



All Saints' Church

Preston on Tees

Minutes of the PCC Meeting on Monday 16 September 2019,

19.30 at 22 Dunottar Avenue, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0AB

| | Present | Action |
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| | Paul Arnold, Debbie Bunford, Lucy Falcus, Lawrence Gnanaraj, Simon Honeywell, Martin Howard, Kathie Lambert, Scott Linnett, Pamela Rushton, Richard Spratt, John Taylor, Margaret Vaughan, David Warren, Nicola Wrightson. <u>Chair:</u> John Lambert. <u>Visitor:</u> Kathryn Belmont (Item 3). | |
| 1 | Opening Reflections and Prayers Lawrence Gnanaraj led the period of reflection, thinking about setting plans as leaders. Various goals exist, but for us spiritual goals are important. In general, without a goal, we just go around in circles. In relation to a Christian life, to have a goal gives us a map. Should we just wait for God to reveal His intentions for us? Lawrence referred us to Romans 12.68ff. The list of gifts: prophesy and so on. If we are setting goals, we put our trust in Him and go forward with him. How should we set goals? In the outside world we respond to a Line Manager with goals already set, and bear responsibility for these and so on for the next year. This is comparatively easy at work, since measurement is possible, both of objectives and time. But spiritual SMART is goal rooted in prayer? Not perhaps measurable but meaningful. Goals should still be achievable and attain something further: important that these are God's Goals. Spiritually, is this the right time in relation to what God wants us to do? How do we know that our goal is achievable within the timescale: we know our relationship with God is dynamic and we must look for signs as our relationship develops, remaining flexible to accommodate new understanding. We can, we will, make mistakes, but that is ok since our Father knows what we are trying to do. Philippians 3. We must keep on the right track once we are under way trying to be sure that our objective is in line with God's wishes. John Lambert then led the PCC in prayer around this thesis. | |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence, and Declaration of Conflicts of Interest Apologies had been received from Karen Killick and Ian Taylor and Stuart Levin. Nicola Wrightson declared a conflict of interest with Item 11, Margaret Vaughan with item 14, Debbie Bunford with item 7 and 12, and Richard Spratt with item 12. | |
| 3 | Youth Ministry Kathryn Belmont talked about the important issues raised in her paper presented to the PCC. A busy summer! Taking the group to Malawi was a very sobering experience but was filled with remarkable things. Kathryn worked with Tear Fund and with Scripture Union Malawi. It was very much a country in poverty, and a very different environment. The young people responded very well to the experience, which involved much tricky travelling, but also leading songs and games and sharing with the Malawi | |

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| | <p>children. On her return she went to Soul Survivor which was wonderful. 7 of the 11 she took gave themselves to Jesus. The Holy Spirit was very much present.</p> <p>New academic year brings them to the second year of the 5-year plan. Last year the remodelling of the Youth Room was a major item. Many gave to the project. It now provides an important space where the young people can feel free to question and discuss without feeling uneasy. It has been a good year, with deep conversations among the youngsters. To help growth the leaders are encouraging young people to take on responsibilities: this is going well. Caroline and Katy both working well together and taking up specific responsibilities themselves.</p> <p>The team is working to get young people into Life Groups, surroundings in which they are able to get deeper into discussion. Social events are being organised to build friendships. Prayer was asked that those coming to the social groups will come to life groups. At the end of the year six of the young people were leaving, going to University and elsewhere: for them conversations were held about life as an adult, finding a church and so on. Looking ahead: the items are referred to in the report.</p> <p>Four new year 7s are joining the groups, and very easily fitting in. There was discussion about the succession planning for Caroline and Katy. Growing churches are subject to attack: prayer needed for protection for Kathryn and for all the team involved. Margaret Vaughan led the PCC in prayer for the Youth Work, and in thanks for the team we have in place.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Approval of Minutes of meeting 15th July 2019 These minutes were agreed with two abstentions. Thanks were given to Margaret Vaughan for producing them.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Matters Arising not otherwise covered in the Agenda None.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Correspondence No correspondence had been received.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Financial Update and Parish Share Kathie Lambert brought the PCC up to date. There is a movement towards the new modes of giving to the church. Maintenance budget is over: the money was properly spent. Children's Work nominally underspent, there is a proposal to spend all of this money left. There was discussion of the amount of money coming into the various ministries as cash, and the need for proper records of the expenditures. Kathie received an email asking for folding screens to partition the Centre: a spend of £350. Questions were raised as to the budgetary source and the availability of storage space. Kathie has been approached with an offer to support one of our young people on their gap year. They wish to remain anonymous: the cash transfers will be best handled through a stewardship account. (HMRC is happy).</p> <p>We have been asked to increase Parish Share by 5%. Over the past period 5% each year. Voluntary giving has been increasing but at less than inflation. About 1% this year. KL not sure that we can give a further 5% without a significant impact on our funds. There was discussion around the</p> | |

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| | <p>issue, with some strong support for the PCC giving, in the light of our comparative wealth, once again the full 5% requested. Proposed by Lucy Falcus that as a PCC we would like to see more and clearer communication from the Diocese about the use of Parish Share across the Diocese. Seconded by Paul Arnold. Motion carried with 2 abstentions. The PCC was asked to pray and think about this issue, and to address it at the next PCC.</p> | <p>Lucy Falcus</p> <p>John Littlehailes</p> |
| 8 | <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Nicola Wrightson said that she gave thanks to God that she had no issues to bring to the PCC. She did, however, since she was not present during the discussion at the last PCC of the Safeguarding audit, want to make the point that the audit is for our internal benefit, and does not need to be published. She always completes a list of volunteers and drivers as part of the audit and will bring the list to the PCC next month for its approval. There were no other safeguarding questions or concerns raised.</p> | <p>Nicola Wrightson</p> <p>John Littlehailes</p> |
| 9 | <p>Wardens' Update</p> <p>Martin Howard spoke to the PCC about the maintenance budget overspend: this was due in part to the work done on the trees (under TPOs) and in part due to the painting of the hall, and to the new blinds now installed. The kitchen has been deep cleaned over the summer, which will now become a regular in-house operation. The double glazing of the windows of the flat will be dealt with next week (just the flat, not including the office above). The heating of the flat is also being investigated. There will be significant expense in establishing the supply of gas, so we are looking at "intelligent" electric heating. (An anonymous donor is paying for this.). We have investigated the improvement in the washing of our floors. A rapid drying and efficient deep cleaning system was demonstrated during the summer; Martin was very impressed and is keen that we should adopt the system. The machine would cost (a 30 cm size) £3,541.20 including VAT. including a training for people using the machine. Martin was asked to see if other quotes were possible, and a decision was deferred.</p> | <p>Martin Howard</p> |
| 10 | <p>REACH</p> <p>Richard Spratt talked first about Phases 2 and 4. We have until March to resubmit without charge. The REACH group has decided to review this with an extraordinary meeting for whole church to reconsider the way forward. Phase 3: today the submissions of contracts for the work was due: it was hoped that some information would be available for the PCC, but this was not to be. We may have to call an extraordinary PCC to expedite consideration of the quotes. We have been given a grant of £5,000 towards the baptistry from the Goshen Trust. There has been some modification of the design of the glass for the chapel, to ensure that it will fit the framework.</p> | |
| 11 | <p>Staff Management Team</p> <p>Debbie Bunford Staff management team have been spending significant time (in confidence) on the needs of staff. There have been meetings with Nicola and will be with Sandra about how the twinned reception post is going.</p> | |

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| | The PCC thanked her for her contribution and recognised our good fortune in having such a good team dealing with these matters. | |
| 12 | Mission Giving Sue Levan's paper was brought to the PCC by Margaret Vaughan. The PCC was happy with the giving as proposed. All in favour, 2 abstentions. | Sue Levan |
| 13 | Treasurer and Secretary John Lambert said that Kathie has now been treasurer for 4 years and will stand down at the end of the year. John Littlehailes will also be standing down as secretary then, as will a Church Warden. John Lambert asked the PCC to pray about who might be their successors. | All |
| 14 | Resource Church Paul Arnold spoke about the draft Stage 1 bid which David Tomlinson has produced. It comprises two strands: one strand called 'communities of hope' seeking to plant small congregations into areas of high deprivation in the diocese, and a second devoted to the creation of suburban resource churches to be engines of planting into strategic areas of opportunity. The second strand provides the context for the All Saints' submission. Paul was questioned as to the date given (2020) for the Wynyard proposal. The point was made that, indeed, 2020 was the date we expected for St. Paul's, but there has been no discussion so far within the PCC of any proposal concerning Wynyard. While there has been discussion within the Diocese, the ideas are not yet as advanced as those for St. Paul's Parish. A meeting will be held shortly about the Wynyard proposals including how best to identify leadership for that. The reason for the apparent confusion of timing is that the money for both projects will be available to be drawn down from 2020. | |
| 15 | AOB The next Meeting of the PCC will be on Monday 21 October 2019 . Kathie Lambert offered to lead reflections at the October meeting. The meeting closed with the Grace. | |