

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council  
at Birstall on November 17th 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

*Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected and free to be fully themselves'.*

**PRESENT:** Mary BRUCE, Tony BLOXAM, Pete CHESTER, Vince JUPP, Annette MARSHALL, Cicely PLUMB, Andy PROUD, Leigh REID, Sandra ROBINSON, Debbie SHEPHARD, Bert TEGG, Marion TEGG, Dorothy WAKEFIELD, Lesley WALTON, John WARD, Julie WARD, Nicki WILLS

- **Apologies were received from Alasdair McH, Elaine White, Elaine M, Rose P**
- **We spent time dwelling in the Word : Luke 10:1-12**
- **V Jupp opened the meeting in prayer**
- **Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted, as was the minute of the emergency meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov** (corrections: - add Mary Bruce, remove Doreen Wilson)
- **Matters arising from the minutes**
- **Mission and evangelism**
  - Mission Partnership (See Deanery meeting)

The Mission Partnership continues to work well together. In October there was another marriage prep. course. Those present gave good feedback; the next is at Wanlip in February 2016.

We expect to meet with the Archdeacon as PCCs on Saturday 16 Jan 2016 at Syston to talk about potential models of groupings within the partnership. This does clash with MSM, so 9 people are unable to be present. **V. Jupp** to contact D. White to ask if rescheduling is possible.

- Pioneer Work update (report in advance)

The work is creating positive 'waves, vibrations,' and generating energy. There is a good sense of flexibility, of waiting on God. It seems to be exciting and yet scary. There is a danger of focussing on results. A concern was expressed that it isn't impinging on the congregation as a whole. How can we help change that? Can the group talk more in services? Since we had CAP Sunday... should we have NEARER Sunday Communion? ASAP. Maybe we should project things on screen before people come in, including NEARER information. This was felt to be a good idea but we need someone to take it on. Could it be part of welcomers' role? And how do we do it at Wanlip where there is no permanent screen or projector?

- **Finance**

- Update and budget.

N Wills is making progress and getting to grips with the new system. She is well on the way to embedding new software. Results from revised giving – will possibly show an increase in the next few months, it is too early to tell. Direct Debit now set up for insurance. It was pointed out that we have regular givers who were absent on Thanksgiving Sunday who haven't been specifically followed up. **Nicki** needs to do this. Perhaps she could also submit an article to the LINK magazine to reach absentees. We could also put a reminder in the notices and hand out forms on Sunday. There is a poster about legacies up now.

- Charities for 2016.

This is the time of year we need to review charitable giving. An additional charity has been proposed to add to the current list – St James Day-care Centre. D Shephard contacted them. We have traditionally supported the work there on Thursdays. The centre is running at a deficit at the moment. We can't make

this up. There seems to be little or no impetus to obtain grants, etc.; rather they seem to be waiting for money to run out (July 2017). It does 'bear our name'.

LW suggested a small gift be made to CAP. V Jupp proposed maintaining current list of charities, leaving the F and S committee to make a final decision about additions in the New Year. They will discuss adding CAP. This was accepted.

- Salaries for 2016.

F & S propose a general increase of 2%. There was some discussion about the 'odd' amounts this generated, but the proposal was accepted.

- **Reports in brief** (reports to be circulated in advance please),

**It was noted that reports should be handed out as far in advance as possible to ensure there is time for them to be read.**

- Social.

S Robinson is doing a great job under difficult circumstances. She has struggled a bit this year. It would be ideal if people said what they would like to do. The aim is to meet the community, help them mix with Christians. It was noted that perhaps we should improve our culture of giving praise and encouragement when things go well. Film nights are well-liked. Barn Dances are costly.

- Music and Worship, including 'Hymnal +' report and organist situation.

**Hymnal Plus** – what happened was a poor demonstration. A range of feelings was expressed. It was felt that it is expensive to be 'just' a back-up, but on the other hand, the problem at the demo was unprofessionalism, not the technology in itself. Perhaps it is better than nothing and better than the discs we have at present. J Ward and D Shephard don't think the system would be a good option for Wanlip; it seemed too complicated to set up and run. The system seems impersonal. Thanks were expressed to Gill for all her work.

**Organist.** At the moment, there are plenty of people happy to play. There are two very good organists who play at Wanlip. They will be sounded out about taking on a permanent role there. This may prove to be a solution; perhaps people are more likely to commit to playing permanently only at one service. There is a cost implication – it costs more to retain an organist. However we wouldn't need to have a person as highly qualified as our previous organist.

The general feeling was that it is quite nice to have a pool of willing people. Could we arrange a 'lead' musician to coordinate? Living with the status quo does imply that we won't get commitment to develop the choir. We need to get joy back into our singing! It was suggested that having people sing spontaneously before service was a positive thing and was helpful to some in preparing them for worship.

The consensus was that we felt no pressure to find a concrete, permanent solution, and should enjoy the process of discernment whilst keeping the debate going.

- Website.

G Pope and V Jupp met with Josh concerning more defined roles and responsibilities. Josh will keep communication up to date, adding new information, notices, etc. weekly.

- Sunday School,

### **Meeting Jan 2016**

- C.P.O.C.,

- Child protection changes and new online reporting procedures.

Nothing on CPOC , no further meetings.

A Marshall attended the Protection Coordinators Conference. They now have a much stricter recruiting process for voluntary as well as paid staff. All steps must be gone through before a DBS request is submitted. The process has been moved online. V Jupp is the lead recruiter at the moment, but the meeting on 1st Dec 2016 may reverse roles. S Robinson has resigned as vulnerable adult coordinator. We thanked her for her time in this challenging position. She remains very sensitive to these safeguarding issues in her role as a Pastoral Assistant.

- Hospitality.

Fantastic work has been done, and the innovations are very positive, however there remains confusion over Howard Room responsibilities. **See AOB below.**

- Men's Group.

Bert T feels reporting to the PCC is not necessary every meeting. He will request an agenda item if there's an issue. The group have had a good mix of interesting speakers, and continue to number around 12, with a mix of Christians /non-Christians attending.

- Fete group.

Not many people attended the initial meeting which was disappointing. Feedback didn't really happen. The goal was to start planning next year's fete early and share out responsibilities. A few extras that might be included were mentioned, as was a suggested name change to 'Fun Day' or similar. The changes are being considered – offering things for free being one example. The next meeting will be on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. We will register for raffle (gambling act) again at a cost of £20. V Jupp was disappointed by the lack of new faces at the meeting. The charity to be supported really needs to be chosen by at the next PCC so that other issues can be addressed, including planning publicity.

- **Buildings**

- Birstall

Maintenance report. There has been lots of positive feedback about toilets. Thanks were expressed to both 'Tonys', Geoff, Howard, and Alison, for all their labour.

- Wanlip

10 days ago there was a significant roof leak. J Ward has since replaced flashing.

- Health and Safety Policy

J Ward is in the process of rewriting the H & S policy to take to F & S committee. This will impinge on use of the Howard Room.

- **Rector's items.**

- Lent Course.

There are various possibilities available, with lots of choice, e.g. Bishop John's possibility - generous giving - also a York course on Psalms of 5 sessions. It is on CD and includes contributions from J Bell. This seemed to be the preference. It is easy to run. Each session is self-contained. **V Jupp** will order the normal amount.

- Services for 2016.

The annual set services list was distributed. The '5<sup>th</sup> Sunday' slot should be seen as an opportunity to develop skills. V Jupp is trying to encourage people to be up front.

- **Deanery**

- Synod update on 2020.

Bert T reported back. The meeting was about getting an endorsement to change the 2020 plan, but this seems to have been superseded; the Diocese has decided we no longer need to cut posts since there are 7 vacancies. In our deanery, Rob suggested that the proposal to ask for 2 people to respond to rising population 25,000 would be accepted. It was agreed we ask for 2 stipendiary priests. V Jupp heard something different and suggested that mixed messages were received; the situation was not clear. He believed the deanery would lose half a post, and that any new post would be allocated specifically to Broadnook. The situation remains unclear, and it is increasingly difficult to maintain a plan decided on 10 years ago whilst responding to the move of the Spirit. The Partnership clergy will be meeting with the Archdeacon.

Our new Bishop will be announced soon.

- **Churches Together**

There was a very good turn out. It was good to meet Father Saaji. Hunger Lunches for the week of Christian Unity have been arranged. There will be an Advent Candle give away on Dec 4th at the switch on of Birstall Lights. The traditional New Years' Eve Party will take place. The group has been re-invigorated!

- **Correspondence**

- **A.O.B.** (previously notified to the chairman)

**Care of Howard Room** (as mentioned in hospitality report). At the moment it seems there is no organised arrangement for caring for the kitchen. It has become a general dumping ground for unwanted items! There are numerous issues: - bins don't get emptied, floors are not swept, items used for events are never replaced. This led to questions about whether or not this is part of the cleaners' responsibilities? But this is not the whole solution. V Jupp suggested a sub group be set up. J Ward volunteered along with S Robinson and L Walton who will draw volunteers together for a meeting, perhaps also inviting a representative from the Monday Group, the Mothers' Union, etc. They may place an item in the news sheet to ask those interested to volunteer to join them.

**Houseling Cloth at Wanlip.** This item is unique. It is at present stored in the safe. It should have been sent off to a restorer. The proposed cost of restoration was £1250 five years ago. If it is restored, we will also need to pay for a display cabinet. NADFAS may help in obtaining a grant. No action will be taken for the moment.

**It was noted that we no longer have a list** of who is at these meetings. This should be a matter of public record and will in future be minuted, not on a separate list as it is at present.

- **Date of next meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016 7:30 pm at Wanlip
- **Grace was said and the meeting closed.**

**Meetings to April 2016 are all at 7:30pm as follows;**

F and S meetings: 5th January, 23rd February.

PCC meetings: 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016 (W), 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (B).

**APCM 2016: 15<sup>th</sup> March**