

## **MINUTES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING –**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**

The Vicar welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**1. Present** : Revd David Hewlett, Linda Hunter (Churchwarden), Cliff Wright ( Hon Treasurer), Jennifer Wright, Richard Dixon, John Bishop, David Preece, David Welsh.

**Apologies** : Revd Julie Robson ( Asst. Curate), Elizabeth Robson, Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jane Stephenson, Mike Stephenson, Gilbert Marshall ( Churchwarden), John McNamara.

**2. Minutes of the last PCC meeting ( March 24<sup>th</sup> )** were adopted as being a true record.

**3. Matters arising** : none

### **4. Worship. Ministry and Mission**

4.1. **Vicar's items** – a) Members of the Sunday morning congregation will be invited to talk about their community involvement b) The Quiet Day ( September 12<sup>th</sup> ) will now be led by Canon Peter Ball c) Discussions are taking place about the Wednesday 10 a.m. Communion Service – attendance is very low, occasionally nil. Other times/days could be possible d) PCC Away Day will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Riding Mill Village Hall – it will be led by Canon John Sinclair e) New credence table and bookstands - present arrangements are not really acceptable. All agreed that it would be good to have furniture that better matched the Nave Altar f) The List of Services ( Sept 2015 onwards) was an 'endless draft' – ideas and suggestions were welcomed g) The preacher at the Festival Service will be Rt. Revd Gordon Mursell, formerly Bishop of Stafford. He will lead a supper discussion in the cottage h) Linda will be licensed as a Reader on October 3<sup>rd</sup> – she was warmly congratulated i) A place on Diocesan Synod is available to someone from Corbridge Deanery.

4.2. **Calendar** – please check with the calendar before booking any event. Clashes cause problems.

4.3. **Children and Youth Work** – the report from Louise Stubbs was received. It was a shame that we had so few children attending church services – Louise and Monica were thanked for their work and preparation of material.

### **4.3 ctd.**

In the space of three weeks we lost nearly all our young families – moving away from the area. Contacts with the First and Middle Schools are good but are not bringing in families on Sunday mornings.

However, Messy Church is very successful and a meeting will be held to see if Messy Church could expand to 10 sessions per year – being held on the second Sunday of the month. It is planned to place the Easter Garden outside the next year.

**4.4 Social Committee** – the report was noted. A meeting will be held to help clarify who does what at church social events. The issue of care of adults at risk on outings was raised.

**4.5 Choir Report** – no report had been received. The Choir's performance at a recent Choral Evensong was greatly appreciated.

**4.6 Events** - John Bishop reported that forthcoming events included a Friends of Northern Sinfonia concert, a Northern Sinfonia Choir concert and an evening with John Grundy. John was happy to organise another musical event, possibly an evening with Bradley Creswick in late 2015 or early 2016.

**4.7 First School** - the Headteacher's report was well received and all were pleased to hear of continuing good progress at the school. We need to nominate another Foundation Governor to join Mike Collins on the board. Names of possible Foundation Governors were invited.

**4.8 Deanery Synod** - the report was noted and Richard Dixon commented on the work of the Deanery Development Group which was seeking to map a way forward for the Deanery over the next 10-15 years. PCC would need to look closely at the 'Reform and Renewal' paper produced by the Church of England – it was agreed that this should be done at the next PCC meeting ( September 22<sup>nd</sup> ). A Deanery Day will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October – this will be open to all PCC's and church members.

## **5. Finance, Fabric and Administration**

**5.1 Treasurer's Report** - the report was noted and Cliff Wright expanded on the key headings. a) The work on the Policy Manual is ongoing b) Our Parish Share for 2015 would be £75K – this figure is only for this year. Corbridge Deanery was working with 'guideline targets' in 2015 – each parish was tasked to do the best it could to meet its share.

## **5.1 ctd.**

A meeting will be held in October to see how the Deanery is getting on with paying its share

- c) Restricted Income – this needs more attention. Cliff had held one session for PCC members and would hold a second soon – his work in untangling this messy area is much appreciated. It is a significant matter which will need us to establish priorities and set financial targets. Cliff hopes to come up with recommendations and will seek the help of a small sub-committee in doing this work
- d) Cliff referred to his paper which clearly showed what income would be needed over the next five years to cover the predictable expenditure. Our financial position at the end of May was enhanced by a legacy of £13K but the critical issue is the gap between income and expenditure. He hoped that the Funding Campaign would close the gap.

**5.2 Funding Campaign** - Linda reported that it was too early to get a clear picture of how successful the campaign had been. However, from the 40 or so forms returned so far, it was unlikely that the campaign will raise our financial strength. We will have a clearer picture by the end of July. It is clear that fundraising events must continue to be a vital part of our income. Linda and Gilbert were warmly thanked for all their efforts in leading and managing the campaign.

**5.3 Fundraising** - the Spring Fete and the organ recital had raised over £1000. More organ recitals would be held during the Summer. The evening with John Grundy, an additional musical event and the Christmas Tree Festival would all raise valuable funds. The Chamber Music Festival would bring in £1200 for church funds. Sales of books, votive candles and items from the table at the back of church would continue to do well.

**5.4 Churchwardens' Report** - Linda commented on some items in the written report

- a) A rebate was due from an energy supplier – Gilbert's work on getting the best deal for the church was much appreciated
- b) Roof leaks continue in the area of the North Transept/ Vicar's Vestry – PCC agreed to Matthew Charlton undertaking this vital work
- c) Church clock – maintenance and some repairs to the clock mechanism will be done
- d) Tower – there is a need to tidy the tower and move items stored there
- e) Circular area outside main door will be treated with weedkiller and then be repointed
- f) Baptistry – there are still problems with rubble falling. We hope to find a way to tackle this
- g) Cottage windows repairs – after discussion, PCC agreed that a sum of £4000 should be allocated to the project. The Churchwardens have asked Michael Rae to manage the project

## **5.4 ctd.**

h) Cottage roof - missing and defective slates will be dealt with. This should help to reduce dampness in upstairs storeroom i) PCC agreed that a steam cleaner could be bought and that a trial-clean of the blue chairs could take place j) Vicar's Vestry – it was agreed to seek estimates for improving the look of this area k) The Quinquennial Inspection will be undertaken in September.

Church Organ - the reports of Paul Hale, Organ Consultant, had been circulated along with the recommendations proposed by John Ross, Marc Bryant and Colin Williams. Gilbert had produced a very helpful digest for PCC members, which focused on two key headings : a) Maintenance/repairs ( item 3 ) b) Improvements ( item 4) PCC agreed that Paul Hales should be engaged to draw up specifications for a) and b). The cost of Mr. Hales's work would be £2000. If PCC decided to proceed with any work on the organ, then Mr. Hales would recommend Lightbowns. The issues of funding the work and faculty approval were raised.

**5.5 Safeguarding** – after a review of our documentation , PCC will be able to see ' Creating a Safe Space' . All policies, procedures and safeguarding matters will be placed under the above heading. Safeguarding training will be required for PCC and all members of our church who are in possible contact with children and adults at risk. We are fortunate to have in Linda someone who is working for the diocese on safeguarding. She will ensure that we make the necessary commitment to it.

**6 St. Oswald's Halton** - a) the request by Edward and Jane Pybus to be buried in the churchyard at St. Oswald's met with PCC approval. The request can now go forward to the diocese b) the Funding Campaign will be formally launched to the Halton congregation on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**7 St. James' Churchyard, Newton Hall** - no matters.

**8 Correspondence** - none.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the grace at 9. 30 p.m.

