

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at St James, Birstall on January 19th 2016 at 7.30 p.m.**

AGENDA

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, Anne CROSBY, Vince JUPP, Alasdair McHUGH, Annette MARSHALL, Rose PARROTT, Cicely PLUMB, Andy PROUD, Leigh REID, Sandra ROBINSON, Debbie SHEPHARD, Bert TEGG, Dorothy WAKEFIELD, Lesley WALTON, John WARD, Janet WATERS, Nicki WILLS

- **Anne invited us to pray for the village**
- **Apologies were received from E WHITE, J WARD, M TEGG**
- **Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted**

Corrections – Alasdair McHugh should be written as ‘Mr’ not ‘Mrs’

- **Matters arising from the minutes**

- Mission partnership meeting with the Archdeacon – possible dates now available are Thursday 11th Feb, Thursday 25th Feb, Thursday 10 March at 7:30pm, venue TBA.

- **Mission and evangelism**

- Pioneer Work update (report in advance)

No questions.

- **Finance N Wills**

- Update

We are running at a deficit. This is a concern. £19 418 showing because £10 000 was lent to village hall at Wanlip, of which £6 000 has been repaid tonight. There has been an error in expenditure. Charitable giving shows only £25 credit. This is because the Guild of Bellringers was not paid in 2015. Apologies from Nicki. This has now been rectified, and records will show two payments in this financial year. The deficit shown does **not** include this extra payment of just over £4 000. The situation is a combination of overspend and under contribution, not excess in one direction or the other.

Has NW followed up people absent on Thanksgiving Sunday as suggested at last PCC ? Not yet done. Giving is the responsibility of all of us, NW only records movement. December envelope giving was down compared to November. Standing Orders, and other planned giving, remain quite steady. No news on legacy.

Anne C extended our thanks to NW for all her work.

- Charities for 2016 (to be accepted by PCC)

CMS

US

Uruguay

Bethany

City of Sanctuary

Air Ambulance

Launde Abbey

Street Pastors

Guild of Bellringers

This list of charities, the same as in 2015, is recommended for approval by the Finance and Standing Committee. The total yearly giving comes to around £4400.

A discussion followed about supporting CAP. The church has agreed to contribute to CAP in non-financial ways, photocopying, hosting, giving specific donations for specific projects as requested. It was noted that CAP received a donation from Charnwood on order to run courses in that area. CAP have donated £130 to church. However the suggestion was that CAP Central Office be given money, not our local courses. The F and S felt there had been big push in church to encourage people to support CAP personally. PC thought this argument was not relevant, and felt the list should stand as it is.

This motion was proposed by : Annette Marshall

Secunder: Debbie Shephard

Agree = 14

Against = 2

Abstention = 1

Motion carried, original list accepted.

Focus charity for last year was the Alzheimer's Society. It is important to remember that the charity needs to engage the whole of our community. Alzheimer's rang out to most people. CAP is worthwhile, it is well known on internet and may connect with a different group. Cancer Research was suggested, as were LOROS and Rainbows, both of which are local charities which seem to rely more on volunteers. Supporting the Air Ambulance was proposed – one of our congregation recently had to be rescued by them.

The following motions were put forward:

Air Ambulance - Proposed Lesley W, seconded, Bert T.

For this as principal charity = 12 votes.

LOROS - Proposed Leigh R, seconded Dorothy W.

For this as principal charity = 2 votes.

Cancer Research - Proposed Annette M, seconded Janet W.

For this as principal charity = 3 votes.

So Air Ambulance will be our nominated charity for this year.

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

- Social

No comments. Vote of thanks for Sandra R and her committee.

- Music and Worship

Rose Parrott fully endorsed the report, in particular the important points about services, especially recovering Advent. Thanks to Gill and her team.

- Website

No report. It seems some sections are still very much out of date. PC says maintenance is very difficult, and suggested that any errors should be communicated directly to Josh, using the correct email address. Thanks to him for doing a difficult job.

- Sunday School

Thanks extended to RP and all her team.

- C.P.O.C.

AM now lead recruiter, and not VJ.

- Hospitality

No report. Two comments:-

There will be a Howard room meeting on 28 January 2016.

Lesley and Sandra can no longer attend the Holy Habits – Hospitality course at the Diocese following a date change.

- Fete group

The group would appreciate some input about a name change, which will need to be approved by the PCC. Anyone is welcome at the meetings. The group is looking for fresh ideas. Feedback of any kind is useful. We need to understand what the public is looking for. If people can't make meeting, they can pass information or suggestions on to Tony. Thanks to Tony and all the team.

- **Buildings**

- Birstall

No report

- Wanlip
- **Use of Wanlip hall and Church.**

A request has been received from the Charnwood emergency officer asking for use of hall as emergency refuge centre. The Hall committee has no problem with this. F and S committee in fact has suggested that we might also offer the church at same time. The PCC agreed. The full amount lent for the refurbishment of the hall should be repaid by the end of the year.

- **Health and Safety Docs**

At the recommendation of our insurer, a H and S draft policy has been produced following their guidelines. The PCC needs to adopt it as policy, with the proviso that either the churchwardens or the F and S committee fill in blanks with designated names. T Bloxham finds some of the policy excessive, far from reasonable. Lesley W asked for more time to digest this long document and its implications for us. Could we look at it at the next meeting? Is there an expert in diocese that could help? In fact, this is from the diocesan insurers themselves. The huge amount of work done by John W must be acknowledged.

If the document is not adopted at this meeting, there are consequences. We effectively have no policy document, so if there is an incident, there would be no insurance repayment. By law, this leaves our incumbent legally responsible.

John Ward proposed that we accept this document as our H and S policy

Lesley W proposed an amendment : that we wait until the next PCC to discuss and adopt this policy and consider any necessary adaptations. Any recommendations should be given to John W.

This was seconded by Andy P and agreed unanimously.

An additional item was raised, one not on the agenda. At the moment we have a church architect who will shortly be resigning through ill health. We therefore need to appoint a new architect. There are two possibilities:

- 1) We can choose 3 from the diocesan list and ask for quotations. The only negative point to consider is that they will not supervise any emergency work
- 2) The alternative is to appoint an architect now by competitive tender in the first instance.

Option 2 was proposed by John W and seconded by Peter C. Unanimously accepted.

- **Rector's items.**
 - Lent Course.

Numbers are looking good. All the information has been sent to our sister churches. An afternoon session at B Rhodes' has been made available every afternoon of the Lent Course at 2pm for those who have real difficulty in coming out in the evenings ONLY. It is not to be seen as an option for others. Books will be made available the week before the course starts, earlier for those leading.

Vince appreciates the sabbatical he has been gifted from 1 May to 31 July. His challenge will be not to do any work. During this time he will focus on himself and try hard to walk, read, and visit. He will be operating out of the parish. Sheryl will continue to do some admin to support Anne C, who will be lead cleric.

- **Deanery**

There has been no meeting since the last PCC. The key issue remains clergy deployment, which will be very challenging. Lorna is leaving at the end of February; her full post will be replaced by a 0.5 post (paid, but reality 0.6). If no one is recruited before D White goes in July, we will need to wait for a new Rector to be appointed first. All of this means the Partnership team looking very difficult. We may have to look at our priorities here. We continue to add things, without taking things away. We need to think how we can help the partnership survive this time.

- **Churches Together**

Debbie S informed the PCC that the week of Christian Unity Frugal Lunches was going well. Gill Chester spoke very well about poverty, and we seem to be entering into spirit of frugality. Stephen March's talk on unity was also well received. The Catholic church in Syston is doing same thing on one day in there. £388 was received for Christian Aid on the first day alone. We really seem to have grasped the message about unity.

- **Correspondence**

The Alzheimer's Society sent a letter of thanks for the £1120 raised at the fete; they are very appreciative of the gift

A member's letter was received from Dorothy Wakefield re All Together Service in January; this was distributed. Much discussion followed. Some remarks:

Tony B: this is the most difficult service to prepare for, since we do not follow the Eucharistic service. Yet the comments seem wholly relevant. There should be a specific portion of the service that engages the younger element.

Annette M: Enjoys all together services, as does her grandson.

Rose P: the children experience a different type of involvement to what is available on other Sundays by Sunday School. Children are learning by participation at these services.

Peter C: spoke to 2 families afterwards; the kids had been engaged. Children responded. Music was not all unfamiliar to many. He had asked people to move to the front of the church – most people found that helpful. People stayed and chatted afterwards.

Anne C informed the meeting that the subject of the All Together service had been raised at the Staff Meeting. It was meant to be a merging of Open House and a more traditional 9:30 service. Staff will revisit the whole idea again and have an open discussion in the autumn when Vince is back.

Nicki W: it is extremely important to have an informal service. It gives another impression of people who go to church. Important we don't lose sight of that.

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

None

- **Date of next meeting:** 8th March 2016 at St James

- **The grace was said and the meeting closed.**

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

F and S meetings: 23rd February.

APCM 2016: 15th March