

MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIALCHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

held in St. Andrew's Cottage on Tuesday 18th November, 2014

The Vicar welcomed everybody and opened the meeting with a prayer,

Present : Rev David Hewlett (Vicar), Cliff Wright (Hon. Treasurer), Jennifer Wright, Richard Dixon, Suzette Milne, Linda Hunter (Churchwarden), Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, John Bishop, Gilbert Marshall (Churchwarden), John McNamara, David Welsh.

1. **Apologies for absence** : Jane Stephenson, Jackie Webb, Rev Julie Robson, Elizabeth Robson, Mike Stephenson, Carol Maskell.
2. **Minutes of last meeting (23rd September)** were adopted as a true record and signed accordingly.
3. **Matters arising** : a) a card of good wishes had been sent to the Bishop on behalf of all parishioners b) The RSCM day with John Rutter had been a great success.

4. **Worship, Ministry and Mission:**

- a) **Vicar's items** : a busy time lay ahead and help for the Churchwardens will be needed. Christmas letters will be delivered in the village.

Bishop Frank was holding the fort during the Vacancy in See. A service of prayer for the diocese will be held at Bellingham on 11th January for people from the deaneries of Hexham, Corbridge and Bellingham.

Two applicants will be interviewed at the end of November for the Moorlands post. Stamfordham/Matfen/Ryal is now in vacancy.

Contacts with local schools are growing: the three new Heads will be invited to come and meet PCC members in May.

The organists 'job share' is working well and we hope that their contract can be renewed on similar terms in January.

The Vicar, Julie and Linda will be visiting the Northumbria Community in Felton – PCC members may like to look at the community website. www.northumbriacommunity.org
PCC Away Day – the day at Newton had been valuable. The suggestion of further exploration of Myers-Biggs met with no enthusiasm. A focus on pastoral/spiritual matters or a review of the Mission Action Plan were put forward as possible items. A grant of £300 had been agreed by PCC members to provide robes for Linda.

- b) **Calendar**: please check dates before committing to events. The 'clash' between the Antiphon and the Conflict concerts had been unfortunate.

- c) **Children and Youth Work** : report was received. At the recent Messy Church afternoon (16/11/14) there were 32 children and 52 adults present. Sunday afternoons clearly work well but it was felt that a time frame of 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m would suit families better. Clearing up would need to be done very quickly before the 6 p.m. evening service. Finding ways of engaging with and communicating with young families is very important.
- d) **Social Committee** : report was received.
- e) **Choir Report** : report was received. How to recruit more children for the choir is a difficult matter. Working with the new Head and the new Head of Music at the Middle School would be a good idea. Perhaps we could arrange a concert in church for talented singers and musicians.
- f) **Events** : John Bishop reported that Hexham Orpheus Choir had booked a concert in church for 7th March. Four other possible events were being discussed.
- g) **Corbridge First School** : the Vicar reported that a new Chair of Governors was now in post (David Watson) and that the governing body had been re-shaped. There are still 1 or 2 seats to be filled.

h)Deanery Synod Report : Richard Dixon's report prompted a discussion on Safeguarding training. Linda Hunter was able to reassure PCC that there was a new diocesan action plan in operation : she was working with Ruth Rogan, the diocesan Safeguarding Officer, to roll out a programme of training starting in February. Suggestions for a Deanery Synod day event were welcomed : there was support for a day to be divided between Evangelism (to be led by Rev Canon John Sinclair) and Local Ministry Development Teams (to be led by Rev Rachel Wood). Cliff Wright agreed to make contact with the Treasurer at Matfen.

Topics suggested for further exploration by the Deanery Development Group were: Money, Young Families, Falling Congregations, Rising Age-Profile.

- i) **Lay Voices Conference** : Max Philbrick's/ Elizabeth Robson's report conveyed the success of this major initiative. Around 100 delegates had attended and this was probably the first conference of its kind anywhere in the country. Major contributions came from Nick Hills, Secretary of the House of Laity: Shane Waddle, Diocesan Secretary: Penny Stradling (Church Mission Society): David Goodhew (Director of Ministerial Practice at Cranmer Hall).
- j) **Home Group** : meetings have been held either at the Philbrick's house or in the Cottage and some 18 people have attended at some stage in the past year. Three

meetings have been held this autumn discussing 'Made for Goodness ' by Desmond and Mpho Tutu. In Advent, there will be a short series of reflective evenings.

5. Finance, Fabric and Administration :

- a) **Treasurer's Report** : Cliff Wright presented his report and added a paper indicating in figures and graphs the current and projected financial health of the parish. Our total assets at the end of October 2014 were £168K – an improvement of £26K on December 2013. Generous legacies explain the major difference. The General Fund is the major area of concern: we will show a loss for the year of £3K. We have done well in fund-raising, sales of items in church, cutting running costs but our Planned Giving/Collections have fallen by 8% as has our income from Church Fees.
The Parish Share is currently £71,000 and is likely to increase over the next three years. A meeting of Deanery Treasurers will be held on 19th November and our share for 2015 and 2016 will be decided at this meeting.
- b) **Charities Committee** : the Vicar reported that the Committee would meet in January to draw up the list of charities to be supported.
- c) **Fundraising Group** : A Funding Campaign will be needed in 2015 – the last one was in 2010 – and discussions have already taken place with Richard Gascoigne. Members of PCC wanted more information and it was agreed to circulate the Notes from these discussions. A decision will need to be taken at the January PCC meeting about the format/timetable of a Funding Campaign.
- d) **Churchwardens' Report** : Gilbert reported that the burglar alarm in the Vicar's Vestry had been activated on 14th November. It was a false alarm and steps have been taken to prevent a repeat. Gilbert was trying to resurrect the Hammond organ at Halton but, if his brave endeavours prove unsuccessful, PCC agreed to an expenditure of £450 to buy a second-hand replacement. Edward Pybus (organist) and Sir Hugh Blackett have been consulted. Concerns about costs of church lighting at St. Andrew's continue. In the Cottage, the boiler is now operating on daily setting.
- e) **Cottage**: Suzette reported that bookings for the Cottage were down.

6. St. Oswald's, Halton : no further news on burial plot matters.

7. St. James' Church, Newton Hall : the new Head at Mowden seems happy to continue the arrangements which operate between the diocese and the school.

8. Correspondence : none.