

Minutes of St Sampson's PCC meeting held 10th January 2018 at 8pm

Present: Rev'd P Bradley, K Bell, M Smith, R Masters, G Otter, A Ramage, A Grace, L Dodd, J Valpy

Apologies: R Saunders

PB welcomed everyone and began with a Bible reading (Luke 12: 22-31) and reflection.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes had been approved by email and are on display in church and on website. PB signed a copy.

2. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

PB will check that info in the Chronicle about Youth and Children's work is accurate. **Action PB**

3. Chair's report

No written report. PB drew attention to CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) and the support and training that they provide for churches, clergy and PCCs through courses and information. We briefly considered CPAS' description of the PCC's role:

- The PCC exists to enable the church to play its part in God's mission to his world
- The PCC exists to co-operate with the minister in sharing leadership
- The PCC exists to ensure legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law, in particular in the areas of safeguarding, finance, employment and appointments
- The PCC exists to care for the buildings and churchyard so that they may be best suited for the purpose of the church's ministry and mission
- The PCC exists to be a channel of consultation within the wider Church through its synodical structures on matters that affect the Church locally and nationally

PB intends to follow activities in a booklet entitled 'Why does the PCC exist' to develop a better understanding of our role - this will be focus in May after APCM, once the new PCC has been formed. We all recognised that regular business should be dealt with at main meetings, but PB hopes to grow small teams to deal with particular issues that arise. They will then report to the main meeting. Teams would be made up of PCC members or led by a PCC member, but could include members from wider congregation. Each team would meet with a specific brief for a finite amount of time.

4. Current vacancies

Leigh Dodd has volunteered to stand as Church Warden and Barry Hammond has volunteered to become Church Buildings Manager. This is a new role, now separate from the job of Warden, thus making the Warden's role more manageable. Barry has experience of managing buildings and will report to PB and the PCC. The Church Warden's main role will be to provide support for PB, and ensure that the church has the right people in the right places to enable it to serve God in his mission. The various general jobs that need doing regularly at services eg. guiding people up to communion, counting collection, will be carried out by members of the congregation on a rota basis.

There have been 3 applications for the role of Administrator for the Upper Thames Group and PB will carry out interviews at the end of the month. Pauline Loveday and PB have carried out thorough handover, but Pauline would be on hand to answer questions.

5. Parish Share

PB has received an email from Oliver Home (Diocesan Secretary in charge of all activities at the Diocese) noting that we have reduced our Share for 2018. We are not the only parish to have done this, but it obviously impacts the work of the wider Diocese. Oliver has requested a meeting with PB, Treasurer and Warden to discuss. Dates will be offered for this to take place. **Action - PB, AD, LD**

All agreed that we had taken a diligent approach and made our decision on the Parish Share after careful discussion, thought and prayer. This view will be presented at the meeting.

The Diocese have issued guidance for a Parish Giving Scheme, a Parish Buying Scheme and a Parish Legacy Scheme. PB has received info on these and PCC can consider in the future. PB asked for volunteers to look into implementing these schemes in the near future. **Action – All PCC Members**

6. Finance

AG presented the accounts at the meeting.

Current account balance: £ 7,728.98

No. 2 account balance: £28,905.21

The forecast for 2018 is that there will be a reduction of income which will lead to a potential shortfall of at least £4,000. PB will be organising further stewardship campaign in 2018. **Action - PB**

There is no budget, as yet, for the July Celebration Weekend - this is all to be planned. **Action - PB**

The Christmas Tree Festival money has gone into the roof fund. Figures for Parochial Fees and Parish Share need checking. Figures to be sent out electronically to PCC and comments/questions to be sent to JV and forwarded to AG. **Action - JV, AG**

AG presented an initial budget for 2018. It was noted that Mission and Evangelism is small, so more discussion needed about what we might like to include in budget for 2018. Also, need to check income from weddings in order to budget accurately. **Action - PB**

AG to revise budget based on the financial results for 2017. **Action - AG**

7. Priorities for 2018

PB has outlined these on latest newsheet as follows:

- To become a church that is totally dependent on God and his leading
- To increase prayer across all aspects of our Church life
- To introduce formal prayer ministry at as many services as possible
- To identify the particular vision that God has for our church
- Start our building project - 'Renovating a building, growing a church'
- Provide opportunities for people to better connect with the Holy Spirit
- Release people in their gifts to take vacant roles in our church

These have been drawn from the vision statements created by PCC and with input from whole congregation and they reach across the whole of our church life.

Many people came forward for prayer at the midnight service and on Christmas Day - there is a real need for this ministry and there will be training for prayer ministry in the near future.

At what point do we look at mission into wider community? Together we are Stronger is a great example of looking beyond our church/congregation to reach those in need. Building relationships within our community is vital in sharing God with others. These priorities will result in a well-equipped church and a people with exciting stories to tell about what Jesus has done for us personally and corporately.

8. Renovating a building, growing a church

Two architects have looked around and offered ideas about floor, heating, lighting, separate meeting rooms, larger kitchen etc.

David Arnold (current architect) will carry out quinquennial inspection. This will highlight any emergency repairs to be carried out asap and those which will be part of larger project. Any monies raised from now on will be set aside for the building project, not just roof.

9. Deanery Synod

No meeting

10. Communications

The Bradleys have re-worked the style of the newsheet, but it is still evolving. The hope is also to produce some separate 'Welcome' information to include details of homegroups etc.

New data protection laws come into force in May. Sarah Smith has volunteered to co-ordinate implementing these at church with helpers from each congregation. KB volunteered from 10am and AR from 8am.

11. Together we are Stronger

Coffee mornings take place once a month and are well attended. They offer real support for people. The Christmas Tree Festival went extremely well. The whole church came together to make it work and there was a super community spirit. Health and Safety issues were raised and these need to be addressed. PB is currently working on the Together we are Stronger model for pastoral care with others in the Diocese.

PB also looking to offer 'Experience' activity for school community and wider community this coming year.

Action - PB

12. Youth and Children's

One more volunteer is needed to enable the running of children's group twice a month at 10am.

13. Safeguarding

PB will organise training for the new PCCs across UTG in May/June. They are 2 hour sessions and will be led by someone from the Diocese.

14. Prayer

PB will start including prayer points in newsheet.

15. Jenner Hall

The committee have requested £100 contribution per year to cover heating and lighting. The PCC agreed to this.

16. Events

Anthony Fletcher has requested technical support for the film night on 20th January.

It was noted that the 2018 APCM is booked to take place in the school Easter holidays. Other dates were considered but for various reasons this is the best option.

17. Correspondence

JV to write a letter to Sarah Townsend on behalf of the PCC, thanking her for musical work at St Sampson's now that she has finished. **Action - JV**

18. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7th Feb to review Christmas services and all other services, venue TBC

Wednesday 28th Feb, 8pm in the Red Lion for main meeting