

**Meeting of Birstall & Wanlip Parochial Church Council
at Birstall on 25th April 2017 at 7:30 pm**

Present: Revd Vince Jupp (Chair), Revd Anne Crosby, Tony Bloxam, Marjorie Bonshor, Gill Chester, Christine Greaves, Annette Marshall, Alastair McHugh, Beryl McHugh, Rose Parrott, Andy Proud, Leigh Reid, Sandra Robinson, Debbie Shephard, Bert Tegg, Lynn Van Ristell, Lesley Walton, John Ward, Janet Waters, Doreen Wilson, Sally Dewsbury (Secretary)

Not present: Anne McCann, Paul Tarry

- **The meeting was opened in prayer by Revd Jupp**
- **Apologies were received from:** Elaine Moyers, Julie Ward, Nicki Wills

	Action
<p>1. The minutes from the meeting held 7th February 2017 were accepted.</p> <p>2. Matters arising from the minutes Lesley Walton pointed out that her name had been omitted from the list of those present at the meeting.</p> <p>3. Mission and evangelism – see main discussion item below.</p> <p>4. Finance Nothing to report.</p> <p>5. Reports in brief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nearer – see main discussion item below. ○ Social No questions arising from the report. Janet Waters expressed her appreciation for all the work done by those who organise the church social activities. ○ Music and Worship No report as the committee was not due to meet until 5th May. ○ Children and Families The report was deferred to the next Finance & Standing and PCC Committee meetings. ○ Safeguarding Vince submitted the updated Safeguarding Policy to the meeting, advising PCC members that a control copy would be placed in the office. He added that it was the members' responsibility to read, understand and follow its procedures should they have any concerns regarding children and vulnerable adults, and drew attention to the notices in both churches on how to do this. Rose Parrott asked that the name of the group in Section B6 of the policy be changed from <i>Sunday School</i> to <i>All Ages</i>. This was duly amended by Vince. The policy was unanimously accepted. Annette Marshall, the Safeguarding consultant to the PCC, reported that there should be a children's advocate as well as a safeguarding officer (both roles undertaken by her) and that this should be noted on the policy. She also said that she had had to (again) re-position her photo in the church so it could be seen by children. ○ Hospitality Tony Bloxam commented that as well as more welcomers, sidespersons were also needed, and his intention was recruit more people to undertake these roles. ○ Fete Group Nothing to report. <p>6. Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birstall Tony Bloxam reported that the work on the roof at St James had been completed. ○ Wanlip Nothing to report. ○ Health & Safety John Ward will present a report at the next meeting. 	

7. Main Discussion: *How might we progress our mission work and how shall we fund it?*

- Vince presented a briefing which outlined the origins and the development of the Nearer group, described more fully in Stephen March's report. The group's progress, which is being measured by the Diocese, has been deemed as developing in the right direction to achieve its aims. Vince also presented the funding options and potential costs for the next two years, with and without funding from the Diocese. He described Nearer as being a missional community which is seeking to be a Fresh Expressions Church, and observed that the nature of pioneer ministry is to lay foundations and then move on. The question for consideration is whether or not Nearer has reached the stage at which other people can take on the challenges and develop it further. Janet Waters suggested that there were two main points to consider:

What is the church's mission and how do we want to carry it out?

How do we fund it and who do we employ?

Vince concluded by stating that the church's mission is to go out and grow the Kingdom and that Nearer is a good vehicle to do this. He advised that consideration should be given to how this should be financed and whether the money should be used to employ someone, or used as a resource to continue the work without employing anyone.

- The meeting then split into three groups for a 30 minute discussion, after which each group presented a proposal.

Group 1: Stephen March should continue in his current role for the next two years, with or without Diocesan funding, possibly in a part-time role, and there should be more emphasis on training new pioneers.

Group 2: Stephen should continue in his current role, with or without Diocesan funding, for possibly one year only. There should be a greater emphasis on his withdrawal during that period, with a focus on sustainability.

Group 3: There were deep concerns about the cost of financing the group, but the suggestion was that Stephen could continue in a part-time role, with an emphasis on sustainability.

The reactions to these proposals highlighted that there were diverse opinions about the future development of Nearer, in particular the working pattern of Stephen March and its financial implications, and how changing this would impact on the support given to the lay pioneers. It was therefore decided that more time was needed to consider the proposals and another meeting was arranged for 23rd May 2017, with the aim of formulating a proposal which would be acceptable to all PCC members.

8. There was then a period of open prayer.

9. Deanery

The report was deferred to the next PCC meeting.

10. Churches Together

Nothing to report as the next meeting was not due to be held until June.

11. Correspondence

Tony Bloxam had received a letter from the Speaker of the House of Commons publicising a Parliament Week festival to be held in November. The offer of a free kit containing activities, ideas and materials to get involved with the festival, was noted.

12. The Grace was said and the meeting closed at 9:30pm

13. **Date of next meeting** (to discuss the mission work only): 23rd May 2017 at St James.

14. **Date of next full meeting:** 4th July 2017 at St James

Meetings to April 2018 are all at Birstall at 7:30pm as follows:

F and S: 13th June, 5th September, 7th November 2017, 23rd January 2018

PCC: 23rd May, 4th July, 26th September, 21st November 2017,
6th February 2018

APCM: 13th March 2018 7:20pm