



# All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

**Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 18 February 2019,**

**19.30 at 22 Dunottar Avenue, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0AB**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Lawrence Gnanaraj, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Karen Killick, Kathie Lambert, John Littlehales, Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, Ian Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, David Warren, Nicola Wrightson. <u>Chair:</u> John Lambert.	
<b>1</b>	Lucy Falcus talked about a course she recently attended, "Setting God's People Free" and in particular about one session, in which the theme chosen involved the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 12.31,32), a very familiar passage. Lucy talked of her understanding of the parable as one of growth and most commentaries agree. The speaker that day commented that mustard seed could be seen as a malignant weed: a great pest. Hearers at the time would perhaps understand a possible curse rather than a blessing. Why did Jesus use this parable? More to the point, why no growth? John 5.19, 26 the Son can do nothing by himself. Lucy told the story of a discouraged woman, who devoted much time and effort to create a children's ministry in her church, but very few children came. She asked, in despair, "Why God are children not coming" and heard God's words, "I didn't ask you to do this". Lucy made the point that we should always be praying about what God is asking us to do within our ministries. The PCC then split into groups to do so.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Kay Adeboye, Paul Arnold, Sue Levan, Stuart Levin.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of 21 January 2019.</b> The Minutes were accepted with 3 abstentions.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> Letter from the Bishop Paul about the commissioning of APA's and their recommissioning in the past. APAs will now become Pastoral Ministers, training for one year, and their ministry prayed for and affirmed locally.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the Agenda)</b> Good to see the new bike racks in place outside the Centre.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Financial Update</b> Kathie Lambert provided the PCC with an updated set of figures. There was discussion of the level of giving in the envelopes, which has dropped: figures for January are often misleading, and the PCC will wait for a month or so to see if these adjust. The income from Standing Orders seems about right. The income from the Solar Panels income is still awaited, this is being followed up. The figure for the Staff Salaries looks wrong: Kathie will check. Kathie commented that we have had a charge imposed by Barclays Bank of £1.50 per cheque and £1.50 per £100 cash throughput (this, since we move more than £200,000 per annum through the account). We shall have to pay	

	<p>this from this month (last month's demand has been withdrawn since we were not informed of the charges). Santander charge less than Barclays. Kathie will continue to explore other possible accounts. The 2018 accounts are now ready for the accountants.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding</b> Nicola Wrightson said that there was nothing to report. There was no further comment from members of the PCC.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Wardens' Update</b> Karen Killick spoke of the insurance (we are in last month of a five-year contract). Joe Fraser has said that our sums insured are appropriate. We are insured at present with Congregational: Karen has obtained quotes from them and from Ecclesiastical who quoted a marginally cheaper sum for the same insurance, but are fussy, and demanding a visit to check things. Karen recommends that we remain with Congregational, even though there is £150 or so difference, since they have been helpful and easy to deal with. <b>Proposed by Karen Killick</b> "That we remain with Congregational as our insurers." <b>Seconded by Martin Howard.</b> All in favour. We have various quotations for the replacement of windows which are confusing, since they are based on different approaches. (One interesting approach is to have PVC windows behind wooden frames): we shall continue to investigate. Karen reported (in response to an earlier request) that in 2018 there were eleven children's parties, one of which had a church member involved. Thanks were expressed to Joe Fraser for his work on our behalf.</p>	<b>Church Wardens</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>REACH</b> The church heating is now in place, and almost complete. There is no hot water in the toilets; the heater is being put back this week. There will be a marginal increase in the ultimate price as a result of increasing material costs. While floor was up, conduits were installed for wiring, for internet etc. Some snagging remains to be done. It is suggested that we may need to install a fire rated hatch into the loft. To be pursued. The Diocese has given us 10% towards the cost of the heating installation. A quote for audio-visual and lighting has been discussed for the next stage of the works. The DAC wants us to develop ideas around the lift to the stage (ramp seems more appropriate), DAC has also asked for an elaboration of the theological basis for the glass screen. They want more detail about the proposed Baptistry. We must demonstrate for the proposed new parking area that we shall use materials which will not damage tree roots. We now await the Diocesan response, when we can move forward to getting quotes for the next stage. When we are at last able to move on we shall have to bring the costs to the congregation.</p>	<b>REACH Steering Group</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Parish Giving Scheme</b> Margaret Vaughan at the last meeting talked with Nathan Bruce. We do not aim to abolish envelopes, since it is important that the congregations have a choice. Donors who give cheques in envelopes. Current Standing Orders would need to move to Direct Debit, (which would probably entail some</p>	

	<p>adjustments, since the proposed scheme requires all Direct Debits to be paid at the beginning of the month). Experience suggests that some people may be hesitant to move. A benefit of the proposal would be fewer individual transactions for monthly aggregation by the treasurer and her team. The handling of Gift Aid will be simplified as well. It was suggested that the PCC should be among the first to make the transition, to test the difficulty of handling the change. <b>Proposed by Margaret Vaughan:</b> "That the Parish adopts the Parish Giving Scheme with immediate effect."  <b>Seconded by Kathie Lambert.</b> All in Favour.</p>	<p><b>Margaret Vaughan</b></p> <p><b>Kathie Lambert</b></p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Role of the Staff Management Team</b></p> <p>Debbie Bunford pointed out that the outline of the role was last updated in 2011. She asked if the Staff Management Group (SMT) was still required? Is it possible to make role clearer? She outlined the wide range of tasks that have been undertaken over recent years. The PCC felt strongly that we do need to keep a SMT but need to sharpen up the definition of responsibilities both for the Group and for the PCC (with whom the ultimate responsibility rests). It is important that the SMT has a member on the PCC (this has been lacking in the past) to ensure a good communication channel. The church needs to raise the profile of the SMT. The SMT should, in future, be a routine monthly item on the PCC Agenda in the light of our responsibilities. It was suggested, and agreed, that the PCC should receive a six-monthly report (one after the annual appraisals and then in a further six months perhaps an item relating to policy). The SMT will continue to support the PCC in its role as employer. We need in place a clear process for dealing with issues that arise. The PCC thanked the SMT for the very professional work they have done: they find it invaluable.</p>	<p><b>John Littlehailes SMT</b></p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Extended License for the use of the Hall</b></p> <p>John Littlehailes asked the PCC for its approval for an extended time for Tim Wye-Williams' celebration in the Centre later this year. The PCC was happy to approve an extension, and they wished him a Happy Birthday!</p>	<p><b>John Littlehailes</b></p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Lucy Falcus pointed out that the next Deanery Synod is open to anyone interested in attending: there will be a representative from the diocese present.</p> <p><b>Martin Howard</b> volunteered to lead the Opening Reflections and Prayers at the next PCC on <b>Monday 18 March 2019</b>.</p> <p><b>The Meeting ended</b> with the reading together of the Doxology at the end of Jude (vv 24, 25).</p>	<p><b>Martin Howard</b></p>