



All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 14 December 2015,
19.30 at 22 Dunottar Avenue, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0AB**

	Present	Action
	Charlotte Benjamin, Lucy Falcus, Jenny Lewis, Karen Killick, John Littlehailes, Bruce Merrick, Pam Rushton, Sarah Pocock, Margaret Vaughan. <u>Chair:</u> John Lambert	
1	Opening Reflections and Prayers John Littlehailes spoke about Advent, waiting for Christmas and for the Second Coming, and about the coming into the world of love and grace seen against a background of seemingly increasing cruelty and violence. Reconciliation of these can be seen through the world increasingly rejecting God. But we know that Christ has already defeated sin. He also said that we would have trouble, but not to worry. When we are troubled we should remember that the kingdom's mustard seed is planted in us: we will grow through faith and the kingdom will grow through our efforts. John painted the PCC as enablers and servants, dealing with the everyday matters but looking towards the future, straining to hear God's message for us. To watch and wait, but to work together for the growth of the kingdom. The PCC then prayed for God's guidance, and for other immediate concerns.	
2	Apologies for Absence Kay Adeboye, Jennifer Brown, Mark Harrison, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Stuart Main, Richard Spratt, David Warren.	
3	Approval of minutes of the meeting of 19 October The minutes of the meeting of 19 October were approved with an amendment to item 7, with one abstention for absence.	
4	Correspondence The vicar, treasurer, and secretary all received a letter from the Church of England central office requesting the submission of data for the year now ending. Stuart Main will complete the Financial report, and John Littlehailes, with the help of the churchwardens will complete the report covering "Statistics for Mission".	Stuart Main John Littlehailes
5	Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda 5.1 Music Stands have been purchased (item 7) and the further purchases are in hand. 5.2 The Standing Committee has looked at the Accessibility report and an independent person is being approached to look at it with an outside eye. The question was raised as to the whereabouts of the ramp for use at the chancel step, to be sure that we had it available for wheelchair users. The churchwardens will look for it. If it cannot be found another must be made.	Church wardens
6	Financial update Margaret Vaughan reported on Stuart Main's behalf. With 11 months gone,	

	<p>the remaining surplus is now £2,353. This will be further eroded by the end of the year as further bills are submitted.</p> <p>Photocopying and upkeep of services is overspent, as is the children's work and the Traidcraft and coffee budget. Stuart will be looking into the children's budget expenditure which is confused by the incorporation of the Messy Church costs. The PCC urged that the Messy Church expenditure should be reported separately: it is felt important that we understand its cost, while recognising that it is an important initiative.</p>	Stuart Main
7	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Karen Killick reported that nothing has been reported to her over the past two months. She will be posting the Policy statement at both ends of the church. Karen said that she wished to relinquish the role at the end of the church year. The PCC discussed the characteristics needed by a successor: it was felt that the role demanded integrity, independence, the ability to deal with difficult information and the ability to write succinct reports.</p> <p>The PCC thanked Karen for the years of work she had put into the task. The system for signing in and out of the children at the 10.30 services seemed to be working well.</p>	
8	<p>Vision Day</p> <p>There will be a Vision Day on Saturday 6 February, starting with a Prayer Breakfast and looking at the question of the appropriateness of the church buildings for our future plans for growth. It will form the start of an inclusive process to determine what, if anything, should be done at this point.</p>	
9	<p>Gift Day</p> <p>On Sunday 7 February, in the light of the dilapidation of much of the church furniture, there will be a Gift Day aimed at replacing equipment which is no longer useful. As in the past, there will be an option to tithe one tenth of offerings, and the Mission Giving Group has been asked to provide a suitable specific cause to whom such tithing should be given.</p>	Bruce Merrick
10	<p>Treasurer's Post</p> <p>The PCC recognised that Stuart Main was now having to travel a considerable distance to be able to attend meetings in Eaglescliffe. He has said that he would be willing to continue in post, but the PCC are mindful of the inconvenience and feel it is wise to plan a contingency should the burden of travel become too heavy. Members considered replacements, but none came to mind. It was suggested that Stuart could be present at meetings through the medium of Skype or similar technology. It was also suggested that a Deputy Treasurer could be appointed to share the attendance at meetings, and also to be learning from Stuart in preparation for an eventual transfer of responsibility. John Lambert said he would approach Stuart to get his reaction to these suggestions.</p>	John Lambert
11	<p>MDT Report</p> <p>John Lambert brought to the PCC the MDT report for December. Highlights were:</p> <p>The MDT had heard from Deb and Duncan Hird about the 3G Small Group.</p>	

	<p>It is doing well: it is growing, and provides a good way into the church fellowship for new members. Deb and Duncan are looking to expand the leadership.</p> <p>Mark Miller, from SPC, has contacted All Saints'. He is looking for volunteers for a one year term to look after the many requests from members of their congregation, who are largely migrants, for help in dealing with the various bureaucracies which surround their lives as they try to settle into this country. They need help in filling forms, they often need someone to act as advocate, someone befriending them, to accompany them to meetings and to help them find who to contact. The volunteers will also be asked to train members of SPC to take on these roles after they have left.</p> <p>John Lambert proposes to talk to the congregation at the 10.00am Services between Christmas and the New Year about all of this.</p> <p>The Welcome lunch went well with some useful feedback.</p> <p>The MDT discussed the Verse of the Year for 2016: "Zeal for Your house consumes me" (Psalm 69.9) was suggested. The MDT has gone away to consider other verses, and if any occurs to the PCC John asked them to let him know ASAP.</p> <p>There was some discussion within the PCC of the role of the MDT and of the frequency of replacement of members. John Lambert is considering the issuing of a leaflet describing the interrelationship of MDT, PCC and Standing Committee.</p>	<p>John Lambert</p> <p>All</p> <p>John Lambert</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Deanery Synod Report</p> <p>Bruce Merrick reported: St Peter's has moved into an interregnum. Ben Bentham is taking on the Rural Parishes while the Rural Dean is working within the Diocesan structure.</p> <p>The Synod discussed the Bishop's walk in May: the team organising it is in place. The Bishop aims to walk within and meet the community, rather than walking from church to church.</p> <p>The Chapter away day went very well (described by John Lambert as "brilliant")</p> <p>It has been decided that Parishes will no longer need the Bishop's permission for members to assist at communion: the decision now rests with the incumbent and the PCC.</p> <p>In a report on finances it was said that the Deanery share was coming in well. As a related matter there was a "Poverty Quiz"; an unexpected revelation was that Eaglescliffe has a high number of single parent families.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>The dates for the Governance Meetings in 2016 (Standing Committee, Deanery Synod and PCC) had been circulated and were accepted by the PCC.</p> <p>John Lambert will lead the Prayer and Reflection period at the beginning of the next Meeting on Monday 18 January 2016.</p> <p>The PCC concluded with fellowship with cake and drinks in thankfulness for</p>	<p>John Lambert</p>

	God's goodness to us in the past year.	
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