

MIRFIELD TEAM PARISH

Minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 23rd June 2008 at St Paul's

Present: Revd Canon Peter Craig-Wild, Revd Ann Pollard, Revd Gill Johnson, Revd Wendy Dalrymple, Revd Helen Butler, Jim Law (Chair), Ruth Edwards, Barry Hambling, Chris Hargrave, Rachel Copley, Jacqueline Turner, Valerie Warner, Sue Auckland, Carol Sykes, Chris Breare, David Brooke, Mark Pollard, Jane Jaggar (Secretary for the meeting).

Apologies: Michael Hampshire, Steven Butler, Carol Wilkinson, Kath Crossley, Sue Pope, Anne Heeley, Sue Young, Dianne Ferreira

Opening Prayers: Jim formally welcomed Wendy to the meeting following her ordination at the weekend which was a very special occasion. Wendy then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Matters Arising:

St Paul's Wraparound update: Copies of a written report by Ann were circulated and Ann gave a brief overview of this. Helen wondered whether there had been any expressions of interest in the project. Ann knows of one person who has expressed an interest, but at the moment this is just an exploration of what would be involved and required. She felt this person would be an excellent manager, but may not have the qualifications needed. Ann reported that the refurbishment of the lower vestries is not yet completed, but progress is being made. Architect plans have now been drawn up for re-ordering St Paul's and there will be a meeting of the St Paul's business and ministry team next Monday 30th June to look at these. Plans include raising the floor to the level of the chancel, creating additional rooms and a possible mezzanine floor, and utilising the tower door as the main entrance with a porch and disabled access. So far spending on the refurbishment has been within the budget of monies received from the Bishop's Development Fund. The PCC has promised £5000 for the project. Ann also reported that the people at Pied Piper Nursery are very much behind the plans for this project.

Ann reported on plans for an open day event to be held on the weekend of 30th/31st August to publicise and promote the project, but as the congregation at St Paul's is small and although willing, not very able-bodied, she asked for volunteers from the other two congregations to help with the event. The weekend will also encompass the fifth Sunday joint service.

Action – Volunteers to help with the preparations for this event to speak to Ann or St Paul's Churchwardens

Matrix Youth Project: Copies of a brief report by Wendy were circulated at the meeting. Questions were raised about volunteers working at the weekend. Wendy felt that extending the work to cover the weekends should await the appointment of the Youth Worker as she was conscious of not over-extending either herself or the resource of volunteers already involved. The steering group is continuing to meet and Wendy reported that one member has agreed to seek out funding sources. Peter reported that the Mirfield Educational Trust has promised £10,000 as a start-up grant, but felt that further funding may be forthcoming on top of that. A bank account has now been opened for the project and Wendy asked whether the PCC would be contributing the promise £3000 in a lump sum or over a period of time as there will be costs involved in appointing a youth worker and also there are plans to organise day trips during the summer months, etc.

It was agreed that the FAB committee should meet to discuss the funding for both these projects, particularly as there were concerns raised about the timing of the donation to the Matrix if this was to be match-funded.

Action – Jim to organise a FAB committee meeting

Communion before Confirmation: Open evening on Monday 21st July at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre for further discussion on this led by Richard Burge, the Diocesan Children's Work Advisor.

Stewardship: A discussion document prepared by Andrew Eastwood had been circulated. Andrew had hoped to be present to lead the discussion, but was unable to attend. He has led stewardship initiatives prior to the formation of the Team Parish and has included in his presentation a reflection on the one undertaken last year. Peter reported that the Parish already has a shortfall of £10,000 and in light of the financial commitments already undertaken by the PCC, a drive towards increasing stewardship is required. There needs to be a general awareness of the fact that the Church is not rich which is a misconception many had. Barry also reported that the Diocesan finances are in a terrible state. It was emphasised that each Church already strives to be economical in its spending, but any savings in this regard would be minimal. As the PCC is responsible for the finances of the Parish, any initiative would require the active support of the PCC, perhaps in opening their homes to hold informal lunches to discuss the issues. It was also suggested that if people were more aware of the financial issues, more fund-raising initiatives might be undertaken. Fund-raising will also form part of the Development team's agenda and it was noted that care should be taken about dates that are already in the Parish calendar.

It was suggested that a month be set aside for the initiative and it was noted that Andrew would not be available to work on the project until August. It was agreed to discuss with Andrew whether September would be the best time for this initiative, but also noted that it perhaps did not have to be confined to one particular month, but could be a rolling programme.

Peter felt that the initiative needed to emphasise the fact that it's not just about the money, but what that money enables us to do. David felt that people would need face to face contact and help in completing the paperwork relating to any changes in giving which can be quite confusing, particularly if standing orders are not set up properly – this had been one of the issues raised during previous initiatives.

Helen raised the issue of confidentiality as this had been raised by some members of the congregation, but it was agreed that these fears should be allayed as confidentiality is maintained as only the Treasurer really knows the amounts that people give.

Churches Together in Mirfield: The question put to the meeting was: Should the MTP send on representative or three to the Executive Committee of the CTM? It was noted that this should be a lay person and not a member of the clergy. It was agreed unanimously that in the spirit of the combined Parish, one person should represent the Team Parish, but it was initially unclear whether this person was going to be involved in the initial steering group setting up a first meeting or whether the person was volunteering to take the role forward on to the Executive Committee following its institution in September. In either case, Mark Pollard expressed his willingness to be involved on behalf of MTP.

Notice-boards / Logos: Peter presented the ideas for a logo drafted at the request of the Development Team by Paul Millar, a graphic artist which would be used on all stationery, websites, notice-boards, etc. As it was felt that the existing notice-boards at all three churches were in need of replacement, a quotation has also been obtained from a company called Fast Signs in Huddersfield for this, one for St John's, two for St Paul's and two for St Mary's (to include the Parish Centre). The Development team had felt it important that each Church had its own name on the board to people locate the church, but that a corporate 'branding' approach was required to promote a sense of unity. However, Rachel who works in marketing and has expertise in that field felt that the ideas presented did not reflect the individuality of the churches and offered to be involved in further discussion on this issue with the Development Team. Initially it was suggested that the development team should then feed back to the next PCC meeting in September. However, as this would lead to additional delays and overrode the reasoning behind setting up sub-committees to work on this type of project, it was eventually agreed that this item should be left in the hands of the Development team to make any final decisions on this, rather than negate the time and effort the team has already put into this.

Action – Issue to be referred back to the Development Team for further discussion

Mirfield Show: Peter reported that the Development Team has booked a pitch at the annual Agricultural show to be held on 17th August in order to signpost the Team Parish's involvement in

the church's work throughout the world. Gill has agreed to take on the role of artistic director to ensure that all the displays come together. The three main areas focussed on will be Mara, Justus' work in India and World Vision, but around that will be displays on all the work with which the Team Parish is involved. Balloons are going to be printed and these will be given away by a clown (Jacqueline is going to dress up), and lots of other things such as an arrow maze, face painting etc are planned to draw people's attention to the displays.

New Marriage Procedures: A written explanation of the planned new procedures concerning marriages which will come into force in October this year. The new process should make it easier for people to be married in the church of their choice, but it was noted that complaints may arise from people who have not had access to the same facility in the past. Members were asked to pass on the information that this is because the rules governing this issue have now been changed. Anne suggested that an article relating to this could go into the Parish magazine.

Finance Report: Copies of the current financial report were circulated at the meeting. David reported that the Parish is running at a current deficit of £15,000, but wished to point out that funds allocated to the various projects discussed would be drawn from restricted funds and therefore not covered on the report. The major expense for the recent repair of the organ was also not listed as this had been met by funds from the Choir Guild. Also any income and expenditure in terms of the Parish Centre is not included as this is only included at the end of the year. David had added a comparison at the bottom of the report which indicates that not enough money is coming in to pay the Parish Share (a shortfall of £187 each week).

Future Meetings: Dates of forthcoming meeting had been included with the agenda. These were approved. However, Peter pointed out that the informal meeting on 30th October with the Archdeacon is not yet confirmed and may not happen. There was a query from some members about a change to the start time of the meeting from 7.30 to possibly 7.45 (if not 8 pm), but it was agreed that this has been discussed at previous meetings and that the time of the next meeting would remain at 7.30.