

Being Transformed by Jesus to see the Kingdom come



PCC Minutes

Approved by PCC 16.03.2015

Date: Saturday 7th February 9.30am – 12.30pm
Venue: Linden Gate Meeting Room
Chair: Derek Hadden
Present: Leighton Carr, Simon Coller, David Daniels, Chris Davis, Jill Garfitt, Jo Hewitt, Tim Meathrel, Val Moore, Andy Murray, Evelyn Nemi, Mark Orriss, Nick Price, Granville Sykes, Sara Wadsworth

Apologies: Lindsey Cutter, Brendan Biggs, Janet Lee. Erica Bebb, Graham Stuart, Patrick Bolster, Paul Langham, Mark Parsons, Sian Powell,

Conflict of Interest: Jo Hewitt (Item 2)

Bible Reflection: Leighton Carr led a reflection based on the start of a sermon from the previous Sunday – John 14: 15 "Discipleship" Can we be a believer without being a Disciple? What would change in my life with Jesus living with me in my day? How would PCC look? To function as an effective pcc we should debate every item as if it were a priority to Jesus, and conduct ourselves so as to build Trust through Truth and Respect".The notes for the reflection will be circulated after the meeting.

MAIN ITEMS FOR DEBATE AND DECISION

1. Evangelism and Mission –

JG/TM led the item setting the scene from the Evangelism and Mission Sub Group. Aim is to launch an initiative in a matter of a couple of months.

TM gave the background to the setting up of the group looking at what mission looks like in practice and what we do as a church. The "dandelion picture" from the vision booklet was to be kept in mind – seeds, as they blow have influence on many places where they land.

A paper was circulated which detailed :-

- Celebrating God's faithfulness and Goodness
 - Characteristics of our history in evangelism and mission
 - Geographical Significance
- Joshua 3:4 important verse? Not yet clear why.. a time of silence followed and discussions of "what stood out" in pairs.
- There are lives to be saved! (The picture of the painting of the "lifeboat" on display in the church was circulated.) This is the point to which we must always return. Members were asked to reflect "where would I be in the picture and why"? What are the lifeboats for?
- Hearts ignited with Jesus' love to save the lost, share the Gospel. How can we share the message wherever we are?

- A passion in our hearts to take the plunge and bring those closest to us to know Jesus – is there something already in us which is triggered? How do we find out the passions within us/church?
- A willingness to take a risk and go out to witness and save lives. How do we know that when we take a risk we are not going to get into trouble? Desire to be a witness presents the need to take a risk no longer reliant on our own resources. Emphasising risk is not emphasising success. We start from the place of having the Holy Spirit within us. Equipping of character /confidence; encouraging and equipping people to witness where they are. Often hear “I want to do this but not equipped, don’t know how to”
- The “doors of Christ church opening out so that the Spirit flows into the Parish and the places God has placed us” Picture of river flowing out and footsteps going in. Reconingtion of parish boundary.
- Evangelism Definition:
 - God’s mission works primarily through Jesus Christ’s sending the people of God to intentionally cross barriers from church to non-church, faith to non-faith, to proclaim by word and deed the coming of the kingdom of God in Jeus Christ through the Church’s participation in God’s mission of reconciling people to God, to themselves, to one another, and to the world gathering them into the church, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit, with a view to the transformation of the world, as a sign of the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.”
- “Since you have never been this way before” humility – stoop down in humility..Acts of love before acts of power. Can celebrate the ways this was done in the past. God has new and creative ways in which we can serve parish/community?
- What does it mean for CC?.
 - **Engaging**
 - **Witnessing** wherever God has placed us 24/7 All of us all the time
 - **Equipping** – God’s faithful witnesses
 - **Committing** to intentionally crossing divide of church from world
 - **Bringing** friends, families and colleagues...
 - **Sending** people out from CC to be evangelists in Clifton, Bristol, U.K. and the nations
 - **Sharing** testimonies of what God is doing.
- Taking the first step
 - Identify 2 ir 3 additional members to group
 - Invitation in response to our growing love for Jesus...envisioning the church – how?
 - Launch prayer focus for the Parish
 - Trial “fruitfulness on the frontline
 - Launch teaching on the frontline to church family and engage in intentional crossing to family, friends and colleagues
 - Summer parish focus

Questions or thoughts/ideas were invited in groups of 4 with feedback.

- ♥ Frontline – send more missionaries – where is it? Equipping people to do it in the workplace etc...
- ♥ Testimonies about little risk taking exercises in workplace etc. Theme tune “9 to 5 Dolly Parton”!!
- ♥ Evangelising England
- ♥ How to communicate to evangelism IN parish to those who don’t live nearby.
- ♥ Encouraging those from other churches who attend CC to evangelise /keep going where they are.
- ♥ Parking restrictions- focus change to those who can get here!
- ♥ Would Jesus describe the definition of evangelism as presented. How would Jesus describe it?
- ♥ Structure – lots of meetings going on... how to facilitate /release to engage in evangelism
- ♥ Good to have no plan – makes room for no plan
- ♥ Church building closed and padlocked!! Today. How can we get it open and be hospitable? How do we make the step change to get everyone involved.
- ♥ Strategic position – are we using the location fully to “do the business”?
- ♥ How can we minister outside e.g. students/ crime levels

The meeting was encouraged to identify any ideas that have been prompted to Tim Meathrel by 1st March.

It was noted that we need to remember what is already happening and build on that as well.

Thanks were expressed to Jill and Tim for their work and leadership so far.

2. Bristol Schools Connection (REVISED paper circulated at short notice)

TM introduced the item by giving the background to Jane Gillis’s ministry and mission etc. The recent redundancy situation etc. has given her the opportunity to take stock and pray around opportunities.

A question was raised about what happened when Jane left. TM advised that JG had volunteered for redundancy and take stock of her next steps.

A 50% schools worker role was in the revised structure but JG volunteered to take redundancy.

JG has had one meeting with Bishop Mike who is encouraging her in this venture and would like to try to find some financial assistance. However this is a faith-based venture and there are some unknown elements. The Board of Trustees includes Tony Miles, Jo Hewitt etc. Funding is definitely not all identified. It was noted that there were other contributions to JG paid role at CC historically.

Were there plans to staged Christmas/Easter experiences in CC in future? At this stage, this was not clear. Nick Bell is chatting with JG who can offer support/advice to stage an Easter Experience this year. Jane would NOT become the CC Schools Worker but would work across the city with a range of support from churches. This is more about “giving Jane away” to the City and other churches/schools and not to expect anything back in

return; this requires a shift in thinking. JG is still part of the church family. Not about what we can get back from her – final two paragraphs of the paper are key. Process – not sure we will be in a position to be able to get to a decision about this at this meeting. Space can be given to the next PCC agenda when Jane/Tony could attend to present. Theme of generosity and giving without expectation on getting back....one of the “step changes”?

As the paper had been presented at short notice it was proposed that time be given to think and pray, read to make a decision at the March PCC meeting. It was agreed that having Jane and Tony Miles attend to discuss the proposals would be helpful.

Action: TM will offer the invitation.

Mark/Patrick to propose /advise of what we could offer in terms of financial possibilities.

(Eveyn Nemi left the meeting at 11.54am)

3. Legacy Group Report (paper circulated in advance of the meeting)

Jill Garfitt advised that a decision had been made as outlined in the paper circulated in advance. The PCC had already given their support to whatever proposals the group made. If there were any further reflections, they should be addressed to Jill as soon as possible so that the letters advising of donations can be sent to the recipients. It was noted that there was a reference to JG and her involvement with Open Doors, it was proposed by Janet Lee that the letter to this organisation advising of their gift should be sent by another member of the group. The meeting were also pleased to be able to offer the £4k to Bristol Schools Connections as a starting point.

Remaining £2k to be advised to the church family.

Action: Tim Meathrel to prepare a communication.

4. Gift Day

TM introduced the item by stressing that any proposal for a gift day would be aimed at those who are not already giving regularly but those who are unable to do so for various reasons. The Gift Day would be part of a picture of how to encourage giving. Would like to explore this method and see how it works. This model is used successfully in other churches, especially by those in their 20's and 30's.

It was noted that the Finance Meeting in January 2013 had identified this as an avenue to be encouraged.

It was identified that it would be good to advise what the money would be used for within the context of The Vision. A date would be found to hold the Gift Day before Easter.

There was general agreement that this should go ahead.

ITEMS FOR NOTE & REPORT

1. Safeguarding

Sara Wadsworth enquired if a redacted Report had been received from Leanne and if this should have been circulated to the PCC. TM confirmed that the redacted report had been received but that MP had sent comments back to Leanne and requested some revision. The results of consultations had also been sent but required further comment. MP has requested a summary statement and recommendations to be sent back for circulation to the PCC in time for the March meeting.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Minutes – RH

- PCC Minutes–19th January 2015 were circulated in advance. Approval proposed by Chris Davis, seconded by Andy Murray and carried unanimously.
- SC Minutes – 12th January 2015 were circulated for noting.

2. Matters Arising

Linden Gate

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM.

Renew update – The meeting were advised that Simon Hygate will no longer be part of the Renew team. LC advised that he has had a community consultation with various outside bodies which went well. They had walked around building and shown a presentation of perspective and simplified statement of what we are wishing to do - Improving presence/function/spaces etc.

The Church Building Commissioner expressed a negative first impression of the appearance of the building. The proposals had received overall support. Simon Hygate has offered to waive his fees for his outstanding work. The PCC were encouraged to think how to recognise his efforts and this offer. The Renew Group had met and set a two week programme – by 23rd February a document statement of need, budget, cost and scheme. Leighton Carr is looking at plans on communicating to the church family and how to approach the Provision members. He would like to re-launch the process/profile to church family on Feb 22nd. By the PCC weekend in April he would want to be able to present outcomes/final plans etc. An interim report will be given to the PCC on 16th March.

Action: LC to submit report to RH to be sent to PCC.

3. Sub-group reports

Mark Orriss advised the meeting that the Communication Sub Group are currently on sabbatical as members not able to commit to attend at this time. Things still happening but the group will re-convene March/April

4. Tim's Points

- **Children's Pastor Update** – Current situation is that we are not officially advertising but the vacancy is still on website. A contact had been made from two people, one of which was via Skype from overseas. Both had shown interest but these discussions were still in the early stages. Continue to explore what is God saying.
- **Clifton Parking Zone.** TM advised that he had received no response from the local M.P. so this would be chased. Val Moore advised that Churches Together are discussing parking with a view to possibly submitting a joint paper to the council. Ways of making the "mound" around the church building more accessible for parking are being investigated by MP.

Action: A leaflet outlining the new zones and possible resolutions will be produced for the church family.

- **Church Family Weekend 6th June.** PCC members help to plan are being invited by TM. The staff had discussed and the aim would be for the weekend to be strongly focussed on fun and relationships.

5. Wardens Points

None raised

Thanks were expressed to Tim and the team for the encouraging sign of ongoing life and activity during Paul's sabbatical.

Simon Collier closed the meeting in prayer at 12.31.