

**MINUTES**  
**of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council**  
**of St John the Baptist with St John the Evangelist, Lincoln,**  
**held in church at 7.30 p.m. on 20 July 2010**

**Present:** Fr.Stephen Hoy (Chairman), Emma Ackland-Snow, Pam Beattie, Stephen Crosby, David Fleshbourne, Sue Fleshbourne, Daniel Holt, Tabitha Holt, Jackie Howell, Jessica Howell, Christine Priestley, Rosemary Rudeforth, Cay Sherlock, Peter Sherlock, Liz Straw, Sue Young, Ian Young (Secretary).

1. **Prayers** were led by Fr.Stephen.

2. **Apologies** were received from Sue Brennan, Melanie Jackson, Chris Daley.

3. **Minutes of the meeting on 18 May 2010** were accepted and signed as a true record when three corrections had been made: apologies had been received from Jackie Howell but not recorded; the reference to ink cartridges at the end of item 17 should read Epson and not Epsom; and the date of the next meeting was given as 14 September instead of 20 July.

4. **Finance update.**

The treasurer, David Fleshbourne, reported that we had approximately £3,500 in our current account, plus £108 in reserve, not counting the money received as a bequest. There had been a large number of bills lately, and about £6,000 had been spent on necessary expenditure, including £2,000 on a gas bill and £900 on architect's fees. David said this was exceptional and that it was hoped to build up the reserve again during the course of the year.

David and Tabitha explained the difficulties that had been encountered in changing the gas supplier, and it would be necessary for David himself to write to British Gas.

Two additional extinguishers have already been bought, to comply with insurance requirements. David said that he had been looking at the cost involved in changing the providers of fire extinguishers. There would be a considerable saving if, instead of renting them from Chubb, we purchased all our own extinguishers and took out a maintenance contract with the Church Purchasing Scheme (CPS). The meeting unanimously agreed that he should do this. Chubb claim that we are tied into a 15-year contract, with a penalty for early withdrawal. Even with such a clause, however, there would be a saving of about £1,000. PCC urged David to check whether this is actually the case, as no contract document could be traced, and no-one at the meeting had any recollection of any contract with such terms ever having been entered into. David was urged to ask for a copy of the contract.

5. **Bequest.**

1. De minimis permission for the installation of a baby changing unit in the disabled toilet in church has already been obtained, but it expires in August. Melanie had been looking into this, but was not present at the meeting. Sue Fleshbourne will check this.

2. A quote for £9,000 has been received for the redecoration of the church hall, inside and outside. PCC considered this to be too expensive, and requested that an itemized estimate be requested and other estimates be obtained.

3. PCC agreed that the surfacing of the access path be given first priority, and various options were considered. The archdeacon and the Diocesan Advisory Committee had been consulted, and it was agreed that this matter would be looked into further.

PCC agreed that a maximum of £4,000 be allocated to the surfacing of the path and the redecoration of the church hall. Costings for these two projects would be brought to the next PCC meeting.

It was pointed out that the two acolyte candle stands now need replacing. Fr. Stephen offered to speak to a woodturner of his acquaintance with a view to making new ones. It was felt that some of the other suggestions (painting of the pool rails, recovering of servers benches) could be done from our own resources.

6. **Quinquennial survey.**

Although most of the recommendations in the architect's report are only minor or cosmetic, one urgent matter is the complete rewiring of the church. Paul Cartwright has almost completed his detailed

inspection, and his report will be presented to PCC at the next meeting. An approximate cost in excess of £10,000 is to be expected.

#### **7. Bishop's visitation.**

Bishop Tim was pleased to note how well the church engaged with the community. Some puzzlement was expressed about the bishop's comments as given in the agenda, and a discussion ensued on his comment that "the building is not fit for purpose." It was concluded that this referred primarily to potential use of the church by community groups, when its sloping floor and fixed seating and basic balustrades render it unsuitable for activities other than formal worship, particularly with young children. PCC agreed that these were a drawback, but there was nothing that could reasonably be done to alter the structure of the building. It was explained to PCC that Council funding for Day Centres had been withdrawn, and that the church hall might be used as a contact centre, or the luncheon club initiative could be expanded.

It was felt that the bishop's comments about the "church community's dependency culture" were pre-empted by Fr. Stephen's recent three-month sabbatical and were no longer relevant.

#### **8. Parish development day.**

The date for this was agreed: 6 November 2010.

#### **9. Journey of prayer through Advent.**

It was unanimously agreed to purchase 70 copies of the booklet of daily readings published by the Additional Curates Society.

#### **10. Charity.**

The three charities that the congregation had been invited to vote for received the following number of votes: Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, 6 votes; Smile Train, 8 votes; Jacaranda Project, 13 votes.

The Jacaranda Project was therefore chosen as the church's charity for the coming 18 months.

#### **11. Reports.**

Pam reported that the **Pathfinders** recently moved into the Church Hall, giving them more space, scope and opportunity for outreach. There is a £3 fee for the use of the hall each week, which the members' donations do not cover. Some members of PCC offered to pay the cost for the next two years, and this offer was gratefully accepted.

The **new boiler** is to be installed in church in August.

Jackie reported on **planned giving** for the first six months of the year. Not counting payments by standing order, which Jackie said were too complicated to calculate for this period, she reported that donations were down by £88. Gift aided donations were £4055.70, and non-gift aided donations were £1169.59. It was agreed that a note about the Gift Aid scheme be included in the Newsletter.

#### **12. Future agenda items.**

The suggested items listed in the agenda were noted.

#### **13. Matters arising** from the minutes of the previous meeting.

The churchwardens reported that all the insurance requirements had now been fulfilled, and the plaque in remembrance of Joyce Blythe had now been fixed in place.

David Fleshbourne apologised for not having produced the promised forecast of income and expenditure, and said he would provide it for the next meeting.

#### **14. Any other business.**

Tabitha reported that the local United Reformed Church had joined Utility Warehouse at our recommendation, and we are therefore entitled to a commission to be deducted from our electricity bill.

As mentioned in the agenda, the standing committee has agreed to pay £20 from the bursary fund to help three people attending a children's work conference.

A member commented that the white lines recently painted on the steps outside the front door are very effective, and thanks were expressed to Peter Sherlock for doing this job.

#### **15. Date of next meeting.**

PCC were reminded that this has been fixed for 14 September 2010.