

**St. Paul's Church Dorking PCC**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7:45pm**

*Chair:* Ruth Bushyager

*Minutes:* Alison Everness

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**

The meeting opened with a reading from Psalm 34 and quiet reflective prayer.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received before the meeting from John Arnold, Graham Everness, Maggie Hill, Jonathan Papworth and subsequently from Jenny Firth.

Present: Alex Birch, Malcolm Boother, Ruth Bushyager, Chris Ellis, Alison Everness, Simon Feraday, Ollie Fricker, Steve Goddard, Steve Henwood, Juliette Lister, Dawn Lucas, Katie Mackay, Ros Mulholland, Peter Nevins, Laura Parker, Ian Poole, Jon Ruddock, Amanda Tucker, Jeff Yelland

**2. Minutes of the meeting on 18th September 2017**

The draft minutes of the September meeting were approved without amendment.

**3. Correspondence / AOB**

None.

**4. MAP**

Laura Parker had produced a chart and a timeline to help articulate the MAP in way we can easily see. PCC members were encouraged to take time to look through both documents after the meeting. PCC engagement in the MAP is important but there is too much in the document for detailed discussion at each PCC meeting. PCC members should consider where and how they can be involved personally and feedback via the PCC secretary [alison@stpaulsdorking.org.uk](mailto:alison@stpaulsdorking.org.uk).

Laura talked through one line of the MAP to illustrate how the grid works. The timeline highlights the number of actions scheduled for the first 3 months of 2018. Although names have been put against various activities, not all those referred to yet been asked(!). It is important that the number of areas for which Ruth is directly responsible is kept at a manageable level. Ruth highlighted that she is taking study leave from April to June.

The PCC thanked Laura for her continuing work on this and there was a time for discussion and questions.

Peter gave some more details on the progress of the plans for the 4pm congregation at St Martin's.

- We are pioneers in the field of planting a new congregation in an existing church,
- Around 35 people from St Paul's have signed up to be involved at some level, ranging from being part of the core team to being kept informed for prayer.
- Publicity is already up around St Martin's churchyard.
- An application for funding is with the Diocesan Growth Fund, but it may be a while before a decision is forthcoming.
- There is plenty of goodwill towards the project among St Martin's congregation.
- At a vision and prayer evening on Tues 7th a video about church planting was shown, highlighting the cultural changes needed to become a planting church. PCC members are encouraged to watch it if they were not able to be at the meeting. It can be accessed from the November PCC meeting papers folder via the PCC members page on the website.
- There is another meeting at St Martin's at 4pm on Sunday 19th.

Of 35 activities identified in the MAP, 15 are already underway.

The post of Associate Youth Minister has been advertised and there is one applicant so far.

Plans are underway for Gala night on 7th Dec working with New Life church. Volunteers are needed and specific information about what is planned will go out in the weekly email.

**5. Current financial position and 2018 Budget**

Chris had circulated a report (available in PCC meeting papers folder) which he spoke to in the meeting. He emphasised that although the current state of our finances is good, we need to consider carefully how we use that money and bear in mind the difference between increased regular giving and one-off donations.

He made three specific proposals regarding 2017 finances which, after some discussion, the PCC agreed to unanimously (proposed Jeff Yelland, seconded Katie Mackay).

1. In the short term the money received in a legacy be assigned to a designated "Legacy Projects Fund" within our unrestricted funds.
2. This year we assign some funds to the designated Quinquennial Fund in accordance with the PCC's intentions for Quinquennial expenditure in 2018, recognising that in recent years the practice of making an annual provision to the Quinquennial Fund has lapsed and that such expenditure will be required in 2018.
3. The PCC Exec should review our significant expenditure in the areas of maintenance and ministry and, where appropriate, designate funds accordingly during 2017 for use in 2018 and beyond.

Section 4b of the report covered the 2018 expenditure budget. In particular Chris asked the PCC to give direction in the following areas

- Assumptions regarding income
- Approach to setting a deficit budget
- Priorities and choices for non-mandatory items of expenditure.

There was a time for questions and discussion.

- One-off donations are often given independently of specific Gift Days.
- New regular givers typically give less than established givers.
- An annual surplus may demotivate sacrificial givers.
- If we run a deficit budget, is that in line with usual Christian teaching about living within your means?
- But we should be willing to take risks for God and have faith in his provision. We need to listen and have a clear sense of calling. Deficit budget = faith budget?
- Some items of capital expenditure could be left until later in the year when more is known about projected income.
- Do we tithe our income? We give away approx 10% through World Church and Social Justice budgets and considerable giving through charity collections. Part of our parish share goes towards supporting ministry in other parishes we we and give significant resources such as staff time to other parishes.
- A decision about the use of the legacy should not be left for too long.

Exec will meet on Monday 20th and produce a budget proposal. PCC will then be notified whether or not it is felt that a further PCC meeting is needed on Monday 27th.

#### 6. **Other Written Reports** (see November PCC meeting papers folder)

- a. World Church Team  
Jonathan Papworth was not able to be at the meeting so PCC members were invited to send any specific comments to him. WCT were thanked for a very well presented report. Ruth noted that it would be advantageous to use a professional organisation to run a trip to eg India rather than trying to do it all in-house.
- b. PCC Exec  
Ruth advised that there would be a meeting with neighbours re the licensing application later in the week.
- c. Fabric Team  
No written report. We are advertising the posts of Caretaker and Facilities Manager
- d. Deanery Synod  
No specific comments. Graham was thanked for a very well written summary of the meeting.
- e. Health & Safety  
No specific comments

#### 7. **Prayer for topics covered in the meeting**

The meeting closed at 21:28

**Future meeting dates** (for the diary)

PCC meetings: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (if needed), 15th January 2018, 12th March, 14th May, 16th July, 17th Sept,  
12th Nov, 26th Nov (if needed)

PCC meetings start at 7:45pm unless otherwise advised

Please come informed and prayerfully prepared for the meeting, having read the Minutes of the last meeting and any papers and reports submitted. If you wish to raise an item for a future PCC meeting, please inform the Secretary or Chairman two weeks before the meeting.