

Minutes of a Meeting of the St John's Church Council held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011, in the Schoolrooms

The following council members were present:

Edward Armitstead, Ed Bangay, Ros Bush, Simon Corner, Ian Croxford, Rob Dean, Roger Fox, Alan Irwin, Phil Juggins, Iain Maitland, David Matthew, Joy Neville, Helen Peace, David Preston, Jenny Salberg, Nick Scorer, David Upton, Kath Upton, Martin Warr, Robert Warr, Anne Wicks, Chairman: James Dudley-Smith

1. Opening worship

James opened with prayer and a reading from Hebrews c13 v 8. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever". Hebrews is all about the perfection of Jesus. Jesus is not a high priest with human weaknesses but the Son who has been made perfect for ever. We have a leadership responsibility to believe it ourselves that Jesus is perfect and help our church to fix its eyes upon Jesus.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Eddie Brooks, Keith Ovendon, Paula Rollason

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meetings held on 19th January and 6th February were approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising

a) Enclosure of the South Transept

David Matthew said that he had written to the architect asking for advice on what the possibilities for building an enclosure are. The architect said that a similar enclosure had been built at Wedmore church and David agreed to find out how much it cost. Rob Dean also said that he had seen a similar enclosure in a church at Ledbury and he agreed to try and find out more about it.

5. Co-opting Members

It was agreed that Martin Warr, John Brookes, Kath Upton and Simon Corner be co-opted on to the committee.

6. Church Council members: what are we here for?

Discussion of areas where we need to move forwards in mission and ministry

James reminded us of the responsibility of a PCC member which was to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and secondly to discuss matters covering the whole Church of England or matters of wider public interest". We also have a role in relation to the Deanery and Diocesan Synods and to discuss areas where we need to move forward in ministry.

James asked us to split up into small groups to discuss what we think our priorities ought to be in mission and ministry. Following the discussions a number of suggestions were made:

- We need consistent biblical preaching
- Run a marriage course
- Be more welcoming to newcomers
- Have regular services, at least quarterly, where we can bring newcomers.

- We need to reach people who know that they have needs and also those who have needs but don't necessarily know it
- We need to be a caring church particularly around the lunch time slot for prayer, refreshment, music and preaching. David Upton reminded us that there was already a prayer meeting on Thursdays a 12pm
- A need for succession planning for key rolls such as gift aid officer, treasurer and clerk of works
- Promote task groups encouraging greater involvement and representation from members of the church council
- Hold social activities to promote pre evangelism
- Invite a mission team to run a parish/church mission
- Have open discussions in the church during the lunchtime with twin pulpits to discuss important issues
- Robed choir and greater emphasis on music
- More contemporary music and worship
- Greater support for the 18 to 25 age group and also the men's ministry
- Consistency in worship
- Re establish links with groups on the fringe such as the brownies and other uniformed groups
- Contemporary Sunday evening worship
- Every service should be one where we feel that we can invite our friends
- Keep the church open all day on Saturday

7. Finance

Martin reminded us that the 2011 budget was a balanced budget based upon our projected income which meant that our charitable giving budget had been reduced to £6k. This resulted in the decision to hold a gift day to enable us to meet our charitable giving target of 10% of gross income and to bolster our general reserve. The gift day had produced about £12.5k including tax recoverable and we will therefore be able to meet our charitable giving target of £12k. However there is an underlying need to increase our regular income by about 6% to meet our regular and increasing commitments without the need for another gift day. We would have additional expenditure when the new curate arrives and when the grant from the Diocese for the youth worker fund finishes. Roger Fox said that in his roll as un-elected gift aid officer he regretted the need for a gift day. David Matthew said that not everyone's income was regular and there was always scope for having gift days for these people.

8 Fabric Tower

Roger said that he was disappointed that we had not found anyone to take over from him to project manage the tower. Jenny Salberg said that we should appeal to the whole congregation for a volunteer. Roger had spoken to the architect and someone will be coming within the next two or three weeks to inspect the tower and decide what types of treatments he recommends. As a result of this it should be possible to arrive at an estimated cost for the whole project. Martin said that the Feofees had donated £4k which would be used to fund the survey.

Font cover

Phil said that he wanted to agree with the archdeacon where we put the font cover and it was proposed that we seek the archdeacon's approval to put it in the far left corner of

the north transept with a notice on the font directing people to it.

Upgrade of the church amplification system

Phil said that we had submitted a faculty application and he was waiting to hear from the DAC. It would then be necessary to display a public notice for a month to enable anyone to object prior to the faculty being granted. David Matthew said that he had been positioning the control desk by the north door which seemed to be a good place and Steve Hiscock was making a cover for it out of old pews.

9. Parish Youth Work

Simon said that April had been a very quiet month due to holidays and bank holidays. He asked us to pray for new pathfinder leaders now that Linda had given up. Also prayers for his work in Westfield school where he was assisting in taking lessons and for the youth leaders meeting on Saturday to discuss the short and long term plans for youth work.

10. Mission Support; meeting our commitments and enhancing our impact beyond the parish

James said that this is an area that we need to work on and we need an injection of new people. We also need to decide how we are going to finance our giving to mission. Whether it is a percentage of our income as at present but where we have had to reduce the percentage due to a shortfall in our income or possibly asking church members to split their giving between church running costs and mission. Martin said that the expectation is that we should tithe but we cannot go overdrawn and therefore can only spend what we have. If we measure our giving as a percentage of what we have left after paying the quota then it is nearly 25% of the remainder. He was not in favour of asking the congregation to split their giving. David Matthew said that if we don't as a church trust God to provide for us then we cannot expect the congregation to trust God. Joy Neville said that we must be committed to the amount that we decide to give and not reduce it. David Preston asked if we knew what the budget for Hilary and Marc Deneufchatel was and it was agreed that we should find out. Ian Croxford said that we had given a commitment to the Yeovil Christian Support Trust for the Lords Larder which we had not honoured. Rob Dean said that there is no flexibility in the budget if the income does not meet the target and what we need to do is increase the income. Phil suggested that we should set aside the amount that we want to give at the beginning of the year and Anne Wicks said we should treat the amount that we agree to give as a priority and if there is a shortfall in our income we should have a gift day. David Matthew asked if we ensure that we are getting the best deals for our expenditure, particularly utilities, and Martin assured him that he looks at all items of expenditure closely and agrees fixed contracts for utilities. James thanked everyone for the helpful discussion and asked us to continue to think and pray about it.

Regarding the membership of the BYG group Anne suggested that we should appeal to the whole congregation as there may be some who would like to get involved with the BYG group.

11. Welcoming the Lewises

Helen said that she was putting together a welcoming pack and would be appealing to the congregation for donations. The Diocese are completing the purchase of 9 Park Gardens and the Lewises had viewed it and it is an excellent house.

10. Forthcoming events

a) First Wednesday

James said that he had given this a plug at both AGMs and hoped that all church council members would support it.

b) Hilary and Marc Deneufchatel's visit on 13th to 15th May

c) Newcomers evening on Saturday 21st May

There is already a long list of people wishing to attend but if we know of any others then please let James or Kath know.

d) Tim Lewis's ordination on 3rd July

This will be in Wells Cathedral at 10.30am

11. Any other business

CAP

The big launch is in St. John's on Saturday 16th July. Ian said that he had given an interview on radio Bristol and Somerset Sound last Sunday and it was still available to listen to on their web site.

Friends of St. John's – Second hand goods sale

The Friends are proposing to have a sale of good quality second hand goods outside the church on a Saturday and asked for the approval of the church council prior to seeking the approval of the Yeovil Town Council. Approval by the church council was given.

12. Dates of future meetings

Church Council - Tuesday 20th September

PCC - Tuesday 4th October

The meeting finished with a prayer at 9.50pm