

St George's Church, Wilton

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Parochial Church Council** held on
Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 7pm in the Winston Room, St George's Church Hall.

Present	James Clapham (<i>Chair</i>); Hilary Buckley; Ian Pinder; Rachel Pinder; Clare Steel, Chris Michell, Rosa Parsloe; Carole Smith; Rachel Neal; Jenny Norman; Peter Joyce; Bethan Baigent		
Apologies	Mike Yardley and John Page		
Ref	Item and Action	Action By	By When
1.	Reflection and Prayer James introduced the meeting with a short reflection based on a passage from Hebrews on faith and trust, focusing on how to exercise our faith and trust as a PCC in a way that glorifies God.		
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting on 23rd October 2018 All approved the minutes of the last meeting.		
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>3.1 Taize Service It was hoped for St Georges to hold a candlelit Taize Service with a potential date of Sunday 24th February at 4pm, differing to the date previously handed out on the last diary dates list. CS informed of a Taize happening at St Georges RC on the 10th March. Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethan to check to see if this date clashes with any other local services <p>3.2 Bishop Henderson School Updates JC informed the PCC that Barbara Finch had been approved as the new Foundation Governor. However, the Headteacher interviews scheduled 17th and 18th January had been postponed as only one applicant remained from those invited for interview. The new dates for interviews were now 14th and 15th March.</p>	BB	25 Jan
4.	<p>Finance</p> <p>4.1 Current Financial Situation As the Treasurer was in the process of working on the End of Year Accounts, he was unable to provide the PCC with any figures, only concerns that they will show that finances are down on previous years with essential maintenance work on the roof being carried out and general costs rising.</p> <p>4.2 Parish Share A meeting was held on Monday 14th January with Nick May, Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Bath & Wells to express our concern over the large percentage rise in the Parish Share for 2019. The age and slight decline in the number of our worshipping community; the difficulties in bringing in new young members; the limited disposable income particularly of pensioners, and the growing maintenance costs were put forward as reasons for concern about our ability to pay the Parish</p>		

	<p>Share in full. The PCC were informed that Nick explained that the Share cannot be changed once issued but as a PCC we should look at all the socio-economic factors and any other factors that may indicate that we could change our category which forms part of the decision for the budgeting. He also suggested creating a 3 Year Financial Plan to look at how we can grow the church in membership and financially whilst remembering that our Parish Share helps to support the churches in other less well-off parishes.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the church category reported to the Diocese • Consider how to produce a 3 Year Financial Plan. <p>4.3 Christian Giving The Christian Giving Service will be on Sunday 27th January. A new letter, leaflet and forms are ready to hand out to all members. James' sermon will inform the congregation of the challenges ahead financially and inform them of the Christian Giving Scheme.</p> <p>4.4 Grantfinder It was noted that there are a lot of funds available for churches to apply for funding and trusts but it can be time consuming searching and applying for the appropriate grants. Ian Pinder has taken a brief look so far but it does require further research.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find someone willing to take on looking into and applying to trusts for grants. 	<p>All</p> <p>JC</p>	<p>30 April</p> <p>30 April</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Mission Action Plan</p> <p>James thanked the Mission Action Plan group for all their hard work on the development plan they had worked on. James explained it was a great basis to begin the MAP and from there it needed to consider the age profile and any opportunities that may bring to provide a rich experience at St George's. Focus was now needed on how does St George's make the most of the assets available. The group explained that the draft had been based on the Deanery Mission Action Plan and that guidance from him was needed. Anything then drafted needed to be circulated in advance for discussion at the PCC.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethan to arrange a meeting for James to provide the MAP team with guidance on his vision for the future development of St George's. • Circulate the draft MAP to the PCC 	<p>BB</p> <p>BB</p>	<p>10 Feb</p> <p>25 Mar</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Social Events/Fundraising</p> <p>The following social events or fundraisers have been booked into the diary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beetledrive Wed 13th Feb • Soup Lunch (in aid of Christian Aid) Sat 9th March • Soup Lunch Sat 13th April • Quiche Lunch Sat 11th May <p>A Summer Fayre was suggested and approved for Saturday 8th June with stalls.</p>	<p>RP</p>	<p>8 June</p>

	<p>Another suggestion was to look at doing something the weekend of 12th-14th July when there is a big concert in Vivary Park.</p> <p>Rosa queried if it was still ok for money brought in from West Country Scribes to be used for the Hall Refurbishment Fund rather than into Hall Hire. This was approved.</p> <p>The current fund for the Hall Refurbishment will be put towards updating the Gents toilets in the Hall. Perry Turpin will be asked for a quotation.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quotation for works to update the Gents Hall toilets. 	PJ	29 Mar
7.	<p>Churchyard</p> <p><u>Request from Mr Welch</u></p> <p>A letter was received from Mr Welch requesting a headstone and burial of cremated ashes in the Churchyard. It was felt that the PCC had to stick to the Churchyard policy which states under point 4.3.1 <i>“Further to the granting of the Faculty, the PCC resolved (at its meeting on 23rd October 2018) that the few remaining interment spaces in this area should be restricted to existing members of St George’s Church. “</i></p> <p>As Mr and Mrs Welch were not Church Members this request has to be declined but interment with a plaque in either Area 2 or 3 should be offered.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Mr Welch of the PCC’s decision and offer a place in Area 2 or 3 <p><u>Future of Churchyard Group</u></p> <p>James recapped the history of the churchyard group but noted that it now needs to be looked at afresh, because of the low number of volunteers. Ideas put forward were:</p> <p>One Day Blitz – Churchyard Group to co-ordinate a one day clear up of the Churchyard asking members of the congregation to come along and help for one day to get all the heavy work done. Explain to the congregation that there is a lot of maintenance required and it would be expensive to use contractors to do this.</p> <p>Specific Areas – give people a specific area in the churchyard to be responsible for so that they can maintain their areas at a time to suit them. This is done at the moment to a certain degree but it was felt that some areas were looked after more than others at times, so a co-ordinated action day may get better results.</p> <p>It was noted that Peter Matravers very kindly voluntarily strims the far north-west edge of the Churchyard, and we currently pay Patrick O’Shea of ‘Cut No Corners’ to care for the front of the Churchyard and the new remembrance area. He also cuts the grass in the south-east area on an occasional basis as required. There is a long-standing contractor (David Bailey) who strims the uneven north-east section of the Churchyard.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a date for a One Day Blitz • When mentioning Churchyard Gardening Mornings in News Board be a bit more assertive in asking for help. 	JC	31 Jan
		CYG BB	10 Mar

<p>8.</p>	<p>Prayer Course James explained how the Prayer Course runs in a very similar way to Alpha. The Vicarage Home Group ran it very successfully and James wanted to consider offering it out to all the congregation. Clare explained that it is a 6 weeks course, with a 10-15 minutes video with guided leaders notes. It was suggested that this could be run in the Autumn on a fortnightly basis, run like Alpha with a meal being included. Clare said that she was prepared to facilitate it but therefore would not be able to cater too. All agreed that it would fit in with our mission and be a great foundation for all. Another suggestion would be to have it as a daytime course with a simple bowl of soup offered.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mention in News Board the suggestion of a daytime Prayer Course and see if there would be any interest to do this. 	<p>JC</p> <p>BB</p>	<p>30 Sept</p> <p>10 Feb</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Christmas Feedback</p> <p>Complaint James informed the PCC that a letter of complaint had been received with regards to there not being an 8am Holy Communion service on Christmas Day from someone who visits Taunton at Christmas and expected to be able to attend. All agreed that there had been enough notice and promotion of our Christmas Services and no regular 8am worshippers had expressed any disappointment.</p> <p>Carol Service All agreed that the Carol Service was excellent. The carols were good and the jam jars with tea lights looked lovely in the Churchyard. "The Mary of Your Christmas Cards" reading was very well received and sparked great conversations with non regular church goers. James informed the PCC that there was an incident with the jam jars as someone fell over a tombstone as the lights did not go all the way up the path.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the jam jars go all the way up the path until there is light from the Hall. Consider LED tea lights as the wind was blowing many out or look at easy lighting methods of the tea lights <p>Christingle Service This service again proved very popular. However, just as changing one element in the Carol Service worked well, rather than sticking rigidly to the traditional format, maybe changing one thing in this service next year would be good.</p>	<p>PJ</p> <p>JC/PJ</p> <p>JC</p>	<p>16 Dec</p> <p>30 Nov</p> <p>30 Nov</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Hall Update Bethan had circulated the Hall Report prior to the meeting which all said was very useful and had helpful information, for which she was thanked. Peter explained that the Scout Group had been asked to pay an increased hire charge, as they had been paying the same amount for a few years and</p>		

	were receiving a very significant discount for using the hall, and our running costs had risen. Their agreement to this was awaited.		
11.	<p>AV Team With the possibility that Matthew Norman would be moving on to university in September, there will be a need for more people to be able to operate the AV system as otherwise it would only be Laurie Jeffery. The system is creaking and will need changing as soon as funds allow. At least 2 or 3 people will be needed to be part of the team.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of people who would be capable and willing to become part of the AV Team with training. 	ALL	24 July
12.	<p>Reports</p> <p>12.1 Churchwarden's Report More welcomers are needed for both services. In the near future the beech hedge will be extended along the north-west border of the Churchyard to prevent the activities of the Scouts causing a mess around the graves in that area.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put out call for new welcomers in News Board <p>12.2 Christian concerns Carol Smith circulated a list of fourteen organisations that the Group proposed should be supported by congregational collections in the coming months. This was agreed.</p> <p>12.3 Churchyard Group The report was noted. All issues raised had been discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>12.4 Deanery Synod No report was received.</p> <p>12.5 Bishop Henderson School Chaplaincy The full report received from Jenny Jeffery was noted.</p>	BB	28 Feb
13.	<p>Health & Safety & Safeguarding</p> <p>13.1 Safeguarding A report from Liz Flower was received.</p> <p>13.2 Health & Safety The incident involving the lady who fell over a tombstone after the Carol Service was noted again. A suggestion was made either to look into painting the handrail with something to make it stand out in the dark, or positioning a temporary battery lamp / lantern by the slope during future night-time events.</p>	PJ	31 May

14.	Review of the Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that, by finishing at 9.30pm, it had lasted too long. The aim should be to finish by 9pm. • The MAP should have been circulated prior to the meeting 	JC	27 Mar
17.	Key Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Fayre • Churchyard Blitz • Prayer Course in the daytime in the Autumn 	BB	27 Jan
18.	Next PCC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 27th March, at 6.45pm for 7pm start. 		
19.	Prayer at Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be arranged. 		
20.	End The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace at 9.30pm.		

Signed : Chairman. **Date :**