

St Stephen's PCC Agenda 10th March 2010

Venue: Vicarage, 8pm

Present: Helen Mitchell, Robin Andersen, Lynne Brown, Nicky Lee, Ian Gee, Jill Soar, Danny Wignall, Ed Walker, Lee Nancarrow, Colin Short

Danny opened in prayer

1. Minutes of last meeting

All in agreement that they were a valid representation of discussions.

2. Matters arising

Selling the flat. We have had one viewing of the flat in the last four months. The market is very flat. We discussed renting the flat again whilst the market picks up. Agreed to investigate a 3 month rental with a month notice. Nicky and Ed to progress.

Buying the curates house. We have a group able to buy a house for £400k but few suitable properties so far. The market is now picking up for this price range and we discussed some properties. If you become aware of a suitable property that will be coming onto the market (i.e. through friends or neighbours – not searches on the internet) then please let Nicky/Jill know.

Heating in the Cross. Duncan continuing to progress.

Occasional preacher's course. This incurs a £75 cost (which the proposed people have offered to pay). The PCC agreed that the church would offer to pay half and invite further contribution.

External news display case. Research and costing has been performed. Ross has offered to create a design for this, once completed this will be ordered.

3. How's it going? UP IN OUT

House groups. We are in a state of flux as a few groups have temporarily stopped meeting and others need some additional leaders. Danny and Debs are looking into this further, we may have a dedicated service for this after Easter.

10.45 service. We observed that more people feel comfortable in speaking out in church – which is great.

Crèche and church in the cross is working really well.

We talked about the formation of a new children's group (called Extreme) for years 5 and 6 (age 10 and 11) to help bridge the gap between junior church and amplified. This would be resourced by Children's and Youth group.

We talked about service times, starting on time and how to let the junior church team know when to come in at the end of the service.

4. Stewardship Update

We sent out over 100 letters and have now had 48 returns. We hoped for 10 new givers but we have only 2 or 3. There are probably 20 regular attendees that do not give. We discussed sending out some follow up letters to explain the costs the church as well as the benefits of giving. This will be done prayerfully and sensitively.

We targeted an increase of £17,000 per year but currently only have £5,035. This shortfall would limit us in many ways.

PCC should feel comfortable to proactively discuss giving with church members.

5. St Stephens Accounts

Ed presented the 2009 accounts.

Legacy fund to be moved to the general fund. Jill proposed, Robin seconded.

Thanks recorded from the PCC to Ed.

Suggested that we discuss Rainbow (in general) at future PCC meeting.

We will meet before the APCM at the church to sign these off at 9.30am on 25th April.

6. Buildings Update

Guttering work has started today. Thanks for work performed by Duncan in this area.

Floor work. A replacement baptistery cover is arranged and it will look the same/better than currently. Floor cracks will be removed by sanding the floor, filling the cracks and varnishing. Also make good any damp patches. PCC in principal agreed the proposals, the final decision is delegated to the buildings team.

Thanks recorded to Peter.

7. APCM

APCM will be on 25th April at 10am. We need four more PCC members – please think if anyone would suit.

8. Shottermill Pitcairn Grave Trust

Money was put in a trust for grave maintenance but the council now has this responsibility. This trust can be wound up for almost no cost. Suggested that the money moved to general funds but the intention would be used for the plaque. Robin proposed, Lynne seconded.

9. DNA student future strategy

Agreed to continue with Sam as DNA student next year.