

St George's Church, Wilton

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** held on
Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 6.30pm in the Winston Room, St George's Church Hall.

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| Present | Mike Yardley (<i>Vice Chair</i>); John Page; Ian Pinder; Rachel Pinder; Clare Steel; Chris Michell; Carole Smith; Rachel Neal; Peter Joyce; Bethan Baigent | | |
| Apologies | James Clapham (<i>Chair</i>); Hilary Buckley; Rosa Parsloe; Jenny Norman; | | |
| Ref | Item and Action | Action By | By When |
| 1. | Welcome and Prayer Mike Yardley as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Bethan led in prayer. | | |
| 2. | Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting on 22nd January 2019 All approved the minutes of the last meeting. | | |
| 3. | <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>3.1 Update on James Bethan read out to the PCC a message from James who was recovering from a medical condition whilst abroad. Peter explained that there will be a slow re-introduction to St George's once he has fully recovered, which could take a couple of months until he would be declared fit to return to work. All services until further notice would be covered by local clergy and retired clergy. If any major decisions are required during his absence, an extraordinary meeting would be held. Everyone expressed their concern and their commitment to help where needed in James' absence, and held both him and Ciaran in their prayers.</p> <p>3.2 Bishop Henderson School Update The Governors of Bishop Henderson were delighted to announce the appointment of Rachel White as the new Headteacher commencing 4th September 2019.</p> <p>3.3 Grantfinder There had been some interest shown by a member of the congregation to look into any possible grants that may be available for the church to apply for. This will be followed up on JC's return to work.</p> <p>3.4 Churchyard Group Mike Yardley gave an update on the work of the Churchyard Group which still meets every third Saturday morning between March and November. Usually 4 or 5 people help, but recently a new family has joined the Group and are very helpful. Two donations, which could potentially be Gift-Aided, had been received from people who were unable to help physically More volunteers are still needed and this will continue to advertised occasionally in News Board. Also the possibility of a big one day tidy up involving all the church will be considered.</p> | JC | |

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| <p>4.</p> | <p>Finance</p> <p>4.1 Approval of the 2018 Annual Accounts</p> <p>The Treasurer presented the 2018 Annual Accounts to the PCC summarising the main aspects. The Unrestricted Funds stood at £19,732 resulting in a drop of £18,860 since the beginning of the year bringing an unwelcome return to the state where Expenditure exceeds Income. The Church Boiler Appeal raised £14,480 with Gift Aid, more than covering the £6,000 cost of the new boiler. The residue enabled new pew runners to be purchased for £2,340 with the remainder being put towards the cost of the church roof repairs. The Parish Share was paid in full, albeit in February 2019, but the total for 2019 will rise by £7,231 (8.9%) to £88,542. This increase was challenged at a meeting with the Diocesan Secretary who stated that it could not be changed, yet he was made fully aware there is every likelihood we shall not be able to pay this amount in full. Christian Giving was up £4,906, but this was all but swallowed up by the 6% increase in Parish Share. Hall Revenue was down £1,353 and Maintenance Costs were up £2,991, although the overall Running Costs were up only £642. The Hall Refurbishment Fund ended the year at £3,079 with the Churchyard Fund ending on £311.</p> <p>The 2018 Annual Accounts were adopted unanimously by the PCC.</p> <p>4.2 Three Year Financial Plan</p> <p>John Page and Peter Joyce will be getting together to discuss the feasibility of developing a 3 Year Plan as suggested by Nick May, Diocesan Secretary for Bath & Wells. All agreed that it would be very difficult to plan that far ahead as the timing of information from the Diocese about increases/decreases in the Parish Share was uncertain, and the income received from Christian Giving significantly changes as people leave or join the scheme. Also, Church expenditure can be hard to predict.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter and John to meet to look at the feasibility of a 3 Year Financial Plan. | <p>PJ / JP</p> | <p>24th July</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Parish Administrator</p> <p>The Parish Administrator withdrew from the meeting whilst the PCC had a confidential discussion about the exceptionally effective way she was fulfilling the role and supporting James's ministry. This was very much appreciated by all Church members. The PCC unanimously supported a proposal, previously agreed with James, that Bethan's salary should be increased by £1,000 pa, over and above the annual inflationary increase that she was contractually entitled to, with effect from 1st April 2019.</p> | <p>JP</p> | <p>1 April</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>St George's Draft Development Plan (Mission Action Plan)</p> <p>All were in agreement that the draft plan produced by the MAP team provided a really good basis for future practical initiatives by the Church. Clare Steel mentioned that there were presently 3 Home Groups, but there was a practical difficulty that might hinder the future expansion of Home Groups: finding people willing to offer their homes to host them, typically for one evening a month. It was suggested that those taking part in Lent courses could potentially become home groups. Also, one-off themed courses could be a way forward. The idea for a Prayer Course run in the Autumn was also mentioned.</p> | | |

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| | <p>The PCC thought the draft Development Plan was very well put together and felt it played to the strengths of St George's</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To look at the draft Development Plan again once James has returned to work and has given his own guidance on possible future developments. | JC | 31 July |
| 7. | <p>Health & Safety, Security and Safeguarding</p> <p>Bethan had been contacted by the Diocese with an important message about how Safeguarding should be featured on church websites to ensure that it complies with best practice.</p> <p>This was done with immediate effect with a Safeguarding section placed on the Home Page and an easily identifiable section on the top section bar as required so St George's are compliant with best practice.</p> | | |
| 8. | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Request from Jill Paul</u></p> <p>Jill Paul had asked whether it would be possible to place a plaque on the Organ which would list the names of all the organists who had played at St George's.</p> <p>The PCC agreed that it would be better to have a framed certificate with this information, that would hang near the organ rather than a plaque, as that would be easy to keep updated and replace.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform Jill Paul about the decision made and the alternative suggestion. | PJ | 27 April |
| 14. | <p>Review of the Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was quick! | | |
| 17. | <p>Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Accounts were approved, but the Church is running with a deficit. Bethan's valuable contribution to St George's was acknowledged A draft Development Plan is being produced, and will be finalised after James' return to work. The congregation will be updated on James' situation | BB | 7 th April |
| 18. | <p>Next PCC Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 24th July, at 6.45pm for 7pm start. | | |
| 19. | <p>Prayer at Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Neal offered to lead us in Prayer | | |
| 20. | <p>End</p> <p>The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace at 7.30pm.</p> | | |

Signed : Chairman. Date :