

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at Wanlip on 20th September 2016 at 7:30 pm**

Present: Revd Vince Jupp (Chair), Tony Bloxam, Peter Chester, Rose Parrott, Cicely Plumb, Andy Proud, Debbie Shephard, Lesley Walton, John Ward, Julie Ward, Janet Waters, Nicki Wills, Sally Dewsbury (Secretary)

Not present: Annette Marshall, Elaine Moyers, Paul Tarry, Bert Tegg, Marion Tegg

- **The meeting was opened in prayer by Revd Vince Jupp.**
- **Apologies were received from:** Revd Anne Crosby
 1. **The minutes from the meeting held 6th July 2016** were accepted.
 2. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Item 3: It was agreed that Andy Proud should continue with his duties as churchwarden whilst undertaking his lay reader training.
 3. **Mission and Evangelism**
 - **Missional Communities Presentation 18 months on**

As Revd Vince Jupp had already presented this in church and was intending to do so again, he decided not to do it at the PCC meeting. He reported that a number of people had commented that they had been pleased to hear the presentation and felt that feedback to the church had been lacking. He suggested that testimonies at church services could be used on a regular basis to keep people informed in the future.
 4. **Finance**
 - **Update**

Nicki Wills expressed her satisfaction with the current financial position of the church, but emphasised the need to increase revenue. Revd Jupp pointed out that giving had increased due to the mission, and Nicki asked if there were opportunities for, and information about, giving at meetings of the Nearer group. Peter Chester replied that most of the people at the meetings were already giving through the church, but there might be others who would consider it. Janet Waters said that those who would be willing to give might need to be reassured that their money would go to the mission and not be subsumed in church giving. Vince responded that all giving had to go through the treasury for reasons of financial transparency, but that the Nearer group could have whatever it needed for the mission.
 - **New Signatory**

In the light of Mary Bruce's retirement from churchwarden duties, Nicki Wills proposed that Andy Proud be added as a signatory to the church accounts. Seconded by Debbie Shephard and unanimously agreed.
 5. **Reports**
 - **Nearer**

The report outlined the group's current and future activities. Revd Jupp expressed his satisfaction that the group was going in the right direction to achieve its aims.

- **Social**

The report summarised the Committee's activities since its last meeting in February 2016, and suggested some dates for events later in the year. Lesley Walton pointed out that the very last Singing for Fun in Birstall would take place at St James in December.

- **Music and Worship**

- The Christmas services have been moved from the third week of Advent to the fourth, in order to allow time for Advent.
- There was some discussion about how to encourage more children to attend the Carols around the Tree service at Wanlip. It was decided that the time of 6pm should remain unchanged, but the format needed to be changed to be more child/family friendly, and that this would be discussed at a later date.

- **Website**

It was agreed that Sally Dewsbury could spend more time working on the website with the aim of making it more welcoming to those who may be considering attending/joining the church.

- **Sunday School**

Rose Parrott presented her report, outlining the plan for the year. Having reached a point of growth, Rose felt that more engagement from people in the congregation would facilitate the process of growth which needed to be made with all age groups and parents, not just the younger children. She also noted that the Sunday School's fourth birthday would be on 25th September, and that the Lord's Table course for the 7-9 age group led by Janet Waters was due to begin on the same day. Revd Jupp thanked Rose for her commitment and hard work.

- **Safeguarding**

No report forthcoming.

- **Hospitality**

Nothing to report.

- **Fete Group**

Tony Bloxam informed the meeting that a review of the 2016 Summer Fayre was due to take place on 27th October, and that he has asked for comments on the Fayre via the news sheet. Nicki Wills suggested that comments slips be placed on the pews and then put in a box after the service. Tony reported that a total of £2342.37 had been raised by the event, the largest amount ever. £1171 would be given to Air Ambulance, which has extended an invitation to go to its base to present the money. Revd Jupp thanked Tony for his management and organisation of the Fayre and congratulated him on doing an excellent job.

6. **Buildings**

- **Birstall**

Tony Bloxam reported that he was due to meet with the engineer to discuss the options for the replacement/repair of a faulty amplifier. He also intended to ask the engineer's opinion about what appears to be another problem with the front speakers. Revd Jupp asked Tony to query with the engineer the loud thump that happens when the sound

system is switched on, and whether it was causing any damage. Debbie Shephard felt that there was a lack of understanding of the system on the part of some of those who use it. Lesley Walton proposed that Tony should have the PCC's permission to make a decision on whether to go ahead with any work on the sound system. Seconded by Debbie Shephard, and unanimously agreed.

- **Kitchen**

After some discussion about the ongoing issues with cleanliness in the kitchen and confusion about who is responsible for doing what, it was decided that Revd Jupp and Debbie Shephard would examine the church cleaner's current job specification and redefine the role with the intention of resolving the current problems.

- Tony Bloxam advised the meeting that the new architect would be visiting St James to examine the occasional leaks at the back of the church.
- Tony is still in the process of looking for a grab rail for the pulpit at St James.

- **Wanlip**

- John Ward reported that the gutters were being cleaned and new hinges were being fitted on the tower trapdoor.
- He informed the meeting that there had been an offer of good-quality pew cushions for the front half of the church at Wanlip. The offer was an anonymous donation, and was gratefully accepted by the PCC.

- **Bench**

A request for a bench in memory of Zak Johnston has been accepted. With the agreement of his family, the location and style of the memorial bench has been decided. Revd Jupp proposed that a faculty application be made to have the bench installed. Seconded by Andy Proud and unanimously agreed. John Ward will complete the faculty form, Vince to advise the family that this is being done and to ask for their choice of wording.

- **Health and Safety Updates**

No report was available as John Ward was experiencing problems with his computer. John noted that first aid cover across the church appeared to be inadequate, and that additional first aiders would need to be trained.

7. **Rector's items**

- Revd Jupp reiterated the dates and times of the Advent course which had already been included in the weekly notices. It is hoped that the sessions would be an opportunity to further the understanding of those who had not yet engaged with the subject of missional communities.
- The first meeting to discuss the All Together service is due to take place at St James on 9th October at 11:30am and will explain the aims and process of the service.
- Vince and the pioneer workers will meet with Bishop Martyn at lunch time during his visit on the 25th October; the Deanery evening meeting at Rothley Primary School is open to anyone who wishes to go.

8. **Deanery**

Mary Aherne-Smith has been appointed priest in the Mission Partnership.

9. Churches Together

The next meeting will be on 6th October at St Theresa's Church. Revd Jupp pointed out that it was the turn of the Birstall and Wanlip churches to chair. Debbie Shephard offered to do this if no one else came forward.

Vince reported that a discussion about the churches' work in schools had taken place with the new Messy Church leader. This had resulted in a positive spirit of co-operation and partnership, with each church taking on part of the workload. Vince said that he felt there was a need for all the churches to be supportive of each other and to present themselves as part of Churches Together when they went into the schools, rather than as an individual church. He has asked for this to be added to the agenda for the meeting.

10. Correspondence

- Revd Jupp read out a letter of thanks from the Mayor of Charnwood, expressing his appreciation for the civic service held for him at St James on 11th September 2016.
- Julie Ward described a letter received from a visitor who had visited Old Nick's Coffee Shop. On her return home to South Africa, she had started a similar coffee shop in her own church. The visitor also commented that she was very impressed with everything she had seen in the church.

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

None

12. Date of next meeting: 22nd November (Birstall)

13. The Grace was said and the meeting closed at 9:45pm

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

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

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

APCM 2017: 14th March