



Minutes of the meeting of the United Church Council Held on Monday 9 January 2017

Present: Heather Allum, David Carruthers, Jane Earl, Petra Hedges, David Hibbert, Sue Johnson, Rob Kay, June Poppleton, John Rhodes, Darryl Sharp, Revd Deborah Snowball

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Vice Chair, John Rhodes.

- 1) Deborah opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** were received from: Andrew Bond, David Edney, Sue Hillier, Revd Richard Lawson
- 3) **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2016**
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2016
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 4) **Matters arising**
 - a) Church lighting (item 7b(ii)): An extraordinary meeting of the UCC had been held on 18 December to approve the quote from Instalec. Work will start in February.
 - b) Garden of Remembrance (item 9): A site for the new garden has not yet been identified.
- 5) **Correspondence**
 - a) A letter had been received from the Estates Secretary at the Diocese informing the PCC that the Diocese proposed demolishing the existing Vicarage and allowing commercial redevelopment of the site to include a new Vicarage and flats. There were no objections to this proposal.
- 6) **Remarks by the Vicar**
 - a) **United Church Council:** The number of people serving on the UCC is fewer than in previous years and everyone was asked to take on a larger workload. Deborah urged members to encourage and invite new people to serve on the UCC and become involved in the running of their church.
 - b) **Christmas Experience 2016:** Deborah thanked everyone who had helped with the different aspects of this venture. More than 150 children had visited the event and many compliments had been received from them and adult visitors. The event had been extended into the new year and this had been successful.
- 7) **Financial report**

Present financial situation:

	14/11/16	9/1/17
Current & Deposit	£72,000	£53,000
Epworth (Myers bequest)	£210,000	£210,000
Church Centre	£23,000	£23,000

The first payment to the electrical contractors had been made. It was agreed that the lighting project will be wholly funded by the Myers bequest.
- 8) **UCC sub-committees**

Minutes of the sub-committees had previously been circulated.

 - a) **Community & Outreach Committee**
Rickmansworth Festival: There was some discussion as to the merits of running a stall at this event in May 2017, particularly as a large number of people are needed. It was agreed to book a pitch for

now. It was noted that a new idea was needed and a suggestion was to run a plant stall.

Action: David Carruthers will book a pitch for St Mary's

b) Fabric & Churchyard Committee

- i) **Church Centre fire alarm:** The F&C committee recommended that the fire alarm be automatically linked to a call centre. The cost for this will be approximately £350 per annum. It was agreed to go ahead with this service.
- ii) **Guttering:** Quotes had been obtained for repairs and cleaning (£626 (Gomm) and £750 (Rogers)). It was agreed to accept Gomm's quote for this work.

c) Stewardship & Finance Committee

There were no matters arising from this committee.

9) Personnel matters

- i) **School governors:** Ian West has expressed an interest in serving as a governor. The PCC approved his appointment.
- ii) **Deanery Synod:** It was noted that St Mary's currently has no representatives on Deanery Synod.

10) Mission Action Plan

Following the updating of the MAP, information will be published on the website and Deborah has written a piece for LINK. Tasks will be shared across the sub-committees.

11) Safeguarding

- a) **Review of policy:** There were some concerns that the church does not always adhere to the policy although it was noted that steps are increasingly being taken to ensure compliance. The 2016 edition of the policy, as amended, was agreed as the policy for 2017.
- b) **Safeguarding team:** It was agreed that representatives from a number of activities will comprise the team including: J Club, Children's Church, Girlguiding UK, X Team, Bellringers, Meet For Tea, Lunch Club and the Choir. A Churchwarden, a Steward and a member of the clergy will also serve on the team, as well as safeguarding officers and champions.
- c) **Safeguarding officers:** Heather Allum is standing down from this role and thanks were expressed to her for her service. A replacement needs to be identified.
- d) **Safeguarding champions:** Suitable people are to be encouraged to take on this role.

12) News from the wider church

- a) **Diocesan news:** At the meeting in October 2016, a number of issues were discussed:
 - i) Safeguarding
 - ii) Reader ministry is being promoted.
 - iii) There had been a short presentation on the new phase of Living God's Love and support packs were distributed.
 - iv) The budget for 2017 had been agreed. It was noted that planned giving in the Diocese is disappointingly low, especially in light of the relative affluence of the area.
- b) **Deanery Synod:** There was nothing to report.
- c) **Circuit news:** There was nothing to report.

13) LEP Constitution

At a meeting to discuss this on 7 January 2017, members of the UCC had agreed that it would be helpful to hold a meeting for all members of the church to which the national Ecumenical Officers of both denominations would be invited to answer questions and provide explanations. A letter will be sent to everyone on the Electoral Roll and/or Methodist Roll. It is hoped that this will take place in early March with a view to making a final decision at the annual meetings in April.

14) Any other business

Fees for choir and bellringers: There will be no increase in these fees this year.

15) Items to be publicised:

- a) Lighting and plaster works
- b) Need for more people to stand for the UCC
- c) LEP Constitution: forthcoming meeting

- d) Safeguarding: Thank you to Heather Allum
- e) School governor: appointment of Ian West

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the UCC will be on Monday 13 March 2017.

The meeting ended with the Grace