#  St Mary’s, Bletchingley

**Minutes of PCC Meeting held 15th January 2019**

**in Church House, Bletchingley**

**Present:**

April Alexander (churchwarden) Oliver Jackson
Glynis Beazley Cyril Mighall

Pamela Cock Valerie Muller (PCC Secretary)

Richard Fowler (churchwarden) Clemmie Sellick

Vicki Gillespie Clare Sturgeon
Sarah Goad Lisa Swan (treasurer)

Lynn Hargreaves McCallum Liz Windridge

Sandie Hooper

Jennifer Hyde

**Apologies:**

The Rector, Alison Horlock, Robin Idle, Leanna Quevado, Penny Sherrington

In the absence of the Rector, (who was unwell,) Richard Fowler chaired the meeting
and started it with prayer.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minutes from previous meeting*** The minutes of the meeting held on November 22nd 2018 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.
 |  |
| **Matters Arising****Use of Holy Spirit Chapel as an intimate space and coffee area*** RF has spoken to the architect, as the diocesan advisor was unavailable.
* The biggest problem will be drainage. The sink in the vestry is not suitable and a new drain would have to run along the north side of the church and across the graveyard to the sewer in Church Lane.
* A better option might be to use the area around the font. This would enable a drain to run along the line of the church path to the Church House drain. This would also not cause any archaeological problems which digging up the area to the north of the church would cause.
* The pews could be removed and a more friendly space for private baptisms would be created.
 |  |
| **Correspondence*** An invite had been received for a course ‘Using your church for Mission’. This is on February 2nd ‘somewhere’ in the Isle of Dogs. No-one was free to go.
* There is also a course ‘Going for Growth’ being run by the Deanery. It is on the first and second weekends of March, running from Friday evening to Saturday evening. Each parish can send 5 people and will cost £100. Let Mark Tantum know if you would be interested. Either he or Rob Tucker are planning to be there.
* **Distressing emails** The rector has been receiving distressing emails and, had she been at this meeting, she would have shared some of them with the PCC. In these she has faced anger, bitterness, pettiness and the strain of all this is surely contributing to her ill health. In her absence April lead a discussion centred around Sunday’s sermon, (which is attached with these minutes) and how we, as a PCC can help by setting an example with our own behaviour. When we were looking for a new incumbent everyone was sure they wanted change, lets now move forward and embrace the changes we are enjoying. We, as a Benefice, are very lucky to have such strong preachers, lets support them all with our warmth, encouragement, love and prayers. Leading a service takes a lot of preparation, energy and concentration. The clergy welcome comments about the services they lead but constructive criticism may be best fed to the worship committee where it can be discussed more fully. The rector is in a very vulnerable place, we need to support her and show her our love.

It was decided to try to share sermons by publishing them on the website. |  |
| **CHURCH LIFE****Safeguarding*** There were no reported safeguarding issues.
* Jeff will be invited to our next PCC meeting to discuss any necessary changes needed to our policy brought about by the latest policy from the diocese
 |   |
| **JPIC*** A meeting due to be held with Welcare had to be cancelled because of Phe’s illness.
* Welcare would like to set up a MySpace clinic here. This aims to provides emotional and practical support to children and families experiencing temporary or long-term challenges. They will need volunteers to help with this programme.
* JPIC hope to organise guest speakers from their chosen charities.
* In order to make collecting gift Aid easier when we have special collections, it would be good to use charity specific envelopes.
* There is a Hello Bookshop opening in the Village this month
 |  |
| **Finance Committee**The treasurer circulated a summary of the Profit and Loss Account for the year ending December 2018.:* The overall deficit for the year is £956 (budgeted to be £357) compared to a deficit of £5,172 last year
* Direct giving and donation income totalled £60K compared to £61K last year. So a small decrease but significantly short of the budgeted £67K.
* The donation from the Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity has been received and was £9600. Up from £5556 last year and up from budgeted £6000
* Reserves (basically cash in bank) at 31 December 2018 are £14007 with £8332 for general use and 35675 for restricted use.
* Missions and Appeals paid out for 2018 were £2997 with £1907 coming from specific collections and the remaining £1090 paid out from general funds.

The treasurer went on to comment:* It would be good to have a year without any deficit!
* Giving needs to increase
* We cannot rely on money from the Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity
* The reserves would be used up very quickly if there were any unexpected expenses.
* Choir costs will remain the same this coming year as we are paying organists for playing at both services and practices.

Other comments:* Lisa was thanked for her hard working in managing our finances and for producing such easy to read accounts.
* We need a new treasurer. The gift aid secretary will continue until a new treasurer has been appointed.
* A question was asked about what percentage of income comes from large donors and would we be vulnerable if they left.
* Pie charts have been put up at the back of church explaining where our money goes. These include one showing income to the diocese which clearly shows that the total contributions from parishes only just covers the cost of the clergy. Therefore we are not subsidising the diocese. They receive income from other sources as well.
* The use of a card reader for collections has been looked at but there is no Wi-Fi in the church.
 |  |
| **Printed Material and Accessibility**A letter has been received about the size of the print we use in our printed material. There was also a query about whether the congregation are aware of what is available, ie large print hymn sheets and service books. It was decided to set up a small committee to look into this. Valerie Muller, Vickie Gillespie and Lyn Hargreaves McCullum | VMVGLHM |
| **Worship Committee**Minutes of their last meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting.There was mention of the choir from St Nicholas Godstone joining our choir for one of the Easter Services. Details of this need to be confirmed | VM |
| **Social Committee**This committee has not met but they have been asked to organise a pancake party on March 2nd in Church House following the rehearsal for the Confirmation Service on March 3rd. Clemmie and Sarah offered to help with this evening. |  |
| **GDPR**Everyone was reminded that they must be very careful when sending out emails on behalf of the church to third parties. They must protect the identity of the recipient. |  |
| **Preparations for the APCM April 7th**This year the electoral must be renewed completely so everyone will need to fill in a form. Need to check when the various stages need to be completed by.Application forms can be downloaded from the Southwark diocesan site.New GDPR forms will also be sent out with the electoral forms simplifying the forms and making them easier to understand.The PCC secretary needs brief reports from as many groups as possible as soon as possible so she can compile The Annual Report |  |
| **PCC Away Evening**Discussion postponed until the Rector is with us. |  |
| **A.O.B*** Sunday Club need more helpers. Need to advertise in the newsletter but a personal approach may be more successful.
* The problem with the printer in the office seems to have been sorted.
* Nutfield would like to borrow our ‘blue’ hymn books. Everyone agreed to this request.
* Surrey Yeomanry have asked if they can perform another concert in October.

Everyone agreed |  |
| **Dates of future Meetings:****Standing Committee Meetings** Wed March 6th at 8pm at The Sheiling**PCC Meetings** are held in Church House at 8pmWednesday March 13th |   |
| The meeting finished at 10pm with everyone saying The Grace |  |