

MINUTES

Present: Revd. Henry Curran, Kate Curran, Kathryn Hubbard, Becca Haines, Jonathan Larsson, Fiona Houghton, Lawrence Ward, Debs Hunt, Joyce Cooper, Stacey Mutch, Chris Drew.

1. Opening Prayer

Led by Henry from 1 Corinthians 1 and Philippians 2.

2. Apologies

Rosie Adsley, Ian Knight.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (20th May 2019)

Item 3 should read, "We welcomed new members and Henry explained how the PCC works."

Item 7.1. should read, "the quote for repairs to the church hall guttering and downpipe"

Item 10 should read, "Lawrence explained that the language of profit or loss is not helpful at this stage in the year and that we should think of it as excess or otherwise of cash spending."

a. Action Points and Matters arising

Item 7.3. Henry reported that Standing Committee had accepted a donation enabling us to complete the hand drier work as well as the heaters. However, the radiators specified on the initial quote do not fit in the smaller church hall toilet, so the plumber has measured again and Henry is waiting for an amended quote.

4. Vicar's Report

There were no questions about the Vicar's report

5. Review of Church Weekend

Saturday: The morning felt like an early start for some, the church building was unhelpful for group work. We had decided to give the church hall to the children as they were being expected to be there all day. Afternoon seminars were very helpful but felt not to be long enough.

Sunday: The all-age service in the church hall and barbecue were widely appreciated, except some older members felt they only knew one song as there were no hymns.

6. Report from Standing Committee

Item 2: Henry explained that 'being Anglican' is really a theological position more than a style of worship etc. The sermon series he has in mind would explore the doctrines expressed in the Thirty-Nine Articles of Faith.

7. Vision Statement Priorities for 2019-2020

After discussion we agreed with the Standing Committee's thoughts about the need to focus on B2 and B1 of our vision statement in the coming year. When we have looked at these before they have mainly led to a focus on midweek activities, including Connect Groups and the Wednesday Fellowship, but we now need to focus on how B2 and B1 should affect our Sunday gatherings. We will not forget the other priorities but use these to work towards them.

8. Service Review

We discussed the proposed changes to the morning and evening services. Many of us felt a culture change is needed at the morning service so that we meet to worship together rather than as a collection of individuals, addressing priority B2 from our vision statement. Others felt this

would be a significant and unwelcome shift for those who are used to the traditional model or enjoy their own space. Henry felt that though this is a challenge for some, we are already alienating potential church members who wish they were made more welcome. He pointed out that most things we do at the morning service – e.g. praying, singing, listening to sermons – can be done at home, but what we cannot do alone is obey Jesus' command to love one another, so our focus at services must be our togetherness. Overall the PCC was in agreement with this.

1. Many of us were enthusiastic about having refreshments before morning services, but others pointed out that some older members who are used to arriving for a time of silence with God before the service may find this difficult. We were undecided as to whether it would be most helpful to have organ music, band music or quiet during pre-service refreshments, but felt it may help to have quiet to start with to help the change settle in. **Action: Henry** to speak to Elizabeth Argyle about preparing the Hospitality team for this change.

2. There was general enthusiasm for icebreaker chats during the morning service, so long as any question given relates to the service theme.

3. Joyce warned that for some, praying in groups will be a big step and they will feel uncomfortable. We suggested helping people build up to this by suggesting just listening or one-sentence prayers. We plan to use a mix of prayer in groups and prayer led from the front.

4. The new trial layout at the front of church has received wide approval and great enthusiasm from the Music team. The main dissatisfaction was with being unable to use the Holy Communion table and rail, as Communion has felt more rushed and cramped. Henry recognised that this is unsatisfactory and promised that if we decide to stick with the new layout, we will consider moving the choir stalls currently blocking the rail to storage.

We agreed to try the proposed arrangements for a period and review them after a detailed survey of church members' opinions in the autumn.

There was general enthusiasm for Henry's proposal to use the same sermon at both morning and evening services so as to free up his time. There was concern that those who attend both services may decide to leave the evening service, making it unviable, but others felt it would bring unity to the church family and may even be beneficial to those hearing the same sermon twice in different settings. *We agreed to try using the same sermon series for morning and evening services, and review how well it works.*

9. Repairs to Organ

We discussed the issues suggested in item C of Henry's report. There was a general will to keep organ music as part of the church's future, but there was concern at the cost of our current instrument's upkeep. We felt we could not justify spending on it this financial year.

Lawrence proposed and Joyce seconded that aim to we set aside £1,000 in 2020 budget for urgent organ repairs, and after that not to spend any more on repairs to the current instrument, other than annual tuning, until we have explored the possibility of replacing it with a digital system. Passed.

10. Autumn Term Programme

This item was deferred due to time constraints.

11. AOB

- a. Becka Howe has resigned from her job, meaning that she is unable to commit to leading Explorers toddler group from September. This calls into question the ministry's future. Kate asked members of the PCC to be praying about the future of Explorers.
- b. [removed - confidential]

12. Date of next meetings:

- a. PCC: 9th September (Evening of Study and Prayer)
- b. Standing Committee: 14th October (unless an extra meeting is required in July or August)

13. Determination of Confidential Items

[removed]

14. Review of Meeting

Becca closed in prayer.