

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at Birstall on March 8th 2016 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, Alasdair McHUGH, Rose PARROTT, Andy PROUD, Debbie SHEPHARD, Bert TEGG, Marion TEGG, Dorothy WAKEFIELD, John WARD, Julie WARD, Nicki WILLS

- **Apologies were received from** S Robinson, J Waters, L Reid, Cicely Plumb, A Crosby, L Walton, E White
- The meeting was opened in prayer by V Jupp
- **Minutes** from the previous meeting were read and approved after corrections below: -
 - *Date – should read 2016 not 2015*
 - *John Ward noted that ‘the church Hall at Wanlip’ phrase should read ‘the hall at Wanlip’*

- **Mission and evangelism**

MSM group met and discussed ‘what next’ after completing their course. The group will not continue as a group per se. Another review is planned in 6 months. All have been challenged by MSM course. It has given the group a focus on mission. A lot of things in church could be missional; we don’t always think of it in that way. The group talked about how very differently God speaks to each person. Are we all mission minded? V J enjoyed the meeting, The Holy Spirit is stirring things up. We need to listen and test. Where will be in 5 years’ time? Don’t know, but need to be realistic and enjoy finding out. Are we willing to take the step into the unknown?

NEARER

Positive in general. Treasures Old and New course at diocese very positive. Has led to a lot of thinking about how we make links between different groups – St James, Wanlip, NEARER... should be enjoying the on-going, dynamic process of thinking about what God is saying.

B Tegg. Asked now that we have 15 people meeting regularly, is the house at Oakfield Avenue too small? Should we put pressure on diocese to buy on Hallam Fields? VJ suggested that, as Stephen suggested in his report, we should think about multiplying and looking to the future in this way.

Mission Partnership has met. It was generally felt that the Archdeacon did a good job of presenting alternative models, yet it remains clear that we are in a cluster model; people seemed happy with this and reluctant to change. No sense of going to a team, didn’t appeal. Smaller congregations perhaps feel the pressure more; resources will be stretched. B Tegg thought people were worried about continued cooperation without the formality of a team. There are many lay people available, but this depends on whether the congregation is sacramentally focussed. VJ feels our partnership has many lay people involved compared to other groupings, but we may need to think how the partnership may look in the future. Soon the only remaining clergy will be Vince and Tim, therefore dynamics will alter anyway. Status quo is the better option i. e. remain as partnership not team.

Meeting next Wednesday.

Finance

- Update.

Financial statement for year ending 2015.

Addenda – Rose Parrott, Andy Proud, Julie Ward are not listed on the list of Trustees.

Corrections - L Reid – to read ‘Mrs L Reid’

Page 2 - Anne Crosby not named as curate.

Clergy expenses amount on page 10 – the figure is everything to do with clergy, including Pioneer role, therefore a misnomer.

Questions

B Tegg page 10 - Huge increase in heating lighting and cleaning?

N Wills – reason is that we can now be more specific about spending. In 2014 NW didn't have any bills for Wanlip except services; everything else was paid for out of collection. This is no longer the case.

T Bloxham – increase in insurance and upkeep/services page 10 ?

N Wills - we moved to payment by direct debit mid-2015. Have also had claim from Wanlip. This has perhaps been wrongly placed under Birstall. **N W will check.**

J Ward page 10 = £10 000 repair and maintenance for Wanlip?

N Wills - loan to Wanlip from St James. 2016 figures show repaid money. Under the new system we are required to allocate specific descriptions for every penny spent. Could we put a footnote?

P Chester – Stephen March listed in own category, should perhaps put Pioneer worker, i.e. title not name. Agreed.

N Wills asked that anyone with questions email as soon as possible so that amendments can be made before APCM.

First time ever we have had the figures in for the month so early – great new system. We can tell at any time where we are at financially.

Up to date monthly income and expenditure totals to Dec 2016 were distributed.

2014 error corrected and charitable giving donations have now been sent.

N Wills proposed that accounts be adopted for 2015. J Ward seconded.

Accepted unanimously barring amendments.

J Ward thanked NW for all her work..

T Bloxham raised issue relating to management of trust funds. Confusion exists about how we deal with the people sending out these documents, not only the charities commission, but CCLA, who manage our investments with church commissioners. Seems dealing with these specific accounts is a lot of trouble for £350 a year.

B Tegg stated that we can write to the Charities' Commission and ask for them to be dissolved, then allocate the cash. Suggested **NW** does this.

NW asked that we give authority to the F and S committee to do as necessary and bring their recommendation to the PCC.

J Ward noted that the PCC can only approve specific accounts; the trustees are responsible for others.

P Chester moved that we give authority to the F and S committee to do as necessary and bring their recommendation to the PCC for the accounts we control.

A Marshall seconded. The motion was adopted.

○ Phones and Broadband savings.

- NW concerned about costs, she has found a better deal which should greatly reduce the bill and give us Wi-Fi in church.
- NW has looked into other utilities, but we are still locked into a contract. We need to get regular meter readings. Wanlip's latest bill for 3 months gas = £1600. This is an estimate, but is double the

previous payment. The latest St James bill of £777 pounds is also up from last year, it was £477 based on estimated readings in November 2015.

- Insurance on laptop - Sally received letter from Lenova. This is no longer a viable cost, will stop payment.

- Parish gift offer. (currently £58,140)

- VJ reminded those present that we need to make formal offer in July, and that he will be on sabbatical.
- May be asked to increase by 2%. VJ reminded the meeting that we are still recipients of growth fund; whatever we are asked for we will consider it. We will be led by NW to discuss this in future.

- F and S salary recommendation.

- Pioneer worker 2% increase from 8 Feb 2016. Proposed by D Shephard, seconded B Tegg. Unanimously adopted.

- Charitable giving. **NW** will try to get this done in March or April.

Air Ambulance is on the list of our chosen charities. Since they have been adopted as our church charity for this year, NW (after putting this to F and S Committee) proposed that the £200 allocated to them originally be donated as a one-off gift to the Street Pastors organisation (total gift to be £350). She was touched by the letter of thanks received from them after a previous donation and explained a little of their activity. Julie Ward seconded this. Unanimously adopted.

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

- Social - No comments
- Music and Worship - Not met
- Website - Thanked Josh Wills, Sally now doing it.
- Sunday School - Nothing to report
- C.P.O.C. - A Marshall been to child exploitation seminar
- Hospitality - Not present
- Fete group – report submitted, no comments.

- **Buildings**

- Birstall

Maintenance report. The sound system is increasingly problematic. Antennae siting needs to be updated. Quote received. One option is to add boosters, another to add aerials. Alternatively do both or move to a new frequency (we would need to pay). The current antennae are poorly sited. Have not been serviced, maintained or calibrated since installation around 4 years ago. Decided to ask Stephen March to be present when engineer comes. The current situation should be dealt with as a fault in the first instance and new equipment options tried out before any purchases made.

- Wanlip

Nothing to report.

However, this month sees the 2nd anniversary of Old Nicks Coffee Shop.

- Health and Safety Docs

Circulated draft policy at last meeting. Only one person has commented. Some modifications have been made. Now need to ratify.

Julie Ward suggested that this be done now, we need a policy. John Ward reminded the meeting that we need to have a policy applicable to all of our situations covering the entire parish. T Bloxam raised that issue of training people at St James'.

John Ward reminded the meeting that if we do nothing we are personally responsible for Health and Safety. and this policy is based on diocesan guidelines and recommendations.

Several people made comments and it was noted that we need to do things well, not just pay lip service to having the piece of paper. The current situation is making us anxious, and we realise that we have to agree to a policy or be unable to do food otherwise.

It was suggested that a group (all wardens, V Jupp, R Parrott, T Bloxam, A Proud) go through the policy in detail, since we are unable to reach agreement about signing it at the moment. Since no one from hospitality was present they should be invited to send a representative.

- **Rector's items.**

- Secretary to the PCC required.

No one is doing the job really at the moment, i.e. attending the F and S Committee, PCC, doing all of the preparation for APCM.

- Fresh Expression Afternoon 17th April (3:30 – 5pm)

Advertised in news sheet

- **Deanery**

- Ascension Day Service will take place, but we don't yet know where it will be hosted.

- **Churches Together**

- We were reminded of the service the Mothers Union are having in November against gender violence at 7:30 pm on 29th November.
- Vice chair required from our parish by the autumn

- **Correspondence**

None

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

Heating and cleaning sub group. There have been a lot of complaints, especially about the Howard Room. Responsibilities of the cleaner are not clear. VJ will take on the liaison with paid cleaner.

Age Concern: - D Shephard attended a meeting. If anyone wants to join the 200 club, they could do with the support.

- **Date of next meeting:** 26th April (Wanlip)
- **Reminder of March 15th : APCM for 2016**
- **The Grace was said and the meeting closed.**

Meetings to April 2017 are all at 7:30pm as follows;

F and S meetings: 12th April, 14th June, 6th September, 8th November, 24th January 2017

PCC meetings: 28th June (B), 20th September (W), 22nd November (B), 7th February 2017 (W)

APCM 2017: 14th March