

## Being Transformed by Jesus to see the Kingdom come



### PCC Minutes

Approved by PCC on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

**Date:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 7.30 pm  
**Venue:** Linden Gate Meeting Room  
**Chair:** Derek Hadden  
**Present:** Brendan Biggs, Patrick Bolster, Leighton Carr, David Daniels, Jill Garfitt, Rosemarie Hall (Minutes), Janet Lee, Sian Lowe, Tim Meathrel, Val Moore, Mark Parsons, Graham Stuart, Sara Wadsworth

**Apologies:** Martin Freye, Paul Langham, Melanie Griffiths, Granville Sykes  
Lindsey Cutter,

**Conflict of Interests:** None declared

**Bible Reflection:** Jill Garfitt led a reflection based on Esther Chapter 3:5-end. She continued by reflecting on her recent visit abroad. The meeting were encouraged to continue praying; particularly in relation to the Migrant issues etc. the meeting also took time to pray for those who were absent due to illness.

### MAIN ITEMS

Mike Innes was welcomed to the meeting for this item.

#### 1. RENEW update –

- **The Building**- Leighton

Drawings were briefly shown to remind those who were not at the last meeting of the plans to date. The scheme produced in January has been updated to resolve some design issues. Ways of making the building function in the light of the consultation were brought to the plans.

**South Entrance (tower)** will provide a separate entrance etc. to the upper level (Village Hall) during the evening etc. This space could be used for Trailblazers etc. during Sunday am services.

**Church (venue)** would seat around 500 in configuration. **Staircase** in North aisle will give access to the upper level "break out" area. Raked seating in balcony in original plans has been removed. -Area can be used for providing refreshments. -The inclusion of a "dumb waiter" to the first floor kitchen allows meals to be served in the main church space.

**Lower Ground Floor** – would lose some of the main space in the present main space. New W.C.'s are provided including disabled WC. The location of the WCs moves the kitchen further east. A new entrance for buggies and wheelchairs has been provided at the north entrance, and a new staircase has been provided to the east exit.

**Pricing** – price of the glass “pod” in the old plans is estimated to be more expensive than the proposed new balcony. As the structure was investigated the support of the “pod” would have proved problematic.

A question was raised about the need for storage close to the kitchen etc. It was reported the storage provision would be more than currently available.

It was noted the better parking arrangements for unloading into the Crypt area needs to be investigated. It was reported that the architects had advised that this would be difficult with the planning and highways department.

### **Linden Gate**

Mike Innes introduced the Linden Gate proposals.

MI reported that drawings of Linden Gate had been taken to Holiss Morgan for confidential advice around options for sale of the property. A rental company were also approached to determine rental values for three bedroom flats.

A schedule of accommodation and the rentals that could be achieved were provided in advance of the meeting.

LC had commissioned a space study which shows how Linden Gate is used each month. It is used on average for about 30% of the available time by the church in a typical month. For the remaining 70% of time it is empty.

The bank would only lend in relation to a combination of equity and rental value. It was noted the more advice would be needed from the bank.

Although these arrangements appear not to generate money they do cover the cost of moving the offices into the church. PB advised that he would want to look at this in more detail.

Options around selling Linden Gate were included in the paper provided.

Proposition of developing LG into one dwelling may provide issues around the amount of space the plot is situated within.

The market is favourable for a change of use from offices to residential use.

Timing of when a decision is needed was discussed. The meeting were asked to give the options some thought over the next couple of months. Consideration needs to be given to whether we wish to keep the asset or improve it etc. - all options to be thought through.

An additional short PCC meeting has been arranged on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to go through papers in more detail.

A member expressed concern around the option of selling Linden Gate together with the need for exercising caution when discussing such large numbers.

It was also noted that there may be an argument for looking at loans being given from within the church family and being able to continue with the ownership of LG.

The asset of the parking was noted as was the need to make the offices more fit for purpose (there is no disabled access). A need of options with pros and cons was expressed.

David Daniels proposed that the Treasurer looks into these suggestions in more detail. We all need to be very sure and informed of what we are doing.

Thanks were expressed to Mike Inness for the work he has undertaken.

**Fundraising Strategy** – Mike Innes advised that there was money available to do the preparation work so far. A meeting had taken place with Graham Collings who would be able to prepare a feasibility study in advance of the PCC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November. It was noted that it is essential to ensure we have the support of the church family. The next stage of the process will be to consult with the church family.

**Offices** – It was suggested to the meeting that the ideal place for the relocation of the offices is where the organ is currently situated. The advantages of this location were briefly described including that with the relocation of the offices to the church all the activities of the church would take place in the church building. This plan raises the question of what to do with the organ. The meeting were advised that the trial of an electronic organ is being arranged and a visit to hear electronic organs in Sandhurst Academy. This work has been carried out in close consultation with Adrian Sawyer.

### **RENEW Team Structure**

Leighton Carr briefly outlined the current structure of the RENEW team advising that the team needs to be in a position where it can be led. The idea is that RENEW is made up of 8 workstreams. A huge amount of administration will be required. LC advised that a volunteer to carry out some administration work had been sought with no success. The desire is to take on an Executive Administrator for 2 days per week; to be employed within the staff structure. LC proposed that the PCC agree in principle to this recruitment. A member advised that the need is recognised but that the post would need to be reviewed regularly.

A member reflected that it would seem more pertinent to consult with the church etc. in advance of this appointment. The use of contacting was also highlighted.

Mark Parsons suggested that the appointment of an Executive Administrator should be discussed at the 21<sup>st</sup> November meeting. A short term contract role was suggested to fill the gap.

Brendan Biggs reflected on the quality of the Stoke Gifford project.

The meeting reflected on whether the two decisions around Linden Gate and the Organ should be taken to the Church Family. No decision was made.

A member reflected that the excitement of the potential of the project could get lost in nervousness.

*MP proposed to use RENEW funds for recruiting Executive Admin support for a fixed term of 3 months at a maximum cost of £6,000. Seconded by Janet Lee; 11 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention. Carried.*

The need to replace Leighton Carr on the RENEW team will be added to the next Standing Committee agenda.

Mike Inness left the meeting.

- **Intentional & Simplify (preparing to move out of the building with particular regard to Sunday Service Pattern) Tim**

A document had been circulated in advance but time was given for this to be reviewed in advance of further discussion. Following discussions at the July PCC meeting the Clergy team advised that they do not believe they are able to do their best within the current schedule of services. Keywords of Intentional and Simplify.....

Graham Stuart advised the meeting he had supplied a written response to the paper which he outlined. In summary the suggested change to 45 minutes duration of the 9.15 service threatens a large number of church family leaving. None of the reasons highlighted in the paper provided read to him as good ones. It was suggested that this topic is not discussed in the absence of Paul Langham. TM proposed that the PCC gives the go ahead for the consultation with the church family. It was noted that RENEW is clearly described in the questions/context etc.

Mark Parsons reflected that the type of church that is going to reach this generation is likely to be different to the one we are today.

A comment was made that the 6.30 service should also be consulted upon.

TM reflected that the thrust of what church is about is key. A reflection was shared that good pastoral care is what brings people to church. There is a need to consider how many of our services are growing?

The possibility of holding a number of church family "consultations" was discussed. It was noted that there is a need to understand what "church" is to the younger generations. It was also noted that there is still a need for services that attract 0-90 year olds.

Janet Lee advised the meeting that she and Nelly Davis had met with Mark, Paul and Tim for a constructive meeting. The meeting were reminded that the "church exists for the benefit of those outside of it" and JL endorsed the idea of consultations with the church family.

It was suggested that a "direction of travel" is needed. It was also noted that an indication of what the Clergy will do is needed as well as asking the church family to do ....offer a "great experience".

The meeting were advised that plans for when we are out of the church building would need to consider options depending on whether or not a range of styles is needed. Whatever is set up would not allow for the 4 services as they run currently.

*Tim Meathrel proposed that a consultation with the church family is begun trying to find out about the service(s) they attend; seconded by Janet Lee; 11 in favour, 1 abstention. Carried*

*Tim Meathrel left the meeting.*

## **STANDING ITEMS**

### **1. Minutes – RH/MP**

- PCC Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> July. Approved with no amendments.
- SC Minutes – 6<sup>th</sup> July were noted.

### **2. Matters Arising from any of the above minutes**

Electing a PCC member to Standing Committee, nominations to be sent to PCC Secretary for an election to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **3. Finance Report**

The Treasurer advised that an instalment of the Harry North Legacy of £117k had been received.

ProVision – £16k of net increases on recurring giving pledged for 2016 (+4% on this year's budget and actual) & £14k of one off gifts. Budget process – a letter has been received from Diocese asking for pledges for Parish Share by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The meeting were encouraged to share any thoughts with The Treasurer. Meetings will be held with budget

holders to ascertain plans and needs and balance with the need to have a balanced budget for 2016.

**4. Wardens Points**

Derek Hadden advised the meeting that Mark Orriss has been advised of the Councils agreement for him to chair the Communications Group. Volunteers for members of sub groups are invited. Non PCC members are also welcome

**5. Paul's Points**

None

**6. Operations Managers Points**

Administrative Staffing. Paper was sent in advance of the meeting. Request to increase admin cover by 1 day per week to allow for overlap = £404 per month until Tiffany moves in June 2016. *Proposed by Mark Parsons, seconded by Sian Lowe; 10 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions. Carried*

**7. Safeguarding**

*Graham Stuart proposed Jo Hewitt as Parish Safeguarding Officer for children; seconded by David Daniels, carried unanimously.* Training records show that 22 helpers have undertaken the necessary training. Process has become much simpler. Web link to be sent to PCC 1 for children and 1 for adults, it was suggested that PCC members do both. Training 19<sup>th</sup> October run by Sara Wadsworth 1 session per term. Each helper required to attend 1 session per year. Parish Audit is coming through.

**AOB**

**Alpha Course.** The meeting were advised that 24 guests had signed up so far. Val Moore advised that 23 members of the Youth group had attended the Youth Alpha on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Prayer encouraged

**General Synod election** – Paul Langham standing for Clergy, Brendan Biggs for laity vacancies.

The meeting closed with prayer at 22.33 p.m.