

## St John's Church Egham

### Minutes of PCC meeting, 26 November 2018, in church

Attendees: Rev. Esther Prior (Chair), Conrad Benefield (Secretary), Debbie Benefield, Heather Cooke, Steve Cresswell, Veronica Cresswell, Phil Darby, Emma Evans, Rev. Simon Fraser, Sarah Gillies, Chris Gray, Phil Holloway, Sara Holloway, Grace Hopkins (observer), Joyce Johnson, Chris King, Victoria Mcharo, Keith Malcouronne, Carol Peters, Michael Senanayake, Andrew Tebboth, Sally Thompson, Natalie Watson and Geoff Wickes.

Apologies: Paul Kahn, Rev. Jenn Riddlestone.

#### **1. Opening prayer and welcome**

Rev. Esther Prior welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was her first as PCC Chair. Apologies for absence were received as noted above. She noted that Grace Hopkins was attending as an observer as part of her New Wine internship.

#### **2. Devotional thought**

Esther gave the devotional, on Ephesians 4:1-16, reflecting that if we are to love God, love each other and love our community we must model that in PCC. She added that Richard May had spoken prophetically about this at the Revive service on 18 November, having had no prior knowledge from Esther or anyone else about these themes. Esther went on to reflect that God seems to be telling us loudly and persistently, through a megaphone, to "love one another". Esther concluded by reflecting on why we are here - so that the body of Christ may be built up, as each part does its work, with no part is more important than the others, as Paul makes clear.

Esther invited members to reflect on, and record, what their passion is for St John's, and what gift they bring.

A short time of reflection and prayer followed.

#### **3. Declaration of interests**

The interests previously declared were noted. No further interests were declared.

#### **4. Draft minutes of 24 September PCC meeting and minutes of 29 October Standing Committee meeting**

The PCC minutes of 24 September were approved and the Standing Committee minutes of 29 October were noted. There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Youth and student ministry**

Esther welcomed Nicola Cadet de Fontenay, the St John's Lay Pastor, who went on to give a presentation based on her paper (PCC/18/55, and a short discussion followed. Additional points raised by Nicola and others were:

- **Encouraging new students to engage with St John's:** Nicola noted that the student breakfasts are a good way for new students to engage with St John's, along with the 'walking bus' which means students can find their way to St John's and come with others rather than on their own. It was noted that St John's has an advantage in engaging with students because so many of them live in our parish, so there are much broader opportunities to engage, not just in church and on campus.
- **Connections with Strode's College and other organisations:** It was noted that efforts had been made (particularly by Rev. Jenn Riddlestone) to foster links with

Strode's but these had not been fruitful. It was also noted that the Egham Youth Centre had effectively ceased to provide youth activities.

- **Resourcing of both youth and student ministry:** It was agreed that this is a challenge, with a need for more volunteers generally and particularly women volunteers at Outbreak, not least with Jenn and Andy Riddlestone moving on next year and Nicola due to go on maternity leave in the Spring. With this in mind Nicola suggested that a new team might be needed to spearhead the development of youth and student ministry from next year. It was agreed that this should be a priority for St John's to ensure that our ministry to youth and students, as the future church, is effective. The commitment of all those involved currently was noted and appreciated. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for a forthcoming PCC meeting.

A short time of prayer followed, for our ministry to youth and students, and about the points above. PCC members thanked Nicola for her ministry and for coming to share at the meeting.

## **6. Safeguarding**

Joyce Johnson, the PCC safeguarding liaison officer, reported as follows on behalf of the Safeguarding Committee:

- All volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults were up to date with their DBS checks.
- 10 people attended the recent face to face C1 training. Approximately 15 were due to renew their training soon, and five PCC members had not completed their Core 1 online safeguarding training, and were urged to do so as soon as possible.
- No incidents had occurred since the previous PCC meeting.

## **7. Review of the Vision Day**

Esther invited each PCC member to share a word, phrase or sentence which summed up how they would describe the Vision Day that had taken place on the previous Saturday. These were collated.

## **8. PCC policies**

Esther introduced paper PCC/18/58, thanking those who had provided comments in advance and noting that the drafts were based on her research into what other churches do, and intended to enable effective ministry and mission, and simplify things in some areas. She acknowledged that it might not be possible to get agreement on everything during this meeting.

### PCC Vision and Conduct

It was agreed that this should be expanded to reflect our calling as a PCC to model servant leadership, following the example of Jesus. Subject to this amendment, PCC members voted unanimously to adopt this policy by a show of hands.

### The Church of England Evangelical Council Basis Of Faith

Esther explained that the purpose of this statement was, if adopted, to make clear our evangelical position as a church, with the Bible as the authority in our life and church.

Some members expressed concerns about what the statement (or more specifically the 'in addition' paragraphs) said about our attitude to people in certain groups, such as gay people, unmarried couples or single parents, and felt that people in such groups might misunderstand what we are trying to say to them as a church and that it would make it harder to engage with them. However, it was also noted that the statement was not intended as a document to inform conversations, which would rather evolve from personal interactions and relationships.

Members voted by a majority in favour of giving further consideration to the paper, with a view to revisiting it and voting on it at the next meeting. Conrad Benefield undertook to circulate links to useful information to inform this.

### Service patterns

The following points were made in discussion, building on comments submitted in advance of the meeting:

- The introduction of a monthly Communion service at Revive was welcomed
- There was a proposal for including Holy Communion at 11am services on 5th Sundays, and not at 9.15 services on those Sundays
- Including a This Time Tomorrow item at the 9.15 service might be problematic due to time constraints, but arrangements should be made to enable the 9.15 congregation to pray for the This Time Tomorrow slot at the following 11am service, and for those involved
- The Ministry Focus should feature at each service once a month
- Special services (Mothering Sunday etc) would generally follow the service pattern depending on when they fell in the month.

It was proposed to include Holy Communion at the 11am service (and not the 9.15 service) on 5th Sundays, and a vote was taken which was inconclusive. Esther proposed that she would consult further with members by email on this matter. Esther added that she would consult members by email on the Children & Communion and Baptism policies (seeking reasons for disagreement or suggestions for the way forward where appropriate) and revisit the other policies (Alcohol, Marriage and Media Use) at a later date.

### **9. Allocation of the 2018 tithe to mission partners**

Esther welcomed Jörg Haustein, Mission Partnership Team Leader, to the meeting, who went on to summarise some of the key points in paper PCC/18/63 and 64, highlighting the following:

- In light of developments at FACT, this partnership would resume with £2,000 proposed to be allocated in the tithe.
- A new project-based approach to supporting Ruaha diocese had been put in place but this had not moved forward. A proposed project to refurbish the local school for the deaf had been held up, and the diocese had been advised that St John's would be looking at supporting a different mission partner going forward, unless Ruaha had a project in place by September next year.
- If a new mission partnership were to be set up in Africa, this should be to support a local-led initiative (as with Ruaha and Child Action Lanka), not a 'sent' mission.
- The proposed allocation reflected the established principle of allocating two-thirds of the tithe equally between our overseas partners.
- It was noted that the Bible Society also receives support from a number of St John's members through the Bible a month scheme

In discussion, members considered the position of the Besom in Runnymede as a St John's mission partner. It was noted that Besom receives a 50% share (along with Sam Beare Hospice) of the Christmas collection. Members agreed that this should be the case this Christmas and that the Mission Partnership Team should review its relationship with the Besom going forward.

Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting the tithe recommendations by a show of hands.

### **10. Finance**

Keith Malcouronne presented the forecast 2018 results and 2019 budget (which included cashflows relating to the Easter Centre), noting the following:

- The forecast 2018 deficit was now £3,000
- Donations for Easter Centre use in 2018 would come close to covering its running costs
- The budget for 2019, which had been reviewed by the Finance and Stewardship Sub-Committee, represented a balanced budget
- The 2019 budget assumed a level of income from letting out 33 Grange Road following Jenn's departure, and deferring any refurbishment to 2020
- Approximately £400,000 of loans (including congregational loans) relating to the Easter Centre would become due for repayment in 2019, and a Gift Day would be planned for September 2019 with a minimum fundraising target of £150,000.
- The presentation of finances and fundraising goals going forward would be designed to help the congregation see St John's finances as a whole – both the General Fund and the Easter Centre. It was agreed that everyone needs to be encouraged to 'own' the Easter Centre and the debt associated with it, and seeing it in the context of the General Fund would help with this. It was also noted that annual giving to the General Fund and the Easter Centre is about the same.

Rev. Simon Fraser proposed, seconded by Chris Gray, that PCC adopt the 2019 budget. Members voted unanimously in favour by a show of hands.

### **11. Forthcoming events**

Conrad Benefield advised PCC members that Outbreak would be going skating at Hampton Court Ice skating arena on Saturday December 8th, leaving St John's at about 5.15pm and returning by about 9.15pm.

There was no other business and Sally Thompson closed the meeting in prayer at 10.10pm.

The following papers were received but not discussed:

PCC/18/62 – Deanery Growth Fund

PCC/18/65 – Buildings & Facilities Committee report to PCC