

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
PCC OF ST JAMES'S CHURCH, BRAMLEY**

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**PRESENT:-** Rev J Lenton (Chair), Mr J Adams, Miss K Bentall, Mr N Glen, Mrs S Hodnett, Ms A Jones, Mr R Jayawardena, Mr M Knowles, Mr J Large, Mr J Masson, Mrs S Mitchell, Mrs R Saunders, Mr C Simmons, Mr R Stober, Dr J Williams. Mr A Rawlinson (minutes secretary)

**APOLOGIES:-** Rev S Ball, Dr I Evett, Mrs W Vaughan.

Rev Lenton formally welcomed Mrs Mitchell to her first PCC meeting as a Deanery Synod representative.

Rev Lenton opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Lamentations 3:21-26, reminding the meeting that we are all needy recipients of God's compassion and mercy whether as individuals, members of the PCC, members of the church or of the community. None of us is deserving of God's love but all can be thankful for His mercy, compassion and faithfulness shown day after day.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:-** Mr Masson had submitted an amendment to the minutes 17/09 & 17/10 which was read to the meeting. While its content was accepted Mr Masson was asked to propose, in conjunction with Mr Glen, revised wording which would be inserted at a later date.

**MATTERS ARISING:-** a) Church cleaning. Mrs Hodnett advised that she had still not been able to make further contact with the firm who had submitted an estimate. She will continue with her efforts.

b) Welcome Packs. Ms Jones had obtained a quote for the printing of the information sheet together with suitable envelopes, duly packed and sufficient to hold a copy of the magazine. For an initial run of 200 the quote was £195.35. This was accepted unanimously.

c) Charity giving. Mr Simmons reminded the meeting that no decision had been made concerning our annual donation to CMS now that David and Liza Cooke had returned to the UK. Rev Lenton had received a proposal from an offshoot of CMS, which he would bring forward to the next meeting. There were still some problems with donating to Help Hoima as their web site appeared to be out of action. It was suggested that this had now been resolved. To be reviewed.

d) St Stephen's electricity failure. Mr Rawlinson had now been sent a cheque for £125, however a further letter advised that due to the late payment of this another £30 was on its way.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-** The following were proposed and seconded as indicated and all elected unanimously.

Chairman:-	Rev Lenton, proposed by Mr Adams, seconded by Mrs Hodnett.
Lay vice-chairman:-	Mrs Hodnett, proposed by Mr Adams, seconded by Mr Jayawardena.
Secretary:-	Dr Evett, proposed by Rev Lenton, seconded by Mr Glen.
Treasurer:-	Mr Simmons, proposed by Mrs Hodnett, seconded by Mr Adams.
Gift-aid Officer:-	Mrs Hodnett, proposed by Mr Large, seconded by Mr Jayawardena.
Safe-guarding officer:-	Mrs Saunders. proposed by Mrs Hodnett, seconded by Mr Jayawardena.
St Stephen's Hall Rep:-	Mr Stober, proposed by Mrs Hodnett, seconded by Mr Adams.

Standing Committee:- Rev Lenton, Mr Adams (Churchwarden), Mrs Hodnett (Churchwarden), Dr Evett (Secretary), Mr Simmons (Treasurer). Proposed by Mr Jayawardena, seconded by Mr Glen.

**REPORT ON 'TOGETHER IN WORSHIP' SERVICE:-** Rev Lenton summarised the original reasoning behind the *Together in Worship* service, to bring together the congregations of Sunday@nine and the 10.30 service once a month. Sadly, it had not been popular with either congregation. He had met with a group comprising 3 members of the Sunday@nine service and 3 members of the 10.30 service to discuss the best way forward. The group had concluded that the current 9.00am and 10.30 am services were doing quite well in their own right and that we would need to find other ways of bringing the church family together than in a church service, such as holding more and regular Church social gatherings (picnics, barbecues, quiz nights, etc.) where the two congregations could mingle. It was also hoped that those attending the 10.30 service might come a little early and enjoy a coffee and croissant in Cross House before their service, as well as enjoying fellowship with those who had just finished the 9.00 am service.

Rev Lenton summarised his proposed plans:

1. Sunday@nine would now meet every Sunday except the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (i.e., 4 times a year).
2. The 10.30 service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday would now be Morning Worship, a contemporary version of Matins.
3. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, a combined service would be held, involving participation in leading by members of both services, including children, and it would meet some of the time in Cross House. The starting time for this service was discussed but no decision reached. It had subsequently been concluded that 10.30 remains the best option.
4. In light of these new arrangements there would be no 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service at St Stephen's. The Holy Communion at St Stephen's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday would need to commence at 8.00am.

The meeting agreed with these proposals which would commence in June.

**DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:-** Mr Masson presented two papers (attached), the first being the 'Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan' (aMAP). This was the next progression from the parish pMAP and deanery dMAP. The paper shows areas of 'work in progress', 'smaller projects' and 'major step-change projects'. It highlights areas in which we can all be part of, for example 'focus on prayer'.

The second paper 'Deanery Scoping' gave a view of all parishes in the Odiham Deanery, with figures from the 2011 census, noting the percentage of Christian affiliations and household/employment dynamics, and also identified the primary "Mosaic Groups" in each parish, i.e., households with the same lifestyle-based characteristics. The overall picture showed a decline in Christian faith in the Odiham deanery (in common with the national picture). It also showed that in Bramley there is a substantial "Mosaic Group", 713 households of 'Couples with young children in comfortable modern housing', to whom a service like Sunday@nine was designed to appeal. The aMAP and response to the Deanery Scoping will become a regular item at future Deanery Synods.

It was noted that Rev'd Mark Tanner had resigned as Area Dean upon his move to a parish in East Anglia.

**MUSICAL RESOURCES:-** Mr Large raised the question of the grand piano, currently situated in the Brocas Aisle, suggesting that the church might purchase it. Rev Lenton, to whom the piano belonged, advised that he had at first thought it might be a useful asset to services and the Festival which is why he had had it placed in the Brocas Aisle. However, since this had not taken place, he was looking to sell the piano, but could not support Mr Large's recommendation to the PCC that the church should buy it. However, in order to facilitate an open discussion of the matter, he excused

himself from the Chair and left the room. Mr Adams assumed the Chair for the remainder of this item. After some discussion where various views were expressed it was felt that it would be inappropriate to consider purchasing the piano from Rev Lenton. He was advised of this decision upon his return to the room.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-** a) Meeting times. It had been suggested that as at least one of the listed meetings for the remainder of the year was to be held on a Friday that this meeting might commence earlier. It was agreed that Friday meetings should commence at 7.00 pm but all other meetings to remain at 8.00pm.

b) Mrs Hodnett produced a Coffee Rota which she would e-mail to all members.

The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace.