

St. Stephen's PCC Meeting 9th May 2012 8pm in the Vicarage

Present: Danny Wignall (chairman), Bill Kennedy, Duncan Long, Emma Andersen, Hilary Bicknell, Jane Kent, Jill Soar, Louise Stevenson, Lynda Kay, Peter Aucamp and Zoe Isaacs.

Apologies came from: Ed Walker, Giles Carpenter, Ross Cunningham, Elliot & Becca Ambrose and Jackie Gray.

Danny opened the meeting welcoming Jane and Emma and thanked the existing members. A time was spent in prayer and quiet reflection.

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Hilary and seconded by Jill.

2. Matters Arising

- A Nursery Manager, Kim Windebank has been appointed for Rainbow. They will continue without a deputy and review this after a term or two. The PCC discussed the Christian input to Rainbow from the church. It was a conscious decision of the Rainbow Support Group not to advertise the role as a Christian post, to get the best candidate from a narrow field. A person of peace and openness was sought.
- More refreshments - Donna has agreed to do it once a month after the 10.45 to engender fellowship.
- Safeguarding training was discussed, with some key members now having done the course.
- Summer services will be a joint service in last Sunday in July, and the August bank holiday. Homegroups are offering to cover various services, which in the past, has proved to be a great encouragement for people to emerge in preaching.
- Starting the service with the band playing a song has been a good way to gather the congregation.

3. How it's Going UP IN OUT

- The feedback from some people who came to the Easter service after having received a card through the door was encouraging. The German group had reported a good buzz, and feeling touched and welcomed. They found it fun and that the message was good. In general, the feedback from visitors has been good, with the service being easily understood on all levels, and easy to digest.
- The DIY creche was discussed, including the possibility of relayed visual and sound, and perhaps that soundproofing should be investigated. It was mentioned that it is a pity that junior church does not run during all combined services.

4. Building and Maintenance

There will be heating in one of the flats soon. There is a new TV by the font, and there is going to be a camera link installed in next few months. There is a problem with the back vestry door not opening from the inside when double locked. The boiler in the church is inefficient, and the cost of replace it is too high. Duncan has been given quotes for repairing various doors and windows. The empty flat is still vacant, and prayers are needed for that. Thanks were extended to Duncan for his work in this area.

5. Outward Giving update

The Outward Giving Group look after external giving, and Danny reviewed the current position with regard to the two tiers of recipient groups. The aim is to have a close relationship with all groups, including visits and newsletters from the missionaries. The first trip to the mission field in Chennai was discussed.

6. Pastoral Assistant Training

Danny talked about the various types of licensed ministries recognised by the diocese, with training offered. The PCC discussed the request of Jim Honeywood to do the Pastoral Assistant training course. This would involve evening classes for a year, which equips people to walk along side others in times of need. It was generally thought that this would be a valuable thing for the church, with members having done it previously. And the PCC voted unanimously to support Jim's application. The PCC recommended to authorise funding the course in part or full, with a decision being deferred until Ed can look at the figures.

7. Poverty Outreach

Danny's annual report brought up a sense that there are poor people in the community in emotional, spiritual and education terms. Hillary Owen has felt a calling to be involved in this area, which was discussed in the meeting. There is a need to talk to local providers of services, for those who fall through the gap. An evaluation should be done of the time, resources and money needed. Prayer is needed to discern what God is saying to us in this area.

8. AOB

Louise asked about the church having a presence at the Charter Fair, and this was discussed around some sort of stand being used, but possibly more as a marketing opportunity for Rainbow.

The next meeting will be 11th July 2012 8pm in the Church