

Being Transformed by Jesus to see the Kingdom come

PCC Minutes

Approved by PCC on 27th February 2016



Date: Monday 25th January 2016 7.30 pm
Venue: Linden Gate Meeting Room
Chair: Paul Langham
Present: Erica Bebb, Brendan Biggs, Patrick Bolster, David Daniels, Alice Denyer, Martin Freye, Derek Hadden, Janet Lee, Sian Lowe, Val Moore, Mark Parsons, Graham Stuart, Granville Sykes, Sara Wadsworth
Apologies: Jill Garfitt, Mel Griffiths, Lindsey Cutter, Leighton Carr, Tim Meathrel,

Conflict of Interests: None declared

Bible Reflection: Paul led a reflection around Joshua 3

MAIN ITEMS

1. Vision discernment process and RENEW update

PL introduced the item by advising that there is a need for clarification of the vision; people have been asking for it and it has been raised at the service forums. RENEW – some are not sure how it fits with the vision etc. Mark Parsons advised that he had read "Reginite" (book by Ian Parkinson) at New Wine and he found that it was pertinent to where CC was at the time. Ian Parkinson led New Wine North until recently but has now changed his role since joining CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) which is mainly focussed on leadership development. The role includes consulting with theological establishments and churches.

Clarity around the difference between Mission and Vision:-

MISSION – the unchanging purpose (never changes) "Being..." is more a mission statement. **What you do**

VISION – what does the mission look like in Clifton? Need to develop a plan to deliver etc. **How it feels to be doing?**

What is the identity of the church?

MP explained that work had begun on describing the journey – how we involve with as many people as possible at different levels.

- A Staff Day Away had taken place earlier on 25th January and had done the same work as the PCC were going to undertake later.
- 1st February Prayer Meeting focussing on REVEW- PCC were encouraged to make this a priority. PL will "front" and try to explain the complexity of the sequence of items in plans that came out of the consultation process last year. This would include investigating options of keeping the existing organ somewhere else in the building

(investigating options for above Village Hall). There had also been concerns expressed about the size and capacity of kitchens (Leighton Carr is investigating). The evening will include an opportunity for comments and questions. A question was raised as to whether there was any possibility of changing the lights in the church in the short term. A lighting consultation will take place during the RENEW process.

- 2nd February Paul, Tim, Mark to meet with Wardens
- 22nd-25th February inclusive – 4 evenings to get together with as many people in leadership as possible. PCC members were asked to commit to attending and helping facilitate discussions at one of these meetings.
- 22nd February PCC meeting to do more work
- 10th March – Core Team (Paul, Tim, Mark and Wardens) to meet with Ian Parkinson to look at work so far
- Saturday 12th March – meeting of PCC, Staff, other leaders and Ian Parkinson to do more work on Vision
- 17th April APCM – to share with church family

On Sunday 31st January a hard copy document to be handed out to the church family which will include a timetable. (Hard copies of the results of the service forums for each service will also be available as appropriate. A leaflet from the RENEW Communications Team "RE:NEWS" will also be available which will give an update of where things are.

A question was raised to clarify Ian Parkinson's task. The meeting were advised that his role would be to help with timescales, identify how best to engage with different levels of people. It is envisaged that there would be groups of people co-discerning (PCC and staff to have a strong focus on discerning).

A member reflected that when the PCC had visited Stoke Gifford it was noted that they had held a Gift Day for pledges for 5 years at which over £2m had been pledged and that this appeared to inspire focus. Are there any plans to do something similar at CC? This will be looked at in due course.

It was suggested that when the Vision becomes clearer the way the building needs to change should become more apparent.

The PCC were then asked to share in the following exercises:-

(feedback from the groups is detailed under each section in blue type)

- a. Identify what CC identity is? (how do you describe CC) heritage/ What God has been saying over recent years/ What characterises CC?/What is it known for in the City?

Identity

- * Place of healing
- * Acts 2 church
- * Welcoming ✓✓✓✓✓

- * Teaching ✓
- * Holy Spirit ✓✓
- * Big ✓✓✓
- * Great children's work
- * Good student ministry ✓
- * Pre-school
- * Good events
- * Evangelism
- * Mission abroad ✓✓✓✓
- * Social action in Bristol
- * Open to the community ✓
- * Homegroups
- * Mother church
- * Informal ✓
- * Anglican / Parish ✓✓✓
- * Place to safely focus
- * Spiritual
- * Diversity
- * Seniors
- * Evangelical ✓✓
- * Bible based ✓✓✓
- * All-age ✓
- * Last church before the bridge
- * Church on the hill (independent, posh, rich)
- * Gracious
- * History
- * Alive
- * Changing
- * 'Perfect' – resources ✓
- * Flawed
- * Landmark building
- * 'Traditional / Happy-clappy' – looking for a new identity?
- * Loving
- * Home from home
- * Everyone fits
- * Outgoing
- * Centre of excellence
- * Visible
- * Trusting
- * Benefiting the community
- * Influential

- * Gifts in practice
- * Strong
- * Young
- * Connectedness – village / school / retail
- * Lost in the size (clique)
- * Business blinding need

b. **Values** – groups of 4 to identify 6 values which describe the way that CC should operate. How we do what we do...

- * Sacrificial
- * Authentic ✓
- * Inclusive ✓✓
- * Connected ✓
- * Humility
- * Pursue best
- * Outward looking
- * Pursuing fruits of the Holy Spirit
- * Transparency / Trust (openness) ✓
- * Freedom to worship as individuals
- * Perfectionist
- * Compassionate
- * Contemporary
- * Obedient and servant hearted
- * Gracious
- * Enjoying each other (fun)
- * Faithful to the word but feet on the ground
- * Family / belonging
- * Discipling community ✓

c. Individually to consider if they were allowed only one phrase CC's Vision is to....(brief) aspirations

- * Bristol's alternative to HTB
- * Seek the wellbeing of strangers
- * To honour Christ
- * Love, honour and serve Christ and YOU
- * To grow disciples in a Christian community and to reach out
- * To worship God
- * To bring the gospel to all
- * To be a light on the hill bringing the good news to Clifton, Bristol ...
- * To bring Jesus to Bristol
- * To equip its members to build the kingdom

- * To engage the community
- * To walk with each other in discipleship and grace to equip and empower Christ's church to join in his mission
- * To fill our church with people seeking both God's word and the Holy Spirit
- * Growing disciples of Jesus who go out to do the works of Jesus
- * To pioneer God's new ways of being church
- * To reflect God's love within and outside our walls

Staff & PCC to agree way forward. When people feel they have been consulted it helps engagement.
It was noted that young people also need to be included in this process.

2. Finance

- **Budget**

Patrick Bolster tabled the draft budget and expressed thanks to the whole Finance team (Mark Parsons and David Daniels) for their work on the budget. The intent is to present things in a more accessible and meaningful way.

PB was pleased to advise that the 2015 draft accounts (not yet ready for auditors etc.) are showing a surplus. The budget was originally showing a predicted deficit of £28k but we have a surplus of c£40k. The reasons for the current position were that income was higher than budget (more gift aid and other giving); expenditure was lower than budget, mainly due to repairs to the spire leading to usual church building repair work being deferred. In order to allow for other yearend adjustments that may be needed to get to the final accounts position Patrick suggested the surplus be assumed to be £35k and noted that the PCC's Statement of Financial Principles are both to not have material deficits or material surpluses. He proposed that £35k be charged to the general fund as year-end adjustments in the following manner:

- i. Approximately £7k of Pastor staff cost (currently charged to the Legacy and Renew funds)
- ii. Approximately £11k of spire costs to general fund. (Spire costs were all charged to the legacy fund when incurred, on the basis that this was a one off event and could not be budgeted for in the general fund. The £11k amount represents the amount of usual repairs that would otherwise have been incurred and charged to the general fund)
- iii. Approximately £18k given to the Diocese, with reference to the Diocesan strategy "creating connections" and the Statement of Financial Principles and diocesan need. [It was noted this would have the effect of Christchurch's annual giving be at the same level as for 2014 when we gave £200k, made up of £182k from pledge from general fund and £18k from legacy]

The meeting were advised that at a recent Deanery Synod meeting it was advised that there are parishes which are without incumbents etc. A decision had been taken in early December that due to a budget deficit of £200k+ there was no option but to halt any new posts funded by the

Diocese. The Diocese are working on a new budget that will come back in May.

Erica Bebb reflected that there was no representation obvious in the budget for creativity. MP advised that he was aware that the creatives ministry is beginning to emerge and that the finance team will endeavour to show creatives in the budget in the future.

Patrick Bolster proposed that the PCC authorise the actions i, ii and iii above (noting that if the final surplus figure is higher or lower than indicated based on draft numbers the amounts proposed be adjusted accordingly), seconded by Janet Lee. Carried unanimously,

The meeting noted its gratitude and praise to God for His provision. At a suitable time the leadership to advise the Church Family.

Thanks were expressed to the Finance Team for outstanding work

Giving – PB&MP have gone through. Regular giving is monitored; looked at annualised giving (as at Nov £371k) but have allowed for any leavers so predicted £361k – new giving is time lagged.

Giving with Grace – Diocesan programme. Mark Parsons, Brendan Biggs and Patrick Bolster attended meeting. The programme is well resourced which is Biblically led and has resources for preaching etc. MP is also looking at devising a method of direct communication to church family members to say thanks for their contributions and outline what the money has achieved. ProVision Forms were given out at a recent newcomers tea. MP advised that he has used Giving with Grace previously. It would be good to take a look at how we do Provision. A variety of ways of giving to be incorporated for short term members etc. A Gift Day for one-off gifts would also be considered. DVD - PB appealed for photos/filming of activity/day to day activities etc. A video camera is available and can we all think ahead to events that are happening to plan to film bits of some of them.

- **Auditors**

PB proposed that Burton Sweets accountants are asked to do an independent examination of 2015 accounts and if above the audit exemption threshold in 2016 do the full audit (Charity commission require audits for income of £1m+), seconded by Alice Denyer. Carried unanimously.

- **Parish Share/Interns**

In the absence of TM – unable to make a decision on Interns
To be carried over to next meeting (paper in advance)

PB proposed that the PCC accept this budget, seconded by Derek Hadden. Carried unanimously

Mark Parsons advised that CC are pursuing reimbursement of at least some of the funds for the work for the spire. Discussions are still ongoing with the insurers.

3. Standing Committee member from PCC

PL reminded the PCC of the need to co-opt a PCC member to the SC. So far there has not been a huge response. PL to discuss further with TM with a view to making a proposal at the next PCC meeting.

4. Safeguarding update (child protections/adult at risk policy)

Training dates to be circulated by Sara Wadsworth. Parish safeguarding audit for 2015 has been completed and sent to Leanne Smith - Parish Safeguarding Officer. A question was raised if there is a copy of the policy available in the church building? MP/JL to check and ensure this is on display. The first training event is on Saturday 20th February 9am-12 noon. Alice Denyer is hosting the morning and would be grateful for another member to be willing to host - set up /refreshments etc.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Minutes – RH/MP

- PCC Minutes – 21st November – Approved with no amendments.
- SC Minutes – 14th September 2015 were noted.
- SC Minutes – 12th October 2015 were noted.
- SC Minutes – 9th November 2015 were noted.

2. Matters Arising from any of the above minutes

Update on Communications Group? – Derek Hadden advised that the group is now chaired by Mark Orriss – a meeting has taken place with a particular focus on RENEW..

Reminder for Sub Groups notes – RH to email

3. Finance Report as on agenda

4. Wardens Points – none raised

5. Paul's Points –none raised

6. Operations Managers Points – paper circulated re PCC membership etc. Members who are due to step down were encouraged to advise MP if or not they were willing to stand for re-election (those stepping down after serving for a period of 3 years can stand again). The meeting were asked to be prayerful about possible people to be approached. There are potentially 11 vacancies; members were asked to bring names of possible candidates to the meeting on the 22nd February before approaching them personally. It would be good to have a representative body. Anyone who wishes to stand for election must be on the electoral roll for a minimum of

6 months prior to the APCM. There are no vacancies for Deanery Synod but 2 additional PCC places. It is accepted that the PCC may be too large but a change could only be proposed at the APCM this year so that in future years the PCC should number (as agreed). This will be revisited at the February PCC meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer at 22.02 pm