

Minutes of PCC meeting held on 27/01/2011 at 8pm in St Michael's Church Galleywood

Present : Andy Griffiths, Sally Bevan, Roy Bishop, John Fowler, Anne Gardener, Stephanie Gillingham, Sue Kitson, Rosemary Lister, Phil Preston, Jackie Sigournay, Veryan Wilson

Travers Harpur was also present for the first item

1. Children and Communion

Andy had sent out a paper which had been written by Bishop Stephen for us to read in advance of the meeting. The paper considered the place of Baptism, Confirmation, Affirmation and first communion for children and young people within the life of the church. Travers had also circulated a paper setting out some concerns re: the principle and implementation of 'Children and Communion' including the position of the significant number of unbaptised children of church members.

Stephanie presented a paper which outlined a Policy which we could adopt explaining the place of First communion for children and youth within our church. The policy explains how it could be understood within a Christian journey from Baptism to confirmation. Stephanie had gathered information in order to draw up this document based on the experience of other Parishes, (eg. Oxford Diocese and Grove Booklets).

The policy was explained; there was time for a discussion during which time people shared both their surprise at the clarity of this type of Christian journey for children, and others who had not considered sharing Communion before the service of confirmation.

There was a concern that if we baptise children age 7-11 they may later regret this and wish they had waited as they grow in their understanding. Andy and Stephanie had experience of taking some children on this step of their Christian journey and found that they were very clear about their faith and keen to share it with others. The policy explained how we would endeavour to work closely with parents in all decisions about their children. Stephanie proposed that we adopt the document "A Parish Framework on the Admission of Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation." Sally seconded, 8 were in favour with 3 abstentions, Travers did not vote.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

John Fowler proposed that we appoint Phil Preston as Vice Chair for the 2 meetings until the AGM in April. Jackie seconded, all were in favour.

3. Apologies, minutes and matters arising

Apologies received from Steve Mack.

Minutes – clarification on readers. At each AGM readers decide if they want to be on PCC or not, if they decide not to be they are welcome to come to meetings but not to vote.

Minutes were accepted.

#### 4. Missions

Education Sunday will be at the school, we need to announce the change of venue in said notices, notice sheet, notice boards outside church and school, we will ask Mike to put something in Essex Chronicle.

We will address points from Mission Committee regarding payments at next meeting when Steve is present.

#### 5. Financial Report and Budget

Steve will report on this in February

#### 6. Prayer

#### 7. Confirmation of youth and community worker appointment

Stephanie has sent an appraisal to Caroline Speed at the end of her 6 month probationary period. She has not been able to meet with Caroline who has been on compassionate leave this week.

#### 8. The Big Project – a statement of need

Phil reported that Caroline Speed, Colin Dawson and Mike Arnold have now joined the steering group. He gave us a diagram showing the process in brief. We are between stages 1 and 2 and need to produce a statement of need. The building is a small part of our need, what we do is a large part. We have identified 38 activities and need 27 spaces. Some groups can share spaces as they do not meet at the same time. Phil and Andy met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) today, they have confirmed the process we have is sound and that they want to work with us.

#### 9. Buying robes and anthem books for the choir

As the choir has recently grown we are 5 robes short. Janette has obtained a quote of £615 for 5 robes and surplices. We also need to buy 20 anthem books at a cost of £240. Stephanie proposed that subject to availability of funds we purchase 5 choir robes and surplices and 20 anthem books at a cost of £855, Rosemary seconded and all were in favour.

#### 10. Child Protection

Sue is proposing to update the policy, she gave us a document showing the change, mainly that the older youth group has been added to the list of groups and new wording to reflect the new procedure to appoint children's leaders and helpers. The policy will be reviewed next January. This is timely as the leaders of the children's groups have asked for Child Protection training. Sue proposed that we adopt the new policy, Veryan seconded and all were in favour.

#### 11. Working with other churches – the way ahead

The deanery is reviewing pastoral units, churches in the East of the deanery have formed groups, elsewhere this has not happened. Churches need to decide which churches they would like to be grouped with by the summer, otherwise the diocese will put churches into groups. We agreed that Andy and Veryan will write to Stock, Widford, Moulsham and Great Baddow asking them if they would like to explore the possibility of working together to share gifts.

#### 12. Prayer

#### 13. Viewpoint

Jane Head, clerk to parish council has some ideas about combining Viewpoint and Grapevine, she needs to get approval from the council. We discussed this and wait to hear more from Jane once she has approval from the council.