# St Mary’s, Bletchingley

**Minutes of PCC Meeting held 22nd November 2018**

**in Church House, Bletchingley**

**Present:** The Revd. Phaedra Pamphilon Green (Rector)   
  
John Buck Robin Idle

Pamela Cock Cyril Mighall

Richard Fowler (churchwarden) Valerie Muller (PCC Secretary)

Vicki Gillespie Clemmie Sellick  
Sarah Goad Glynis Beazley  
Sandie Hooper Clare Sturgeon

Lynn Hargreaves McCallum Penny Sherrington   
Alison Horlock Lisa Swan (treasurer)

Liz Windridge

**Apologies:**

April Alexander, (churchwarden), Oliver Jackson, Jennifer Hyde, Leanna Quevado, Lisa Swan

**The meeting started in church**

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| **Coffee**   * It was suggested that a Refectory arrangement might be created at the back of the Holy Spirit Chapel. * The chapel area by the altar would be retained but there could be a comfy seating area behind. * A wooden serving hatch with a cupboard underneath. The hatch would open to reveal a sink and coffee making facilities. * This would require  1. The pews to be moved and replaced with chairs 2. A water supply 3. Drainage 4. A power supply 5. A Faculty 6. The floor might need attention  * Everyone was asked to think and pray about the right answer |  |
| We then moved into Church House where the Rector read Psalm 16 (from the Compline for the day). The meeting then continued. |  |
| **Minutes from previous meeting**   * The minutes of the meeting held on Sept 16th were signed as a correct record of the meeting. |  |
| **Matters Arising**  **Safeguarding**   * . It was pointed out that the on-line safeguarding courses are run by the Church of England not by Southwark Diocese. The link is https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/ * **There are 2 courses** available in the diocese 1. February 9th at Trinity House, Southwark  2. May 11th at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Carshalton Both courses will run from 10am till 1pm * **Role descriptions** are being prepared. |  |
| **Correspondence**   * There were 2 letters from the diocese concerning Mission Action Planning. These were read out and are filed with these minutes * There was a letter from Jennifer Hyde about JPIC which is in JPIC Report * The following letter was received from liz Windridge:   “It was very special to have members of St Mary's at my Admission and Licensing service at Southwark, and also to receive so many cards and good wishes.  Also to Valerie and the team for organising the lunch on the following weekend.  Please record my special thanks to the PCC for arranging to buy my chosen preaching scarf. “ |  |
| **CHURCH LIFE**  **Safeguarding**   * There were no reported safeguarding issues. |  |
| **JPIC**  Jennifer sent the following report  “Jennifer attended a supporter’s information meeting at Redhill Welcare Centre.  This was aimed at explaining the wide range of services that Welcare offer and also explain their funding.  Surrey CC are planning a massive reduction in funding for Sure Start Centres, maybe 40%.  Currently the money coming in from local churches, about £11000 in total largely funds the My Space service – providing support and counselling for children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse.  Without church finding this provision would have to stop as Surrey CC does not cover this.  The council has its own set of priority areas that need to be addressed and this is not in that set of priorities.  Our donation ensures that this vital service continues.  More information about the programme ca be found at <https://welcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Welcare-MYSPACE-Trifold-2017-WEB.pdf>  Welcare are keen to talk to us about setting up a My Space group locally, coming to talk to the congregation about their work, encouraging us to pray for them and also think about volunteering.  They are very grateful for the food we donate to their foodbank too.  Looking forward to next year could we suggest to the PCC that we make contributions through the year to our chosen charities for 2019.  This might be quarterly or even set up monthly SOs to reduce the workload on Lisa.  We looked at the bible study groups that have been set up.  2 are running – Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning – meeting fortnightly.  These are small groups but attended enthusiastically, so are meeting a need.  The current course, Rivers of Justice by Ruth Valerio finishes in mid December.  Ideas for post-Christmas are to have some sessions where we discuss that week’s sermon, maybe invite the preacher to attend and also look at the reading that we don’t have read in church.  We would then start Lent groups that would meet weekly.  The Things He Carried by Stephen Cottrell was thought to be an interesting option.  This is a series of meditations with some discussion topics if these were felt to be relevant.  Jennifer will get a copy for Phe to look at and talk to her about how this might work. Of course, and any other ideas are welcome too.  Looking in to 2019 it would be good to begin the ‘creation’ part of JPIC.  This might be done through the Eco Church programme. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk> “  The finance committee looked at giving to charities and agreed to pay £500 to Arocha, and that any shortfall from the collections over Christmas, for Welcare and Renewed Hope Trust, will be made up to £500.  There is a need to raise awareness of these charities and the work they do. |  |
| **Finance Committee**  The treasurer sent the following report:   * Finance Summary - October 2018 - Overall deficit for first 10 months of the year is £5,056 (budgeted deficit at this stage of the year is £2,615). So, in plain language the church income is not meeting the church outgoings by, on average, £500 per month. * We are falling short of budget primarily because of an aggressive direct giving budget set for 2018 that we are not meeting, despite some one-off givings in the last few months from a few regulars (total of £2k) that has helped recently. * The donation from The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity has been agreed by its Trustees as £9,600 to be received by December 2018. This was budgeted to be a £6,000 contribution. So, these much needed and well received funds will clear this year’s church deficit, help towards mission giving, and we should finish the year with a small surplus. * Reserves (basically cash in bank) at 31 October 2018 are £11,827 which sounds good but £7,595 is for restricted use and only £4,232 is for general fund use. * Here is a breakdown:   Fund Amount at 31 Oct 2018  Bible Study Resources £50  Choir Fund £1,814 Fabric Fund £1,238  Mission Events (Magna Carta) £323 Training Bell Fund £2,670  General Fund £4,232  ***TOTAL*** £11,827   * - With the Thomas Chapman money coming in and estimated activity before the year end, I’d expect the general fund to be around £10,000 going forward into next year.   We need to be prepared for times when there isn’t a tenant in the Clerk’s House and therefore no rent coming in.  The Rector and RF met with Gabby Parekh from the diocese to look at how to raise awareness of stewardship, not just giving money but how we use our time and talents. During Epiphany there will be talks each week looking at different aspects of our giving including where our money goes, the costs both financial and in manpower, to run our parish and our diocese.  A vote of thanks was given to Lisa Swan for her expertise in managing our accounts.  She is a very busy person and would really like to shed some of these duties. |  |
| **Social Committee**   * There was a vote of thanks to all those on the Social Committee for their hard work in helping to make the Festival of Remembrance so special. * As a result of the weekend, £300 was raised for church funds and £300 for The British legion. * Both Halloween and the Remembrance Sunday provide very good opportunities to welcome people into our church |  |
| **Christmas 2018**   * December 2nd is Advent Sunday when we will be welcoming the Posada family into church before it leaves to travel around the village. The Village School are welcoming them on Dec 17th with a special assembly, they will then return them to church during their Carol Service on December 19th. Need homes to welcome them * Sat Dec 22nd there will be a Christmas breakfast in Church House from 8.30pm till 11am. Proceeds will go to Crisis at Christmas. * Sat Dec 22nd 11-12am Christingle rehearsal in church, need stewards at this rehearsal as well. * Mon Dec 24th 10am Making Christingles |  |
| **Organists**  A rota of organists and choir masters is now complete until the end of April.  An advert is on both our website and facebook page and more formal adverts will be place after Christmas. |  |
| **AOB.** There was none! |  |
| The meeting finished at 10.00 by saying The Grace |  |
| **Dates of future Meetings:**  **Standing Committee Meetings**  Wed Jan 9th 8pm at 59 High Street  Wed March 6th at 8pm at The Sheiling  **PCC Meetings** are held in Church House at 8pm Tuesday January 15th Wednesday March 13th  **Dates for the Diary**  Saturday Dec 15th English Arts Chorale Christmas Concert at St Mary’s at 7.30pm  Saturday Dec 22nd 8.30-11Christmas Breakfast in Church House in aid of Crisis  Saturday Dec 22nd Practice for Christingle at 11am in church  Sunday Dec 23rd St Mary’s Nine Lessons and Carols at 5pm  Sunday Feb 24th Confirmation Service at St Mary’s at 6.30pm  **STOP PRESS FROM the DIOCESE**  If you attended the Croydon Episcopal Area Lay Conference in 2017 at St Bede’s School, Redhill you will remember the success of the day; over 250 people attended from the Episcopal Area. It was an extremely encouraging and uplifting event. Feedback was very positive and it was agreed that another Lay Conference should be held in 2019. Now that 2019 is fast-approaching, I am writing to you to ask that you ‘Save the Date’:  **REFRESHING CHURCH**  **CROYDON EPISCOPAL AREA LAY CONFERENCE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2019: 09.30AM – 4.00PM**  **ST BEDE’S SCHOOL, CARLTON ROAD, REDHILL** |  |
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