



ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday 25th September 2017
Rothley Church of England Primary (Academy) - 19:30

PRESENT:

Revd Josh Bailey	Kate Croden	Wendy Ferguson
Revd Rob Gladstone (Chair)	Alison Godfrey	Clive Jackson
Cath Jagger	Wendy Lewis (Sec)	Frances Morrison
Margaret Offley	Jonty Pilbeam	Susan Pinkus
Linda Poole	Ray Prince	David Salt
David Wilson	Sue Wilson	

IN ATTENDANCE FOR ITEM 1

Stephen Thomason

The meeting began with prayer.

1. YOUTH WORK UPDATE

Stephen Thomason presented a written update on youth work within the church and answered a range of questions from members of the PCC. Stephen meets on a regular basis with Rob and Josh and is required to update the PCC once a year on youth work.

Stephen talked about the Bible studies that Breakthrough and Catalyst have been working through and noted that youngsters are asking for more knowledge about the context of different parts of the Bible. He advised that youngsters in Catalyst and Breakthrough have recently been asked to complete a short questionnaire answering questions about where they were in terms of their Christian walk, had they become Christians and had they understood what they had worked through in their groups. He was asked about the thinking behind splitting the sexes in Grid and noted that this is because of the difference in ages between the girls and boys within the group. He was also asked whether the youth Bible studies always have to be Bible passage based and could they not be topic based. Rob advised that this would need to be the subject of a wider PCC discussion. Topic based teaching happens elsewhere but there is a need for youngsters to be taught what the Bible says.

Stephen was thanked for his work in leading the team working with the youth at church.

2. OPENING READING/ STUDY/ PRAYERS - CPAS "MISSION"

Rob began by reminding the PCC that the purpose of the CPAS 'PCC Tonight' training is to help the PCC shape the life and direction of the church. The joint service held the previous day had come directly as a suggestion from the PCC looking at one of the training modules. He outlined the purpose of the 'Mission' module, to look at what it means for the church to be involved in mission and looking outwards. How are we sharing our faith with the world in the broadest sense?

Rob handed out cue cards with a series of tasks with different 'mission' focuses / activities to each group, the tasks being those which the church could be involved in. Each group was asked to rank the cue cards collaboratively without discussion. The outcomes can be seen in the photographs attached in the paper 'Annex A'. It was noted that each group tended to put proclamation towards the top and social justice towards the bottom. There was a remarkable degree of consensus despite no consultation.

Rob then asked each group to look at the same cue cards outlining tasks and suggest what we do well and what we do not do well. Tasks which we do not do well and want to do better include:

Equip people to talk about their faith x2

To help people make sense of their occupation as a Christian x3

We then looked at suggestions for doing these things. Suggestions included looking at this within house groups and redoing the skills survey within the church. This would help to recognise what people are doing in their jobs/ careers and investigate what skills people have already & how they are using them. Rob advised that he will take this to Preaching and Planning meetings to examine ways of moving this forward within the church. He also suggested that this be the subject of a particular item at the November PCC meeting looking at how the PCC will lead the church in bringing this forward.

ACTION: Include a specific item on the next PCC agenda as to how we can lead equipping people to talk about their faith and help people make sense of their occupation as a Christian.

David Wilson recommended reading the Archbishop's Council report 'Setting God's people free' which can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3858033/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free.pdf>

This section of the meeting then closed with a short time of prayer.

3. APOLOGIES

Kate Cooper

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PCC MEETING HELD 10TH JULY 2017

The minutes were unanimously approved. It was noted that the Transformational Index is still being circulated. Whilst some had seen it others had not. Rob advised that Carrie Wainwright has completed the required report covering the first year of the project.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ SECRETARYSHIP

No matters arising. Rob pointed out that Wendy Lewis had resigned as PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer from the end of 2017 with the intention that she be shadowed for the November meeting thereby allowing a smooth transition. Members of the PCC were asked to think and pray about who may be a suitable replacement and to pass names on to Rob, Frances or Ray.

ACTION: Members of the PCC to prayerfully consider the replacement of PCC

7. OPERATIONS/ HEALTH & SAFETY - BRIEF UPDATE

Ray noted that he had applied to the Diocese for the Faculty for works to the Roll of Honour. One letter of objection had been received. He also pointed out that the lightning conductor had its annual test in August and that the clock has recently been serviced. A roof tile from the Old School Rooms had fallen and hit dustbins and, as a result, £900 had been spent on repairing the roof. A few other problems had been found with the roof.

Ray presented a schedule of the 'Annual Review of Policies'. It was noted that in future the PCC should read the policies before the meeting and send questions of detail to Ray or the relevant person before the meeting in order to help reduce the amount of PCC time spent on these.

Clive then presented the Health & Safety Update. It was noted that the church's insurers now require that contractors being engaged must have the appropriate accreditation. It is no longer possible just to choose someone who has been recommended if they do not have the right accreditation. Clive and Ray will monitor.

Kate Croden had advised that a risk assessment should be undertaken for opening the church to the public during the summer and this had raised the question of whether the church should have

CCTV. There was a discussion about whether the church should have CCTV with a number of views put forward. The PCC decided that it would not be able to make a decision at this meeting and that the topic would therefore need to be included for discussion on the agenda for the November PCC meeting.

ACTION: Include item on CCTV on agenda for November 2017 PCC meeting.

Ray pointed out that the plans for the redevelopment of the Conservative Club site on the corner of Fowke Street included a possible new fire escape for the Old School Rooms. There is currently no fire escape from the rear yard of the OSR but the redevelopment may provide the opportunity to install a gate from the rear leading into an open space beyond with access to the road.

8. FINANCE

Sue Wilson presented the report from the Finance Committee together with the updated Statement of Financial Activities and the Adjusted General Fund Income and Expenditure, both to 31st July 2017.

Sue advised that it is the time of year when we begin to draw up the budget for next year. The budget is the financial part of planning for everything that we want to do as a church. The 2018 budget is put together by the Finance Committee who will ask each of the budget managers for their requirements and wishes. Figures come from plans, not the other way round which is why a negative year-end balance sometimes occurs. The 2017 budget is a negative budget because of what the church wanted to do in 2017. The forecast for the year end of 2017 is very encouraging, largely because of the result of the appeal to the church in May. Thanks to be given to everyone who reviewed their giving. The General Fund spending is continuously compared to budget. This is important so that we can make sure that we can still do all the things that we have said that we want to do.

Sue advised that the PCC should think about a purpose for the special donations figure (£105 legacy and special donations £4100) for the November meeting when the year-end forecast will be more confident, and consider whether it may be necessary to make adjustment to existing designated funds. Sue mentioned that one such is the Quinquennial and Fabric Fund which has a reserve of only £580 for unexpected non-routine maintenance of the church building and there is nothing for the Old School Rooms which recently required roof repairs. Should there be more held for church repairs and a fund set up for maintenance of the Old School Rooms?

ACTION: PCC at November meeting to discuss the use of the legacy and special donations currently held within the General Fund.

Sue pointed out that the report 'General Fund Income/ Expenditure to 31st July 2017' account now shows the 1st draft of the PCC 2018 General Fund budget, and requested that budget holders comment or question figures at any time. In particular she had added in £1500 for Mission 2018 under the section on Ministry on page 3.

Rob pointed out that next year is the 100th anniversary of the Armistice and that Hope are producing a range of resources so some funds should be put aside so that we can maximize the opportunities that this will present. However this will be just before the church Mission 2018 and so it will need thought.

Rob asked Sue to change the budget manager for the Reach sub-

committee to Wendy Ferguson who is now chair.

ACTION: Budget holders to review the draft of the PCC 2018 General Fund budget and raise any questions with Sue Wilson.

Clive noted that the Finance Committee report asked for an update on the OSR scoping project. The PCC agreed that the communications / publicity group would look into this, although this group has not yet come into existence. Liz Sleath has agreed to be the OSR Coordinator, a role which will be unpaid and additional to her work as administrator. In practice, she does this anyway. Liz has her finger on the pulse of what is happening in the village. Sue Wilson queried where else in the village people are holding events and parties and would discuss this with Liz. It is important that we have a feel for what people in the village want. Linda advised that when she was searching for a venue for the PCC Away Day the going rate for church halls is £10 per hour.

Clive also noted that there has been discussion at the Finance Committee about the funding of ChurchBuilder. Sue Wilson confirmed that she has not been asked for any money for this yet. Unless the PCC purchases ChurchBuilder it cannot be used by Carrie and Jon Wainwright after 1st April 2018. David Salt advised that ChurchEdit (the software which supports the church website) is further developing its software and that the church website group will look into its capabilities.

9. COMMITTEES

Reach and Send Committees had not met. Sue Wilson mentioned on behalf of the Send Committee that a representative from Tearfund will be coming to speak at the 10:30 service on Sunday 19th November.

Linda Poole tabled the minutes from the latest Build meeting and thanks were expressed to Linda and the Build Committee for their preparation of the breakfast prior to the first joint service held the day before on Sunday 24th September 2017.

Linda Poole reminded the PCC about the arrangements for the Social Evening to be held on Saturday 7th October 2017, each member to contribute £3. Linda has been looking at venues for the PCC Away Day and it has been agreed that this will be held at the Chapter House, St Mary in Charnwood Church, Nanpantan on 27th January 2018. The day will be from 10-3 and a contribution of £3 will be requested from each member of the PCC towards lunch and refreshments. Rob advised that he will be asking the PCC to look at questions such as does the existing sub-committee structure which has existed now for 10 years still work? A Communications team is needed but how will this work within the existing structure? As we are heading into Mission 2018, how can we best focus the PCC structure in order to be an effective leadership group for the year?

10. VICAR'S REPORT

The PCC considered Rob's report.

Rob spoke about the relationship between the churches in Rothley and noted that in the CPAS exercise earlier in the evening some said that this was working well, others said not so great. He advised that Churches Together in Rothley Committee had not met recently, and that the Baptist Church had resigned from this. It was likely that the Committee would disband in the near future. The County Ecumenical Committee would invite the Committee to be suspended or to be dissolved. Rob expressed sadness at this situation. However the work between the churches in Rothley eg. Food bank, prayer for missing children, turning on of the Christmas lights will go on because much of this work has been independent of the Churches Together in Rothley Committee.

Rob reminded the PCC that Carrie Wainwright, the Children and Families Worker will be going on maternity leave from 1st October 2017 until Easter 2018. Each Sunday School group has an appointed volunteer to look after it during this period.

ACTION: Rob to inform PCC of the volunteers looking

Rob advised that Josh had completed his placement working with churches having involvement with Muslims within Leicestershire. He would be putting together a written report for the next PCC regarding this.

Finally Rob informed the PCC that the church currently has 4 Foundation Governors on the board at Rothley Primary School Academy. Malcolm Cook and Jackie Wainwright will shortly be stepping down. Rob asked the PCC to pray about possible successors and to hand a flyer that had been written by Malcolm and Jackie to anyone interested. There is no set time for which a Foundation Governor is appointed, however each governor must be renewed every 4 years.

11. REVIEW OF TONIGHT'S MEETING

ACTION: Members of the PCC to prayerfully consider

- ✚ The CPAS session was useful and productive and has given us something to take forward
- ✚ It was a shorter agenda and more manageable and relaxed
- ✚ This was despite the Business Committee having not met but dealt with its business including the setting of the PCC meeting agenda over email
- ✚ Documents were sent out in good time
- ✚ Members of the PCC were honest and open during the discussions, some of which had been difficult
- ✚ Feedback requested from the Diocesan Conference - in particular how it applies and relates to us all as part of the church
- ✚ The update and discussion with Stephen Thomason felt a bit rushed. Could we give consideration to how Stephen can be supported by the PCC?
- ✚ Would be good for the PCC to be able to review the Holiday Club and the All Together service (Carrie will be producing a report reviewing the Holiday Club. Rob to arrange flipcharts to enable review of the All Together Service at the next Sunday services)

12. NEXT MEETING

- Business Committee Meeting - Wednesday 15th November at 19:30 *Venue to be arranged*
- Next PCC Committee - Monday 27th November at 19:30

The meeting ended at 21:30.