

THE PARISH OF CENTRAL EXETER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 21st November 2018, St Petrock's Church

Present: Keith Walton (chair) Richard Skinner Don Branton Mary Keaney (sec)
Sue Blow Celia Smith Betsy Allen
Sheila Swarbrick (Revd) Sarah Branton Jessica Claridge

1. Welcome and Prayer:

Sheila opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies:

Michael Hall, John Dobson, Averil Swanton

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2018 were signed by Keith as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Parish Activities

5.1 Services

The service held in St Mary Arches on Sunday 12th August was felt to be a success and will hopefully be repeated next year.

Sunday 2nd December Peter Beacham to preach on Advent Sunday. Followed by Soup Lunch

Sunday 23rd December Meeting Point is to go ahead

Tuesday 25th December 10am service in St Stephen's

Sunday 30th December Charles Edwards to take service in St Stephen's

Sunday 6th January (Epiphany) Tony Raven to take service with Dorothy (Sheila away)

Sunday 20th January Pulpit Exchange with Fr Harry at St Stephen's with Bob Burn leading the service. Sheila to St David's.

Fifth Sunday Services 2019 as proposed by Sheila:

Sunday 31st March (Mothering Sunday) service at St Olave's at 10.30am?

Sunday 30th June service at St Martin's?

Sunday 29th September Harvest service at St Petrock's?

Other proposed services:

Sunday 28th July Patronal service at St Olave's

An August date to be confirmed for service in St Mary Arches

Other dates for 2019:

Sunday 3rd February/Sunday 3rd March possible dates for Chris Bryan (retired priest) to preach

Sunday 7th April APCM with Bring and Share lunch

Sunday 14th April Palm Sunday service in the Cathedral

5.2 Pastoral Care

Roberta Smith is returning to New Zealand next week (Tuesday 27th November). She sends her love and thanks to everyone in the parish.

5.3 Parish GDPR update

No further updates.

5.4 Parish Social

The PCC extended their thanks to Jessica Claridge for the visit and tour of Exeter Cathedral on Wednesday 21st November and to Betsy Allen, Sarah Branton and others for providing the cream tea in St Petrock's.

Post Meeting Action: MK to add details of the visit to Parish website.

The future of St Nicholas' Fair/Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning was discussed. The PCC agreed that new people should be encouraged to help with organising this annual event.

Sheila requested parish volunteers to help with refreshments for Bee's Christmas concert on Friday 14th December.

5.5 New charges for the use of churches

The PCC agreed the new suggested donation for use of St Stephen's to be £15 per hour for any new booking in 2019. This is to be the same for general events and concerts. In addition, hirers are to be asked for a suggested donation of £15 for use of the AV equipment.

Action: Mary to update booking forms with new charges.

5.6 Preparation to review the Mission Action Plan

See Appendix 1: Preparing for the Review of the Mission Action Plan

Keith highlighted some of the developments since the last PCC in September such as the news about the planned closure of House of Fraser in January 2019, the talk from Steve Chown of ECI and loneliness becoming an issue on the government's agenda.

The PCC agreed with the ideas presented by Keith for allowing the parish to move forward. These include:

- welcoming is the responsibility of everyone in the parish
- keeping the churches open during the daytime for prayer
- the parish to have an engagement with organisations in the city
- use of the churches for exhibitions etc for groups who wish to speak to the people of Exeter
- develop the idea that the churches are special spiritual places

Richard asked if the wording of the third bullet point could be rephrased to reflect the range of ways parish members can engage in city organisations.

Action: Keith to re-word this bullet point

Betsy mentioned the URC strapline 'Intentionally Inclusive' as being similar to the parish and wondered if it was appropriate for the City Centre churches to share the same strapline. This would involve an ecumenical approach.

It was noted that the United service is likely to be repeated especially as the Exeter light switch on moves to an all-day extravaganza. Sheila added that lay people will possibly be involved in planning this service in future, an idea which was well received by the PCC.

6 Church Buildings

6.1 St Stephen's

Don reported on the problem with the heating system. The heating engineer (Tony Pinniger) diagnosed a faulty distribution unit which he was hoping to replace later in the week.

Post Meeting Update: The engineer replaced the distribution unit in the Tower and the switch in the servery on Thursday 22nd November.

Don also noted that a few light bulbs need replacing in the bow.

6.2 St Petrock's: To approve quote for solar panels on St Petrock's

It was reported that Russ Palmer has a quote from SOL, a solar installation company, for £16,260 excluding VAT. Other costs including scaffolding, Russ' fees and getting Diocesan and other approvals total about £6,000.

Russ has found out that we will be able to reclaim the VAT on the installation.

St Petrock's and Heavitree Trust have agreed to give between £10 and 15 thousand, depending on the VAT reclaim issue. The parish will then pay about half the cost.

The PCC agreed unanimously to accept the quote and confirmed that application should be made to the DAC for a faculty and to other authorities as appropriate.

Post Meeting Action: Keith sent a signed copy of the above minute to Russ Palmer (architect) which shows the PCC approval of the plan to install solar panels on St Petrock's.

Don mentioned that the solar panels could be cleaned without the need for scaffolding.

6.3 St Pancras

Gaydons will start the work on the roof and drainage on Monday 7th January 2019. This work will be paid for by the Guildhall. Don reported that he had repaired the damaged bell rope which is now ready to be rehung. Due to the Christmas stalls adjacent to the church this will need to be postponed until the builders begin work in January.

6.4 St Olave's

A big clean was undertaken in October. New doormat has been bought and there are two old ones to be taken to the tip. Michael has requested new candles.

Action: Keith to ask Michael to put in an order for new candles.

7. Deanery Synod Report

Sheila reported on the meeting held on Thursday 11th October at Trinity School, Newcourt. The main discussion focused on the Common Fund Assessment.

Fr David Nixon, Team Rector at St Thomas', is the new Area Dean and is to be commissioned on Sunday 25th November.

8. Finance

8.1 Budget to end of October 2018

See Appendix 2: Budget to end of October 2018

The day to day expenditure appears healthy.

8.2 Budget for 2019

See Appendix 2: The estimated income for 2019 is £47,760 while the estimated expenses for 2019 are £47,352.

The PCC agreed to accept the basic budget for 2019 based on the estimates.

Action: Mary to look into cheaper alternatives to Stormpress for the parish's printing needs

9. Safeguarding and Health and Safety

9.1 Health and Safety Policy

The final version of the Health and Safety Policy needs a note included about the induction loop available in St Stephen's and St Olave's on page 3.

Action: Mary to add note about availability of the induction loop.

9.2 Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues

10. CTAX/CTCE

The Nativity takes place on Sunday 16th December afternoon with live animals in Princesshay 2-2.45pm and the Nativity in the Cathedral at 3pm. There will be Pulpit Exchanges and Lent Groups in 2019 as in previous years.

See Appendix 3: Letter from the chair of ECCC to church leaders

ECCC - Sheila reported that she has become the new Chair of the ECCC and as such she has written a letter to Church leaders about the issues facing the ECCC and how they may help with **Prayer, People and Pounds**.

A reminder that the ECCC Carols and Christmas Music is at St Stephen's on Wednesday 12th December between 12noon and 2pm.

ECI – Sheila had attended the annual meeting and had met both Community Builders and Nikki Dodd, Business Development Manager. She offered St Stephen’s as a venue to both of them. The Community Builders will make a normal booking for a coffee morning/awareness raising event while Nickki wanted to hold a promotional event about ECI for Churches and possibly other groups. Sheila asked the PCC whether the booking fee could be waived for this event (but ECI knows that the cost would have been £60). The PCC agreed that the parish should support such an event. The ECI annual report is to be available.

11. CMS link

Jean Bosco’s visa had been denied though an appeal was made. An invitation could be extended in the New Year to Ian Harvey to visit and bring news instead.

12. Correspondence

Thanks have been received from St Petrock’s Homelessness Centre for the Harvest donations. The Community Chaplaincy will be having a display in St Petrock’s in December with the Homelessness Centre following with their display in January 2019.

13. A.O.B.

Sheila recommended Liz Grier’s book ‘Beginning Unlimited’. Sheila also reported on the Big Issue Gift for Christmas idea whereby parish members are invited to donate a ‘Breakfast’ for sellers of the Big Issue at the Little Orange Café. A voucher will be printed and left at the Big Issue office.

Action: Mary to send email to the parish outlining this idea.

Jessica mentioned the idea of Christmas gifts for Jim and Julie. The PCC agreed to buy vouchers for £25 for both Jim and Julie.

Action: Keith to buy vouchers

Richard’s ‘Journey of Magi’ is on Wild Goose as a download.

14. Date and Place of next meeting

Wednesday 16th January 2019 to be held at **7pm** at St Petrock’s.

The meeting closed at 7pm with the Grace.