends of year accounts were currently being collated. Funds were in a fairly strong position, mainly due to monies from the sale of Farm Court property, a one off donation of £8500 to general funds and a one off donation of £10000 to CAP. £25000 was due to be paid to mission. Giving had increased towards the end of 2008 and the budget for 2009 would be based on those figures.

RAH

It was agreed that charges for Funerals and Weddings would be raised by 3%

BG

ii. Environmental Policy - (PH)

PH acknowledged the work that Geoff Payne had contributed to the policy. Geoff had submitted a Mission Statement for consideration and PH asked that any comments be sent to Geoff.

Arrangements were in place to get an energy advisor in, to work with Geoff and Pete Tiltman to undertake an audit of the Church and Parish Hall.

i. Sunday Offering - passing the plate (PP)

PP raised concerns that passing the plate was not a good example to visitors especially on the Sundays when there are Baptisms.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that for a trial period of three months, starting from Commitment Day, instead of passing the collection plate a retiring offering would be taken.

PP

Proposed: Pauline Pearce**Seconded: Paul Hacker****ii. Commitment Day 2009 (JV)**

It was suggested that as giving had considerably increased there would be a different emphasis on Commitment day 2009. The main message would be the significance of giving as an act of worship and honouring God with our wealth.

iii. Key Questions for Christ Church (JV)

Including additional Staff Posts - Pastoral Care Worker and Cleaner / Caretaker

a. Following a series of meetings and discussions work was in progress to consider what support and staffing would be needed following PNs expected departure later in the year.

JV felt more positive that an Associate Minister was a possibility and the staff team had been trying to establish what was currently taking place, what would need to continue and what could be dropped.

Considerable discussion ensued, considering various aspects including: need for an Associate Minister, Pastoral Care Worker, Youth Worker.

JV shared his belief that his responsibility should be focused on disciple making and how to become more like Christ. He therefore indicated the desire to be released where possible from responsibilities like taking funerals, weddings and baptisms.

GC stressed that it was imperative that the seriousness of being left with just one ordained person should be considered and a formal Statement of Need would need to be brought to the PCC. The priority was to have a plan in place for when PN leaves.

JV, PN, MDB

RH suggested that the Diocese would need evidence of why an Associate Minister was required.

b. Pastoral Care Worker The issue of employing a Pastoral Care Worker was discussed in some detail and the excellent support of volunteer workers in this role in the past was acknowledged. **It was agreed that there should be an appointment of Pastoral Care Worker for 25 hours a week for a one year contract.**

ACTION

JV,PN, MDB

Proposed: Pauline Pearce

Seconded: Geoff Cater

c. Cleaner/Caretaker

Barbara and David Tooby had written to the PCC to say that for various reasons the rota system for Home Groups undertaking church cleaning was no longer successful and they suggested that it was now time to employ a cleaner.

Again, the invaluable work of volunteers such as David and Barbara and Richard and Jackie Hill was acknowledged.

The Church Wardens and BG had met to discuss the possibility of appointing a cleaner and the need to have cover for the absence, (ill health or holidays), of the regular cleaners at the Church Centre and the Parish Hall.

Discussion also highlighted the increase in call out of the Church Wardens to undertake various minor repairs.

It was therefore proposed that **the church employ a cleaner/caretaker to undertake cleaning of the church, cover for the halls and minor repairs to all church premises. This would be for 6 hours a week with additional hours as required.**

GC,GG,BG

Proposed: Geoff Cater

Seconded: Andy McNeil

iii. Building Project - BR reported

The results of the Second Consultation had been circulated to the PCC. In summary, people were in favour of some level of redevelopment although an extension to the church was not seen as a priority.

Others from the congregation would now be encouraged to become involved in the different projects. The project groups would feedback their findings to the PCC at a special meeting- date to be agreed

BR

A newsletter, inviting people to become involved, would be given out at Sunday services together with a summary report. The full report would soon be available for people to read at the Parish Church, Church Centre, and Parish office and on the website.

v. Removal of Piano in crèche

ACTION

As the piano was no longer used and was taking up space in the crèche it was agreed that it should be disposed of to a good home.

Proposed: Geoff Greet

Seconded: Andy McNeil

PN, GC

vi. Electoral Roll, Safe from harm

No new names had been added to the Electoral Roll.

Safe from Harm - the following names have been approved: Fred Travers, Ann Travers, Mike Pearce, Craig Paragreen, Katherine Horne, Gavin Versaci, Sally Bartram.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer.

Dates of Meetings: N.B. meetings now held six weekly

Thursday 26 February 7:15 - Parish Church

Wednesday 8 April 7:15 - Haven House - note change of venue

APCM SUNDAY 26 APRIL - 11:30 - PARISH CHURCH

Thursday 21 May 7:15 - Parish Church

Tuesday 30 June 7:15 - Parish Church

Wednesday 2 September 7:15 - NSH