

**Parochial Church Council
Minutes of meeting held on 19th January 2016**

1. **Welcome and prayers:** The Vicar opened the meeting by inviting all to pray.
2. **Attendance:** The Revd Julian Francis (Chair), Doreen Beevers, Kirsty Butler, Carol Couse, Philip Couse Ian French, Anne Game, John Hatch, Simon Kirby Justin Pinkess, John Russell, Caroline Shaw, Charles Williams, Pat World, Phil Ypres-Smith. **Apologies:** Revd. Colin Butler, Maggi Cull
3. **Minutes of the PCC meeting on 17th November 2015:** were approved and duly signed with the following amendments:
 - Item 9** – to read Matabeleland
 - Item 10.4** – sentence to read: 'It was requested that, the John James's Legacy, when received, might be used to fund two more benches.'
4. **Matters arising:**
 - 4.1. **Outstanding vacancy for Church Warden** – the current Church Warden (CW) John Hatch (JH) asked the PCC to pray seriously for guidance regarding themselves or other individuals, stepping forward to become CW. JH stated that given he is unlikely to carry on beyond next year, there is now an urgency for a second CW to be in place as soon as possible.
 - 4.2. **Reserve Fund Policy Review** – the Vicar reported that the proposed meeting of the Finance Committee to deal with the matter is likely to take place in the near future
 - 4.3. **Response to the Refugee Crisis:** The Vicar reported the following – a) that he is still investigating Karis's involvement in any local initiatives. b) That he had raised the issue of refugees with the Ethiopian Church that meets at St George's, asking how they deal with refugees as they arrive in their community. c) That he has received a request from the Bible Society, for funds, to provide Bibles for refugees. It was agreed after discussion that there be a retiring collection for the Bible Society during Lent and that JF continue to investigate possible opportunities to respond to local initiatives being undertaken by Karis and the Ethiopian congregation. JF also stated that he welcomed further suggestion of how best to respond to the crisis.
 - 4.4. **Malawi Link** – the Vicar reported that he had been in correspondence with Richard Tucker (RT), informing him of the PCCs decision to support the Diocesan link in some way rather than re-establish a parish link. As part of the ongoing correspondence RT had suggested that St George's might like to host one of four Bishops from Malawi, visiting Birmingham in May. After discussion it was agreed that this was a good idea and that Saturday 7th May, until Wednesday 11th May would be the best dates to offer. JF agreed to respond accordingly.
 - 4.5. **Safeguarding update** – Pat World circulated draft Role Descriptions for that of PCC Member and that of Church Warden. PW requested feedback within the next 10days so that the documents could be finalised, although other roles needed to be defined so work on-going. All comments to PW. PW was thanked for all her work on this important matter to date and in the future.
 - 4.6. **Jenny Uff** – further to the January PCC Jenny, when asked, had requested, Gospel Parallels, as a gift to mark her becoming licensed as Reader at St George's. After discussion it was agreed that, as well as the Gospels, the cost of the JU's robes, be

funded by St George's. JU's licensing is to be marked on 7th February during and after the 10.30 service.

- 4.7. **John James's Legacy** – this remains pending but as well as possibly funding two more benches a Home Communion Set has been identified.

5. Reports

- 5.1. **Social Committee** – Carol Couse (CC) highlighted aspects of her report, circulated prior to the meeting, in particular the number of events. CC stated that although they had been a very active group, less functions had been held, due largely to the fact that the church building was now being used more by outside sources. CC also stated that compiling the report inevitably meant looking forward to the coming year and all that would entail and that planning ahead is vital. Carol reminded the meeting that the Committee was a small one and that they were keen to increase in numbers. CC and her committee were thanked for their hard work over the past year

- 5.2. **Treasurer's Report** – John Russell (JR) circulated a 'Report upon the Current Account of the General Fund' as of 31st December 2015. JR took the meeting through various aspects of the accounts, stating that this is likely to form the basis of the draft budget that is to be compiled in the next month and is to be presented at March PCC. JR stated that he hoped to get all budget holders involved in drawing up the budget.

Note: it was noted that money, associated with the Lunch time Concerts, coming in and going out, is being recorded appropriately with the performers being paid an agreed fee. As audience numbers vary it is hoped to build up a fund from when there is a good attendance to cover those occasions not so well attended. This is to be reflected in any programme literature.

6. **Common Fund:** The Vicar reported that a letter, circulated at the meeting, had been received from St Mary's Selly Oak, asking if St George's (and other churches within the Deanery) wished concerns relating to the Common Fund to be raised at Deanery Synod, along with theirs. JF informed the meeting that the matter is likely to come before the July Deanery Synod. After discussion it was agreed that more information was needed before an informed discussion could take place. JF& JR agreed to find and circulate the 2014 Diocesan Accounts.

7. **Correspondence:** None received

8. **Future events:** the following events were noted:

- January 14th – Thursday lunch time prayers -1.15pm running until the end of Lent
- February 10th Ash Wednesday
- February 14th Valentine Sunday & Souper Sunday
- February 3rd Lunchtime Concert
- March 2nd Lunchtime Concert
- April 6th Lunchtime Concert
- May 4th Lunchtime Concert
- June 1st Lunchtime Concert
- July 6th Lunchtime Concert
- September 24/25th Parish Retreat

9. Any Other Business:

- 9.1. **Parish Retreat** – The Vicar reported that having been disappointed by Holland House no longer being available he was keen to secure someone to lead the retreat, before finding a venue. The merits / demerits of having a retreat based at St George's rather than away was discussed
- 9.2. **Communication** – it was suggested that details on the Pew Sheet need to be comprehensive and that reference to the back of Church was not helpful.
- 9.3. **Magazine** - It was reported that there is a possibility of St George's Magazine becoming available on the Calthorpe Estates Website. Thanks was expressed to David Allen for his work in this regard.
- 9.4. **The Vicar Informed the PCC of the following -**
 - **Lent Books** – a reading list for Lent, along with the days / times for the proposed Lent Groups, following the York Course, would be published shortly
 - **Authorisation to Distribute Holy Communion** – permission from the Bishop was no longer needed and that he was in the process of reviewing those at St George's who are currently listed. This will come before the March PCC.
 - **St George's Newtown** – funds from the Urban Fund were been used to support a project on gun crime being run by a church worker at St George's Newtown. Monthly peace marches are being organised.
 - **Common Act of Worship** – it had been suggested that a service, possibly on Pentecost Sunday (May 15th) be held at a time other than the usual times, and be the only service on that day, in order to bring the whole of St George's congregation together in a united act of worship, possibly with lurch to follow.
 - **Revd Colin Butler** – has accepted a two year posting to Ankara and is to leave St George's at the end of April. CB has agreed to remain until the end of April to cover JF's leave of absence. CB's official farewell is likely to be on April 10th. The PCC thanked Colin and Sue for all their work while here at St George's and wanted them to know they have been enjoyed and valued.
 - **Vicar's Absence** – JF informed the PCC that he is to be away from the parish between 12th & 24th April. JF is to visit Zimbabwe in connection with his role as Commissary. JF also informed PCC that he would be travelling to Bosnia in February (21st – 24th) in connection with the charity Remember Srebrenica
 - **Increase in Fees for Church Use** – JF reported that a new rate had been negotiated for the use of the building by the Ethiopian Congregation.
Note: JF to raise with the Ethiopian Congregation and the UMC the issue of someone named, within their congregation, as being responsible for Safeguarding.
 - **Donations** – JF reported that two donations have been received from people approaching St George's to marry.

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.00pm

11. **The Grace:** The meeting closed with the Grace.

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