

## **St Bride's Church Fleet Street**

### **Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting**

**Held on Wednesday 24 July 2013**

**Present:** Ven David Meara (Rector & Chairman), Emmanuel Adeniji, Gerald Bowey, Geoffrey Burgess, Eric Davies, Helen Fraser, Janet Kitchen, Ian Locks, Valerie Locks, Peter Longland, David Lowish, Ashley Painter, Peter Silver, Ingrid Slaughter, Janet Smith, Terence Smith, Grace Stedman, Mary Walker, Jerry Wright

**Also attending:** Christopher Betterton (Secretary), James Irving, David Smith

**1. Opening Prayers**

The Rector opened the meeting with prayers.

**2. Apologies for absence**

These were received from: Rachel Corp, Clive Hill-Archer and Beverly Leach.

**3. Conflicts of interest and statements of non-disqualification**

- a. It was noted that a number of members had not returned their statement of non-disqualification.
- b. There were no reported conflicts of interest.
- c. The council also noted that Christopher Betterton, James Irving and David Smith were in attendance at the meeting as non members.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2013**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

**5. Matters arising not on the agenda**

- a. Memorial for Brian Chappell. The plaque would be in place in the Autumn.
- b. It was noted that the parish was eligible to elect six members to the Deanery Synod and that James Irving had stood down. Ashley Painter and Geoffrey Burgess were elected to the Deanery Synod.

**6. Rector's Report**

The Rector reported:

We have had a busy couple of months since the last PCC meeting. The parish pilgrimage to Turkey took place at the end of May and 23 pilgrims enjoyed a kaleidoscope of experiences following in the steps of St. Paul and visiting the seven churches of Asia mentioned in Revelation. As a result of careful stewardship by Janet Kitchen we have been able to donate £1,000 from the pilgrimage to the Inspire! Appeal. The Churchwardens were sworn in at an uplifting service in St Paul's Cathedral which also launched Capital Vision 2020, the Diocese's strategic plan. We are currently working on our own Mission Action Plan to align it with the three headlines of CV2020 - Confident, Compassionate and Creative. I shall be calling together a group to plan its implementation.

We have held three BBQs for wedding couples married here within the last five years which have proved successful. We are following these up in a number of ways - one issue that emerged was the office doesn't currently have a copy of the electoral roll, and we still desperately need an integrated database for this and other initiatives. [Afternote: A hard copy of the Roll had, in fact, been presented to the office shortly before the meeting]. Our weddings continue, with a number still to come in the autumn, and we have had a steady stream of memorial services, both journalistic and others. We have begun a series of confirmation classes, and have 10 young people and five adults preparing for confirmation on 22 September.

We have held a number of concerts including EC4 Music and a special evening to celebrate Britten's centenary. The Wren Talk was given by Ken Shuttleworth, and the Summer Party took place in the Press House Wine Bar.

I am delighted to announce that our first Guild Bursary Award winner, Tom Knowles, has been offered a place on The Times graduate training scheme and that we have appointed his successor, Rosina Sabur, who will be studying at City University.

Looking ahead our Olsen Lecturer has just been confirmed as Margaret Hodge MP, date to be confirmed; we have a special wedding concert on 9th October, and the Journalists' Commemorative Service will take place on 12 November. A new issue of the magazine will be produced in August with full details of the autumn and Christmas programme.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all who maintain our busy programme, including the shop and tour teams, wedding stewards and refreshments teams.

**Inspire! Appeal** - Gerald Bowey reported that the appeal committee were targeting the £350,000 shortfall for phase 1, with him and James Irving targeting new businesses and Peter Silver targeting the livery companies. Spire visits were being arranged for potential donors. The committee was working towards a reception to be held in a Wren venue in May 2014.

Gerald Bowey complimented the work of ING media who had ensured that the Appeal was receiving welcome publicity in the press.

Ian Locks reported that the congregational element had so far raised £32,000 of the £200,000 target. There had been a good response to the 'Wash the face of an angel' initiative as well as other general donations.

Ashley Painter reported that 32 members of the congregation were undertaking the talents programme, with a wide ranging programme of events.

It was also noted that the Sunday school had raised £1700 with their 'woot'.

## 7. **Financial Report**

James Irving reported on behalf of the Treasurer that the actual figures for the six months to 30 June were in line with the budget circulated to members.

The reserves policy had allowed the church to run well in cash flow terms during the first half of the year. Members were reminded that the bulk of the church income (rates and Advent / Christmas related income) was received in the final quarter each year.

The council had received a proposal regarding the Common Fund offer for 2014. Gerald Bowey proposed and Valerie Locks seconded that the offer would be £74,460. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

It was also reported that the City Churches Grants Committee was meeting the following day and that a request for funds had been submitted to that body.

**8. Architect's Report**

In the Architect's absence, no report was submitted.

**9. Electoral Roll Report**

The electoral roll officer reported that the roll stood at 259.

The council had the names of those added to the roll since the previous meeting. There had been one additional addition (Ginny Kearns) and one deletion (David Barclay).

It was confirmed that the names of the additions to the roll would be circulated (for information purposes) with the meeting papers for each meeting.

**10. Any other business**

- a. A memorial service would be held for David Barclay, who had recently died, in the autumn.
- b. Ashley Painter reported to the meeting that a significant number of invitations which had been sent to former wedding couples had gone unanswered, and that it had become clear that the church database was in need of updating. It was agreed that a small group would be set up to meet and work on updating the church database.
- c. It was noted that there were only two or three people in the Church who had been CRB checked to work with children and young people. It was agreed that more people should be so checked, including all the staff, tour group leaders and perhaps the shop volunteers. Although it was noted that the child protection rules would change in 2014, it was felt that this issue should be dealt with sooner. It was agreed that the Rector and Ashley Painter would take this forward.

**11. Closing prayers**

The meeting ended with the Grace.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 26 September 2013.