

St Stephen's PCC Minutes 14th November 2011

Present : Danny Wignall (Chairman), Giles Carpenter, Andrew Lee, Bill Kennedy, Duncan Long, Ed Walker, Hilary Bicknell, Ian Gee, Jackie Gray, Jill Soar, Louise Stevenson, Lynda Kay, Nicky Lee, Peter Aucamp, Eliot Ambrose and Zoe Isaacs.

Apologies came from Sarah Weldon

Danny welcomed and opened in prayer. He expressed thanks to Giles for a sterling job, with things having been well maintained and progressing during his sabbatical. He also expressed appreciation for all those who kept things running well in all areas of the church.

1. Minutes from the last meeting The Minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the last meeting

- Our new cleaner, Cherie Young is doing well in her role.
- The new photo directory is currently being updated by Bill, and it will soon be compiled. The issue of opting in or out of having an image inserted was discussed. The directory will be in print form and eventually on a password protected area of the church website.
- The flat has been decorated by the tenant Jackie, and it has also been soundproofed and re-carpeted.
- The Portacabin will soon have its electrical connection installed.
- The bell tower is now sealed and cleaned.
- The projection screens have been lowered.

Appreciation was extended for all the hard work carried out on building and maintenance.

3. How's it going? Up In Out

- The Harvest service went well and Becca was praised for her good sermon which was accessible to all. Chris was also praised for his recent sermons.
- There is still the problem of junior church re-entering at inopportune moments and also the length of the services. This was discussed at length with solutions being a shortening of notices and aiming to be ready for the children by 12pm. The improvement of the 10.45am start time has helped to some extent.
- The area of 'welcoming' was discussed, with Jill reporting an improvement with more people on the team on duty. Giles has made the 9am service tighter, which helps with the later service starting, and also with mingling in the cross, which seems to be better attended. This however can have a knock-on effect of delays in setting up for junior church, which in turn affects the children's re-entry. Giles will be looking into this.
- The Homegroup study notes were discussed with detail being difficult at times. Danny's aim is to encourage discussion, and expressed an overriding sense to really get to the heart of being a disciple, with missions to spring out of discipleship. He is hoping to introduce new ideas of "Huddle" groups where people challenge and are accountable to each other.

4. Finance

Ed reported that broadly, things are well. Postage, printing and stationary have cost more than expected. Andrew suggested looking at other printers with cheaper output and service. There has been some reduction in giving, reflected in a need to watch spending. General fund £20,672, Building fund £63,681, Maintenance fund £2,391, Organ fund £6,195 and Curate fund -£427 which has had some one off donations. Danny expressed thanks for the contribution to his sabbatical. Thanks where extended to Ed.

5. Children's Protection update

The diocese has introduced a new program. Training will be carried out for key members, and there will be a report on changes once the training has taken place. – Hilary.

6. Fire Safety

The PCC have agreed to look into the matter of fire safety, such as a fire alarm, exits, checks and procedure. The congregation will be informed of new measures once it is put in place. - Duncan

7. DNA Student

Eliot reported that we have a potential candidate. They are in the application process to become a DNA student, and have expressed a wish to do be placed at St Stephen's. The PCC discussed at length the DNA process and objective, weighing up all the permutations available with an eye on fairness all round. This includes funding and placement, to create an enriched experience for the student, while at the same time aiming for the student to be a benefit and a resource to the church. The need for the church to learn from past DNA placements was emphasised, and Eliot's aim is to create a structured role, schedule and job description. At this point nothing is set in stone, with the potential of other candidates being considered. Jill emphasised the general need to recognise emerging leadership, and how we are blessed in this church and area. Chloe Mandry is starting an external DNA placement.

8. Building Development update

Duncan reported on the progress, and reports from Neil Caie and Peter Soar were circulated. The building group of Neil Caie, Peter Soar, Duncan Long, Andrew Lee and Jill Soar will oversee the development, with others to be added to the group. Contractors and estimates were considered, and discussed at length during the meeting.

9. Focus Area reports There were no reports.

10. AOB There was no other business.

The next meeting will be on the 28th January 2012, location and time to be confirmed.