

St Chad's Church Ladybarn, Diocese of Manchester

Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 3 December 2013.

Present:

Elizabeth Davies(Chair), Leslie Bell, Judy Fletcher (Churchwarden), Leslie Fletcher (Secretary), Jean Matthews, Peter Matthews, John Milner, Robert Nicholls (Deanery Synod Representative), Jean Nixon (Deanery Synod Representative), Trena Radcliffe, Diane Wynn (Churchwarden).

1. **Opening prayers** were led by Judy Fletcher
2. **Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Margaret Harrop.
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 24 November 2013.** These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. The Secretary agreed to display a copy of the confirmed minutes of PCC meetings in appropriate places around church.
4. **Matters arising from these minutes and the minutes of the meeting on 5 November 2013 not mentioned below.** None.
5. **Transition from sabbatical.** Elizabeth Davies thanked John Milner and the Churchwardens for their work during her sabbatical. Reviewing this period, John commented that
 - there had been lively and constructive discussions at each PCC meeting;
 - the PCC had taken a positive attitude to its powers and responsibilities;
 - structuring the PCC agenda had helped in this;
 - it is good that discussion of matters arising has been reduced to virtually nothing;
 - the meeting between Elizabeth, the Churchwardens, Helen Reid and himself the previous day had considered the major issues.
6. **Rector's report.** Elizabeth Davies
 1. recommended charitable donations of
 1. £300 from the Whitlam Bequest to the food bank project;
 2. £100 from the Hudson Bequest to Wood Street Mission. It was proposed and seconded by the Churchwardens that these donations be made and passed unanimously;
 2. suggested that £50 be transferred by standing order into the Contingency Fund each month. It was proposed by Diane Wynn and seconded by Leslie Bell that this be done, which was agreed unanimously;
 3. noted that the Parish Share for for 2014 was £24,375 and, while this is a 10% reduction on the figure for 2013, it may also represent a decline in attendance and other indicators that all is not well;
 4. announced that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on 23 March 2014 so the finance report will have to be considered at the February PCC meeting;
 5. suggested that the next meeting of the PCC should be on 4 February 2014 to allow all subcommittees to meet during January and report to this meeting in preparation for the APCM. This was agreed without formality. Following the APCM she would propose to the new PCC a new more streamlined pattern of meetings aided by the setting up of a standing committee;
 6. noted that the parish was entitled to have a lay representative at the meeting of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee on 15 January 2014. Robert Nicholls agreed to attend;

7. expressed concern about the large tree between the east of the church and Parris Wood Road, considering that it should be looked at by a tree surgeon while it was bare of leaves;
 8. offered to arrange financial support from the Education Fund towards improving the notice boards. Robert Nicholls undertook to revive the Notice Board Subcommittee which, for various reasons, has never met. Peter Matthews agreed to help with this and also said that the signwriter whom the Church has used in the past may want to use the Hall to work on particularly large signs so it may be possible to get an advantageous price for work on new notice boards. John Milner said he would take photographs of notice boards at other churches and suggested that PCC members do the same to provide ideas for the subcommittee to consider.
7. **Wardens' Report.** This was concerned exclusively with steps the Churchwardens had taken with regard to the nave altar project. On a proposal by Elizabeth Davies, seconded by Jean Nixon, Judy Fletcher's paper and proposed terms of reference of the Nave Altar Working Party were unanimously accepted with a minor amendment to emphasise the experimental aspect of it. Judy Fletcher agreed to recruit two further members to the Working Party. In the subsequent discussion, these points were made:
1. Seeing the nave altar as her project, Elizabeth Davies was sad that there is so much antagonism towards it. Something that was intended to create unity is doing the opposite so more time is needed to consider the concerns which have been expressed;
 2. The importance of avoiding unnecessary dissension was emphasised, especially when other far-reaching potential changes in parish life were being digested;
 3. The PCC had discussed the matter with great care and at considerable length before determining the January start date and occasional reversion to the existing layout during the experimental period;
 4. John Milner agreed that further discussion was necessary and felt that using the nave altar every week for a shorter period was within the spirit of the PCC's earlier decision. He suggested that the Working Party report back to the February meeting with a new start date. Elizabeth Davies said this was not possible because of the depth and extent of the divisions which had emerged. The beginning of any experimental period is to be delayed until after Easter, will be shorter than originally envisaged but the nave altar will be used every week in whatever period is chosen
 5. Robert Nicholls pointed out that the PCC, after much discussion, had earlier made a decision that the experiment would be carried out on a non-continuous basis. Any alternative proposals would have to come before the PCC for debate and approval
8. **Finance, including final payment of the Parish Share.** The Treasurer's report was received with thanks. Noting that the tenor discussions of the Parish Share at recent PCC meetings had been that, barring some unforeseen contingency, it should be paid in full, John Milner proposed that £1,800 be paid immediately and the balance at the end of December. This was seconded by Leslie Fletcher and passed unanimously.
9. **Reports from subcommittees.** There were no reports from subcommittees (*but see item 6.5 above*)
10. **Report from Deanery Synod Representatives.** Robert Nicholls reported on a

recent meeting of the Deanery Synod at St Nicholas, Burnage on 19 November 2013.

1. Much of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by Ruth Kyle on the *Global Poverty Project* which aims to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. Some 1.46 billion people are currently living in this condition. Solutions include anti corruption measures, education, trade, distinguishing between 'good' and 'bad' aid, sustainability and good government. Synod voted to invest £100 in a project.
2. Synod was reminded that the Safe Church Policy does not replace Child Protection Policies, but runs in parallel with them. Synod members were asked to pass this on to appropriate parish child protection officers and incumbents.
3. The Diocese has approved the budget for 2014, there are no recent changes from earlier versions. Withington Deanery is not requesting any expenses this year, there is still enough 'in the kitty'.
4. Parishes are asked to e-mail Carys Pugh, Deanery Secretary, with details of any food banks they operate.
5. Three Deanery Synods will be held in 2014, the first being 20 February at St Wilfrid's. In addition, there will be Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee meetings plus the usual Deanery Eucharist.

11. Mission and Ministry – taking forward the lessons of the Stewardship campaign. The discussion begun at the PCC meeting on 10 November 2013 was continued, with these new points being made

1. Peter Matthews had been more than agreeably surprised by the willingness of the local community to support the forthcoming Christmas Cracker event;
2. It is important that we see ourselves as an accepting, welcoming and caring community;
3. There is an imperative to speak and act on the rapid spread of food banks and ways of tackling the underlying causes of food poverty at a time when the Church of England will be partnering with Oxfam and the Child Poverty Action Group to conduct an investigation into these pressing matters.

It was proposed by Elizabeth Davies and seconded by Leslie Fletcher that a Parish Day be organised in the Spring to explore stewardship, mission and ministry and the issues raised in Leslie's paper on the topic. This was passed unanimously and it was agreed to invite Bishop David to lead the day and to set up a planning group.

12. Report from nave altar working party. This had been covered in item 7 above.

13. Any other business. Robert Nicholls agreed to inform the Diocese of our involvement in the local food bank project – see item 10.5 above

14. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 4 February 2014 – see item 6.5 above.

15. There being no other business, the meeting closed with a prayer and saying the Grace at 9.30pm.