

## **Ottery St Mary Parish Church - Minutes of PCC Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

**Present:** Rev Steve Weston, John Ward, Anna Roderick, Sue Jeacock (PCC Sec, Minutes), David Rose, Anitra Lockwood, Diana Gee, Bruce Odlin, Arthur and Di Passey, Shirley-Ann Williams, Tony Mitchell, Helen Atkinson, Phil Whitlock (treasurer)

- 1 Prayers** led by Di Passey
- 2 Apologies** received from Fiona Rimmer, Colin Tindal, Brian Cammack, Jill Rose (arrived 8.40pm), John Akers, Phyllis Baxter, Flo Rowland.
- 3 Vicar's House and Parish Rooms:** John Akers, who had been due to speak on this item, was unable to attend the meeting. He has been given the date of the January PCC meeting.
- 4 Correspondence**

A letter from John Maybery about the two matching candlesticks which have mysteriously appeared in the St Lawrence chapel. Does the PCC still wish for him and Jaqueline Ward to source some new ones? The candlesticks were put there by Wilfred (they are the ones that have been used for Loft midweek communions) and yes, the PCC would like John and Jacqui to proceed as they will only be there temporarily until we get new ones. John also raised the issue of whether a Faculty is required. Arthur Passey felt that it wouldn't be. Steve said we could send the archdeacon a photo of the new design when it had been chosen.
- 5 Reports**

Governors' Report: Arthur Passey gave a verbal report, the text of which is attached with the minutes. With regard to parking inside the East Gate, the point was made that it is difficult to park on the right, as requested, if giving a lift to someone in a wheelchair. The way around this would be to reverse in.  
Children's Work and Stewards reports were received with thanks.
- 6 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Standing Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Item 5. Arthur Passey queried the request for an Archdeacon's inspection. Mid-quinquennials are usually done by the rural dean, but it may be that the archdeacon has asked to do ours.  
Item 11. Christmas Publicity leaflets: Shirley-Ann Williams didn't think that "Christmas at St Mary's" was a good heading for the leaflet. The decision had been made at Staff Meeting and various options considered.
- 7 Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**
  - i) Signed as a correct record.
  - ii) Matters Arising not covered on the agenda

Item 6.3 Steve has had no reply yet from Mr Osborne about the memorial plaque relocation.  
Item 5.15 Wifi: David Roberts is ready to start a Faculty for this.  
Item 6.15 There was no shortlisting meeting for the Feniton post, as there were no applications.
- 8 Treasurer's Report**

As previously noted, there will be a significant drop in planned giving income next year. It emerged that we were behind with some of our charitable giving payments. Three charities did not get their £600 last year so we have just paid them. Their final payment will be due again in January.  
Budget 2018: Phil presented his budget (attached to these minutes). This year the Common Fund requirement is £104,410, a slight reduction due to our reduced participant figures, but still a huge challenge and the budget shows a shortfall of about £20,000. The PCC needs to address the amount of fund-raising: there were

quite a few events in 2017, but many were for Abide. The Summer Fair did well. Shop and printing income was also good in 2017. The 2018 budget proposed by Phil, was seconded by Shirley-Ann. **Agreed.**

**9 Approve Fees: verger, organist, choir, bells, heating**

Organist: No increase in fees, remaining at £70 for funerals, £95 for weddings.

Vergers: Fee to increase by £5 to £55 for weddings and £45 for funerals. **Agreed.**

Bell Ringers: Fee to remain at £150 for ringing after a wedding, but increase from £200 to £250 for ringing before and after. **Agreed.**

Choir: No increase in fees, remaining at £100 for junior choir and £170 for Full Choir to sing at a wedding.

Heating: No increase in fee, remaining at £50 for funerals and weddings May-Oct.

**10 Abide Update**

Anna's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The family are doing well and Anna has witnessed the warm welcome they have received in the town. School, doctors and dentist have been helpful. Their English is improving with lessons four days a week. They attended the Light Party in church. The Home Office has done a first month review, meeting first with Abide and then with the family on their own, with an interpreter. There will be another review meeting in January and again at the six month stage.

Anna is confident there is enough in the kitty to continue to support the family for the two year commitment.

**11 Coffee**

**12 Safeguarding**

Updated Mission Community Safeguarding Policy, approved at the last Mission Community Wardens meeting, had been circulated in advance of the meeting and needs to be formally adopted by the PCC. Proposed by David Rose, seconded by Di Passey. **Agreed.**

About 20 people still need to do the C0/C1/C2 training. The last local session will be at Ottery Church on 13<sup>th</sup> January. If people don't attend this one, they will have to attend sessions in Exeter.

**13 Charitable Giving**

A report from the Charitable Giving Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The committee recommends that for 2018, our Charitable Giving should focus on help for refugees, via Tear Fund. The commitment will be just for one year, to be reviewed at the end of 2018. Christmas collections to go to Children's Society (Crib/Christingle), St Petrock's and Embrace the East, with a third charity to be confirmed at the next Standing Committee. Remembrance Sunday collection will go to the British Legion and Baptism collections to CHICKS. Harvest collections, which have in the past gone to Tear Fund, will be considered nearer the time and could possibly go to a local charity or to the Melanesian Mission.

Helen Atkinson thanked the PCC for its support for the MU over the last three years. Anitra Lockwood reported that Dr Haroon in Pakistan is also very grateful for the financial support his school and clinic in Pakistan have received.

David Rose asked if there was a case, given our own financial situation, for retaining a proportion of the collections from big services, such as Remembrance and Christmas for PCC funds. This will be added to the next Standing Committee agenda for discussion.

It was noted that Embrace the East (formerly the Bible Lands Society) is not necessarily a well-known charity and it might help to have some information available at those Christmas services, so the congregations are aware what they are supporting.

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**14 PCC Away Day**

A report on the Away Day has been circulated to PCC members by Jill Rose. As a follow-up to the day, Steve, Brian, Jill and Fiona attended a youth work event at Farnham with speaker Martin Saunders. Four points came out of this.

1. Relax. At least we are doing something, and we must be realistic about the resources we have. 2. Listen. There's no point doing something that is not wanted or needed by young people. Possibility of linking up with Kings School and their mental health and mentoring initiatives. And Ottery Help Scheme are shortly launching a new initiative to help young people with mental health issues. It's no good us putting on events and expecting young people to attend, we have to listen and see what they would like from us. 3. Social Media. We need to do more via website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat. It may be we need to employ someone to help with this. Colin and Annette Tindal are good in this area. Or we could run a competition to involve young people. We were not successful in our bid for Diocesan funding to build a Mission Community website. 4. Review. Allsorts, Explore and Messy Church to be reviewed next year, possibly with the assistance of someone from outside the parish, eg Barry Dugmore.

**15 AOB**

**15.1** Christmas Bazaar: This Saturday. We are still short of some muscle for moving items to the Institute on Friday afternoon and setting up table on the Saturday morning. Helen is not sure what to do with the books that are unsold. RIO have said they have too many books already. Shirley-Ann offered her garage as storage if no solution can be found.

**15.2** Volunteers required to deliver the Christmas Services publicity. Please take some.

**15.3** Data Protection: New data protection regulations are coming into force. Some guidance is now available from Exeter Diocese. We need to have a look and see what applies to us. To be added to Standing Committee agenda.

SJ

Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.30pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....