

**Parish of North Abingdon
Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 9th July 2018 at 8 pm**

Present: Phil Adams, Philip Bingham, Val Challis, Phil Cooke, Andrew Dubock, Keith Dunnett, Chris Hodgson, Emil Jeevaratnam, Roland Knight, Herman Matheson, Terry O'Neill, Sandra Pike, Claire Proudman, Sue Robbins, Pat Rowe, Tim Shipman, Martin Steel, Anne Taylor, Sandar Wade, Nessa Watts.

Apologies: Jaz Bance, Paul Brombley, Ron Clark, Kath Cooke, Andy Dent, Ian de Villiers, Sue Gibbins, David Hancock, Lynn Ross, Andy Voyce.

1) Welcome and prayer from Philip

2) Apologies, minutes from last meeting and matters arising

Apologies noted.

Minutes of last PCC meeting (14 May) agreed by all. Proposed: Martin Steel. Seconded: Pat Rowe.

Matters arising:

- The multi-coloured cross was moved to the front of church for Tuesday's licensing service of Keith, Phil and Cath. There has been a positive reaction to it and it might remain there.
- The APCM report has been revised to include Tim's financial revisions, and circulated before the meeting. PCC members indicated they were pleased with that.

3) Mission

Vision and Values

Keith and Phil shared a proposal for how we should move forward with a process for a new vision for CCA, which is going to be driven by PCC, but with engagement and involvement from all members of the church.

It addresses three key questions – why does CCA exist (purpose), how should we be (values) and what should we do (action)? People often start with 'what' before 'why' but it's more productive to start the other way around. Keith and Phil unpacked the plan for the autumn series for sermons and lifegroups (and special extra groups for those not in lifegroups) and what the suggested PCC role is, including the formation of a process group and holding a PCC day in November to distil what God has been saying to people and to identify the vision and values.

The full paper is attached.

We broke into small groups to pray around what we had heard and then spent time responding with comments and questions.

Here is a summary of feedback from each group:

<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loved the idea! • It's good that the whole church is involved • Many people aren't lifegroup members so it's good we are considering them, and one evening of study could make a difference • Could an individual who is passionate about something still feed into the process, even if their comments aren't in the 'corporate' feedback from their lifegroup? <i>Keith says they can still email this to us though we are trying to avoid hundreds of individual opinions being fed back</i> • Are we listening to God or listening to people? • The church is so large – will it work? 	<p>Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A picture of small streams flowing into a river with lots of force • Another picture of a shepherd herding sheep, some of whom are the stragglers – everyone is included. • The church is ready for a focus such as this • Need to ensure the material is digestible and not overwhelming • Could the material be fed into Hungry? • Would a temporary lifegroup work? Many people who aren't in a LG currently are unable to commit to doing so, and so may not be able to even get to one on a short-term basis.
<p>Group 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole series of meetings in a whole week could work for people not in a LG, and people can hopefully make one of them. • Leadership of those meetings important. • Need to be both focused and inclusive. • Perhaps held after half-term, in early November. 	<p>Group 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to engage people on the edges of church life in a simple way. • At Long Furlong, we could make use of Big Issue Sundays, followed straight after by a meeting of three-quarters of an hour. • With 2,000 people to be moving onto the new estate, it's important we seek God as a church to reach that new neighbourhood. • Young people involvement is important. <i>Keith confirmed Bea would be doing so through youth lifegroups.</i> • The children of Israel were not just given the promised land, they worked for it and held onto it. Are we asked to be doing the same? • It won't be easy but will be about commitment. • Lifegroup leaders should take the lead for study and discernment • It should be about the Church being involved in welfare issues again like they have done in the past, coming full circle • It's a whole church listening exercise, not just about Sundays and lifegroups

4) Leadership

a) Staff

Clint McVea has been appointed as the new **Operations Manager**. After interviewing three candidates, Keith, Roland, Sue and Geoff unanimously agreed to offer the job to Clint, who has had a previous Ops Manager role at a Christian retreat centre in Poole, a College at Oxford University, and a Youth Pastor/ Facilities manager role at St Clements, Oxford.

There were two applications for the role of **children's intern** and one of them is coming back for a second interview tomorrow. There have been no applications so far for the **youth intern** position. It's an issue for prayer.

b) Growing Leaders

Keith introduced Growing Leaders, a practical resource from CPAS that aims to equip leaders at every level of church life that CCA will be running for a ten-month period from October. There will be an exploratory evening in September and 24 places available for people willing to commit to the course. It's suitable for people such as lifegroup leaders, PCC members, leaders of PCC sub-groups, ministry area leaders and those considering planting on the new housing development. The course is being delivered by Kath, Phil, Keith, Nessa and John Rogers. There will also be a team of mentors.

PCC were very supportive of the approach, and asked to encourage others and suggest people who could be mentors.

5) PCC groups report back

a) IT group report – deferred to next time

b) CIA report

Sandra Pike shared highlights from the last year from the events held by the Church in Abingdon, which is made up of 13 churches across the town. They are hoping to find a suitable speaker for a town-wide Alpha next year, having not done so in 2018. Street Pastors is a great witness in the town, and represents all the churches. Keith was pleased to report that Simon Hutton from Abbey Baptist, and the minister of the Lighthouse Church, were both looking to reach out more, in spite of not yet being part of CIA. There's a sense of togetherness amongst the leaders.

c) Governance – finances year to date

Tim told PCC that he praises the Lord that income is up £18k for the first five months of 2018 against what was budgeted, with an increase in planned regular giving. Expenditure is slightly below the budget. There are some key challenges for the diocese and across the country for the church in relation to spending in areas such as mental health, social care and education. In the coming year, Tim asks how we can both be bold with our finances and honouring to God.

6) Actioning Safeguarding and Acorn recommendations, and HR Policies update

We have many action points to implement from the safeguarding audit and the Acorn report, and many of these will be incorporated into new HR policies. Chris Bryan has volunteered to work with the Diocese to ensure their policies were up-to-date and fit for use. It's going to be a lengthy process given resource issues for the diocese, but they are enthusiastic. The CCA HR team will

write up a set of policies to bring to PCC in September and will continue to work with the diocese to create refined ones.

With regards to the safeguarding policy, in view of the delays anticipated in getting the diocesan policy manual updated, we are unilaterally updating our policy guidelines to match current national guidelines with the help of Karen Brombley, a safeguarding professional, in liaison with Val Challis. The new policy guidelines should also be available for PCC in September and will include sections on additional needs, bullying and spiritual abuse.

7) AOB

None.

Sue Robbins closed in prayer.

Date of next meeting 24th September, 8pm

Note the November meeting will now be Saturday 24 November, the whole day (vision process)



Andrew Dubock (Vice Sec)



Philip Bingham (Chair)