

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at Birstall on 6th July 2016 at 7:30 pm**

Present: Debbie Shephard (Chair), Tony Bloxam, Revd Anne Crosby, Annette Marshall, Cicely Plumb, Andy Proud, Bert Tegg, Marion Tegg, Lesley Walton, John Ward, Julie Ward, Nicki Wills, Sally Dewsbury (Secretary)

Not present: Elaine Moyers, Paul Tarry

- **The meeting was opened in prayer by Revd Anne Crosby**
- **Apologies were received from:** Peter Chester, Rose Parrott, Janet Waters

1. The minutes from the meeting held 26th April 2016 were accepted.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None

3. Lay Reader Training

At this point, Andy Proud left the meeting. Revd Anne Crosby reported that Andy had been accepted for Lay Reader training on the proviso that the PCC agreed that it would support him through it. Tony Bloxam stated that Andy was very committed to becoming a Lay Reader. Anne pointed out that, in order to concentrate on the training, Andy would not be able to continue with his churchwarden duties and would have to stand down at the next APCM. It was unanimously agreed that the PCC should support the decision made by the Finance & Standing Committee on 1st June 2016 to support Andy through his training. Andy re-joined the meeting.

4. Mission and evangelism

- **Pioneer Community Worker's Report**

The report from Stephen March provided a summary of the Nearer Group's activities. Bert Tegg commented that most of the members are longstanding church members and new members have not been recruited. He expressed his concern that was a lack of a permanent meeting place for the group, and that there was a need to get to know people on the Hallam Fields estate. It was agreed that there was a need for a clearer focus on the part of the Nearer group.

5. Finance

- Nicki Wills reported that the new deal with the energy companies has led to the sum of £4000 being paid back into the church account, and will result in savings of £300-£400 per year. £14000 has also been paid into the account as part of the legacy from Mrs McQueen, with more to come.
- As requested by John Ward at the Finance & Standing committee meeting on 14th June 2016, Nicki checked and was able to confirm that the copyright licences cover all the buildings connected with the church, as well as films, concerts (6 per year) and any music played during weddings and funerals.
- Nicki asked for the PCC's approval to buy a Costco card, the initial cost of which would be more than offset by the money saved by the discounted prices. It was unanimously agreed that Nicki should go ahead with the purchase.

- Nicki reported that there should be a potential saving on accountants' fees next year, as the new finance software allows the accounts to be produced in-house. Bert Tegg suggested that Nicki contact John Orridge in the Diocesan office who might be able to help with securing the services of someone outside of the parish who could audit the accounts.

6. Reports

a) Social

Nothing to report.

b) Music and Worship

Debbie Shephard reported that the Lent course had been reviewed at the last meeting; it was felt that the course had gone well and had been well supported. It had been agreed that the Advent period should be more reflective and that the number of services should be reduced. It was decided that planning for Advent could be discussed at the next meeting on 14th September 2016 in good time for the rota to be planned for the December services.

c) Deanery

Revd Anne Crosby reported that at the Parish Gift meeting on 16th June, most parishes had been able to give their offerings, but not all. Nicki Wills submitted Birstall and Wanlip parish's gift as agreed.

d) Churches Together Meeting

John Ward attended the meeting held on 8th June and reported the following:

- A new secretary is being sought.
- It was agreed that the Good Friday Walk of Witness would take place next year.
- The organisation of next year's Christian Aid week was discussed, for which a new co-ordinator is needed.
- Revd Rachel Parkinson's last service at Birstall Methodist church was due to take place on Sunday 10th July. A new minister has been appointed four days a week.
- The Methodist church is to appoint a child and youth worker for 18 hours a week, to be in post by 1st September 2016.
- The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on 6th October 2016 at St Theresa's church.

Debbie Shephard observed that, as a parish, Birstall and Wanlip is expected to chair Churches Together for the next two years.

e) Website

Debbie Shephard suggested that Sally Dewsbury's report should be referred back to the next Finance & Standing committee meeting in order to establish in more detail how the structure of the website might be changed/improved.

f) Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

7. Health & Safety

- John Ward informed the meeting that he is working on the implementation of the Health & Safety policy and would produce a full report for the next PCC meeting.

- John reported that there had almost been a serious accident in Wanlip churchyard due to grave ornaments getting caught up in the mower. To prevent similar accidents, he suggested that either the churchyard should no longer be mowed, or the churchyard regulations with respect to grave ornaments should be rigorously enforced, and the ornaments removed. He recommended that this issue should be discussed when Revd Vince Jupp returns from sabbatical. This was unanimously agreed.

8. Buildings

a) Architect

John Ward reported that three architects had responded to an advertisement for a church architect, one of whom, Mark Stewart, had been invited to discuss his proposal. His proposal was the cheapest and it was felt that his geographical proximity (he is located in Loughborough) went in his favour. Tony Bloxam added that Mark is particularly keen on church architecture. Revd Anne Crosby asked for how long he would be appointed, to which John responded that it probably would be for a minimum of five years. John proposed that Mark Stewart be accepted as church architect, seconded by Tony Bloxam, and unanimously agreed.

b) Birstall

Tony Bloxam reported that the antennae for the sound system at St James have been reorganised at a cost of £632, below the initial amount of £1015 approved at the PCC meeting on 26th April. During the modifications, the engineer noticed that an amplifier was not working properly, and affirmed that he would investigate the cost of a repair and a replacement. Tony is awaiting this estimate. The gas heaters have been serviced.

c) Wanlip

Nothing to report.

9. Garden Fete

Tony Bloxam presented the report of the last meeting of the Fete 2016 committee and declared that everything was on track and that the committee had done everything it could do from an organisational point of view. He expressed his anxiety that there appeared to be lack of volunteers both for stalls and for offering help in general. Nicki Wills commented that it is always the same individuals who helped to set up and clear away, and that more volunteers were needed. Debbie Shephard questioned why there was not more enthusiasm, especially as the event is always well supported by the residents of Birstall and Wanlip. Andy Proud suggested that it could be moved from the August bank holiday as this was a time when people would be on holiday and therefore unable to offer help. Debbie concluded that the issue needs more thought, but reassured Tony that organising the event is always problematical, but that it usually ends up a success.

10. Curate's Items

Revd Anne Crosby offered her thanks and appreciation to everyone for their help and support over the past two months during Revd Vince Jupp's sabbatical. She also thanked all those who would be covering for Kerry Emmett during his absence in August. Debbie Shephard offered thanks to Anne on behalf of everyone for her hard work during Vince's absence.

11. Correspondence

Tony Bloxam read out a letter to the meeting from a visitor to St James, describing how impressed he was by his visit. He said he had been made to feel very welcome and enclosed a donation of £10.

12. A.O.B. (previously notified to the chair)

None

13. Date of next meeting: 20th September (Wanlip)

14. The Grace was said and the meeting closed at 8:45pm

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

F and S meetings: 6th September, 8th November, 24th January 2017

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

APCM 2017: 14th March