

**St. Giles PCC 3rd September 2019
Minutes**

Present: Fr. Mark Crowther-Alwyn, Claire Drabble (Chair), Angela Neale, Brian Legood, Gill Briggs, Jackie Steele, Jane Pomphrey, Jason Knighton, Martin Smith, Michael Amos, Sarah Higgs, Stephen Oxley.

Fr. Mark explained that he had been unwell and although he was now recovering he had asked Claire to chair the meeting.

Fr. Mark opened the meeting with the collect for St Gregory's day.

The minutes of the Standing Committee held on 9th July had been circulated as these updated a number of the issues raised at the 4th June PCC.

56/19. Apologies for absence. Emily Brailsford

57/19. Approval of Minutes of the PCC meeting 4th June 2019

With the alteration of minute 50/19 to read £5400 instead of £5000, the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by Claire as Chair of the meeting.

58/19. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not otherwise on the agenda).

There were no matters arising.

59/19. Correspondence.

Martin reported the correspondence relating to the proposed alteration to the Deanery Synod membership terms. After some discussion it was agreed that he would write a 'job description' for potential DS members. This would be put in an appropriate issue of the parish magazine, so that, at the next APCM, people would be more clear what membership entailed and thereby be more willing to stand for election. Fr. Mark commented that the DS was important because it elected members to the diocesan synod and thereby the General Synod. **Action: Martin**

60/19. Financial Report including Charitable Giving.

a. Jane circulated the information provided by Bridget. All in all we are not doing badly financially. The Lady Chapel invoice has been paid and the kitchen expenditure will appear in the next set of figures.

b. Angela reported that at a recent meeting with Fr Ballard, he had mentioned the need to make sure that restricted funds were suitably clearly identified, because, in an emergency (the potential complete loss of Whaley Bridge church had Toddbrook Dam burst was cited as an example), the diocese could sequester unrestricted funds from any church and use them to help in that emergency expenditure. There was a brief discussion as to the exact nature of a restricted fund and it was agreed that any funds raised or donated for a specific purpose, e.g. the bell fund, should be recorded as a restricted fund. **Action: Jane and church wardens to consider and report to the Standing Committee**

c. The Standing Committee on 9th July has agreed a number of charities that would benefit from St Giles charitable giving but the exact sum to be given to each charity was left to the PCC to determine. It was clarified that we were in the habit of giving £2000 p.a. in total. Of this sum, £710 was already committed as follows; £50 per month to the Food Bank, £85 to the Rector's discretionary fund and £25 to 'Good News'. This left around £1300 to be distributed between 6 charitable causes, i.e. £215 per charity. This was proposed by Fr. Mark, seconded by Stephen and carried unanimously.

Resolved:

i) That the charitable giving for 2019 be distributed as follows:

£50 per month to the Food Bank, £85 to the Rector's discretionary fund, £25 to 'Good News' and £215 to each of the following; USPG, Church Army, Church on the Bus, Diocesan Widows and Orphans, Barnabas Fund and Hurst Farm Youth Club.

ii) That the £216 for the Hurst Farm Youth Club is dependent on it being devoted to a satisfactory project which meets with Fr. Mark and Jason's approval.

Actions:

- **Jane to write necessary letters and cheques.**
- **Jason to ascertain the nature of the Hurst Farm Youth club project.**

d) Jackie referred to the cost of electricity and noted that our existing contract with Scottish Power expires in February 2020. Their quoted price for a continuation was £400 greater and we have been offered a better deal elsewhere. Unlike SP, which was proving quite difficult to contact and deal with, the proposed new supplier could be dealt with on line and the price would be locked in for 3 years. She sought the PCC's approval in principle to go ahead with this change. The proposal was approved unanimously and Jackie was thanked for her efforts. **Action: Jackie**

e) Jane reported that she wished to stand down as Treasurer at the next APCM having done 2 years in the role. The search for a replacement treasurer needs to begin very soon as it is a vital role.

61/19. Safeguarding update

In the absence of a report from Joan, there was no discussion on this item

62/19. Mission and Social Committee update

a. The Animal Service

Arrangements are progressing OK. Posters are being put out and a banner is being prepared. Jackie and Peter will put this up.

b. Godly Play.

The magazine article spelled out the need to change the name and gave the suggested time change. Fr. Mark pointed out that the time change was designed to encourage 'passing trade' from children just leaving school. The new name is 'Fun Club, but the Sunday version will be known as the Sunday Club as its focus is rather more serious than the weekday version. Flags have been obtained for positioning outside the church on Fun Club days and there will be some form of branding for the Sunday Club inside the church itself.

c. Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival service is on 6th October with the Harvest Supper/Auction on 7th October. The supper and the charitable auction need promoting. Some discussion about the ticket price which was felt to be too high at the moment. If we buy or bring in the pies/pasties, drink and puddings the cost could be brought down to £4.50 or £5 and this should encourage others to come. Gill referred to the apple crumbles being very popular last year and as she has a surfeit of apples this year, the apple crumbles would be on offer again. Some queries about the timing of the supper and the numbers of people attending. Queries about attracting more parents of St Giles schoolchildren by the offer of half price or free tickets. Some doubts about this because of the uncertainty of numbers and therefore provision of food/drink. It was agreed to consider a revised pricing strategy for next year on the basis that it is our mission to get more people into the church. There was a query whether the meal could take place immediately after the Harvest festival service, but there are various issues with this, not least being that Fr. Mark could not be present as he has to take a similar service at Dethick on the same day.

Actions:

- **Angela and Claire to deal with arrangements for 2019 service and supper.**
- **Mission Committee to consider pricing and arrangements for future years.**

d. Bookmarks.

The bookmarks that were handed out at St. Giles Day and Blessing of Grandparents were a good idea and it was suggested that the Mission Committee should investigate their use for Baptisms and similar events. **Action: Mission Committee**

e. Christmas arrangements

The Advent Carol service is on 1st December, Christmas card production is in hand and the Christmas Carol Service will be on 19th December.

63/19. Meeting Space project updates:

a. Kitchen.

The kitchen is finished but there is a problem with the height of the cupboards. Apparently someone instructed the installers to lower the cupboards from the specified position. (*Do we know who?*) This means that they are too low and there is insufficient clearance above the boiler. As the instruction to alter the height was not given by the project manager (Angela?) the installers shouldn't have acted on it and therefore should take down the cupboards and put them in the correct position as per the

specification. Angela has told them this but they have not responded. **Action: Angela to 'prod' them again.**

Sarah stated that John was delayed in completing the tiling because of other work pressures. Claire volunteered Fred to help. **Action: Claire (and Fred).**

Claire referred to the disgusting state of the fridge in the kitchen where she'd come across mould and sour milk which had been left. There would be a note on the news sheet about this and also a notice asking everyone to empty the fridge each Sunday. **Action: Claire**

Stephen's concerts had raised over £300 and the question was what to do with the money now that the kitchen work was paid for. Fr. Mark pointed out that the flooring in the choir vestry was badly stained and could do with being renewed. Angela undertook to investigate possibilities and get a quote, with the intention of having a consistent flooring theme in the vestry and kitchen area. **Action: Angela.**

b. Barn

Stephen stated that he was appalled by what he read in the minutes referring to the Barn and in particular the fact that the PCC had ignored the Rector's view that expenditure on it was a waste of money and had instead voted to proceed with the project. He pointed out that, when he had been churchwarden (in another parish), the bishop had made it clear that he considered it was the duty of churchwardens and the PCC to totally support the parish priest. He therefore considered what had happened at the June meeting to be disgraceful and he considered that those PCC members who had voted through the proposal ought to feel ashamed.

There were a couple of responses to Stephen's comments but Claire, as Chair of the meeting, wisely decided that the matter was closed, that Stephen's views were noted but we should proceed with the agenda.

Sarah reported that the plans for the alterations to the Barn have been drawn up and will be submitted for building regs. approval. The plans are available for PCC members to see. The works include retaining access for upstairs storage, the provision of a disabled toilet and disabled access into the building, (including a ramp to the outer door), removing the cupboards in the downstairs room and making provision for table storage in the under-stairs space.

The report was accepted without further comment.

64/19. Notice Board update

Fr. Mark apologised that because he'd been away and then been ill, this had not progressed. **Action: Angela and Fr. Mark to investigate and get a quote for consideration by Standing Committee**

65/19. Flood lighting update

The flood lighting is now OK

66/19. Drains near church door

Jackie referred to the recent ingress of water at the back of the church, underneath the service book cupboard. She said that some of the woodwork was mouldy and that at the time the puddle had stretched into the porch. This was confirmed by other PCC members. (Also note that one of the adjacent cupboards contains electric switches). Brian pointed out that the base of the French drain and the drain opening themselves were actually above the height of the church floor. It was felt that the cause of the problem was the inadequacy of the drains just outside this corner of the church and also that they were probably full of debris. Short of getting in a contractor to fully clear out the drains it was difficult to see what else could be done, other than monitor the situation and make sure the grills were not blocked by leaves etc. **Action: All to keep an eye on the drain grills and remove any debris if possible**

Note. After the meeting, a number of members looked at the drain arrangements at this corner of the church. It seems highly likely that in instances of heavy rain, the volume of water flowing down the French drain can overwhelm the two drain grills, given that there are two down pipes taking water off the south aisle roof and a third taking water off the porch. Do we know if the two drains lead to the main storm drains in Church Street, or are they just a soak-aways?

The layout of the French drain and the positioning of the two drain grills doesn't help either, as there is a right angled bend just before the first grill, which would impede water flow and cause it to back up in periods of heavy rain. We would be wise to investigate the drainage system more thoroughly.

67/19 Getting rid of & finding replacements for three very heavy tables in barn and cellar,

After a brief discussion it was decided that we would obtain 4 smaller tables to a design similar to those now stored at the back of the church. The three heavy tables (2 in the Barn and 1 in the cellar) can be taken to the tip. **Action: Angela to obtain the four smaller tables. Fred to arrange disposal of the three heavy tables by taking them to the tip.**

68/19. Gift day arrangements

Gift Day is on 30th November 10a.m. to mid-day. Jane will draft the usual letter and sort out the envelopes required. A notice will be included in the November Magazine. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of making the day more of a social occasion by providing refreshments and encouraging more members of the congregation to attend. Stephen offered to provide musical accompaniment including possibly some singers and this idea was accepted enthusiastically.

Action: Jane, Claire (refreshments), Stephen.

69/19 Welcomers and refreshments rota

Arising out of the requests for refreshments etc at various events, Sarah pointed out the difficulties she was having with the rota of welcomers and refreshment providers at the regular services. There is a need to attract some new recruits to both these rotas to stop the burden falling on the same people more often. Obviously the more people there are on the rota, the fewer will be the number of times each person is required. Claire agreed to put a plea for new talent on the weekly newsletter and probably an article in the next magazine would be a good idea.

Action: Sarah and Claire.

70/19. Dates of next meeting of PCC and Standing Committee

- **Standing Committee 8th October at the Rectory. 7:30 p.m.**
- **PCC 12th November in the Choir Vestry; 7:30 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 9:05 with The Grace.

