

St Andrew's Church, Girton, Parochial Church Council
Minutes of meeting held on 11th July, 2022

PCC members present: Michel Bigg (Rector, in the chair; = M.B.), Bruce Hunter, Martyn Johnson (= M.Jo.), Dugald Wilson, Alastair Lorimer, Christina Deacon, Jenny Knights, Helen Wilson, Geoff Burt, Wendy Hunter, and Malini Jesudason.

Also present: John Hall (Secretary).

1. **Apologies for absence** were reported from Sheila Hiley, Chris Barrow.
2. **Opening prayer** was led by M.B., with prayer for Chris Barrow (mourning the death of her sister), thanks for the service to the church of the late Margaret Pumfrey, and prayer for God's guidance for the PCC.
3. **The minutes** of the meetings of the 8th and 16th May were approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of 16th May**
 - a. **Congregational questionnaire** (minute 4b). Dugald and Helen Wilson have prepared a first draft, which was shown to the PCC. Dugald will send to PCC members a computer link, to enable members to study the draft in detail.
 - b. **Early services** (minute 6d). From September there will be an additional Book of Common Prayer communion service at 8 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month.
5. **Life and worship**
 - a. **Recent services and events.** Yesterday (10th July) there was an enjoyable "hymns and pims" service. The "baskets and bears" stall at the village fête gave pleasure to those attending and raised a significant sum for church funds. (Next year we must try to provide more baskets. Wendy Hunter had made a sufficient number of soft toys.) Wendy was thanked for her work on this. The jubilee service on 5th June was attended by about 50 people. A book of congratulation on the jubilee, signed by members of the congregation, has been sent to Buckingham Palace. Praise was expressed for the funeral service for Margaret Pumfrey, held earlier today. (Margaret had herself planned the service.)
 - b. **Trends in the numbers attending services.** Dugald Wilson has analysed the figures in the service register. Attendance at the 8 a.m. service is steady; there has been a slight but encouraging upward trend in the numbers attending the 10 a.m. service. The figures show a decline at the Taizé service, but this may be due to special factors on some recent Sundays.
 - c. **Plans for the coming months.** The next two months should be uneventful. We have started to promote a quiet day in October. Plans are being made for a group promoting prayer, covering both Girton and Madingley. It was decided to hold the Harvest Thanksgiving service on 9th October, as it would be convenient to combine this with an All Age service.

The PCC approved a suggestion by Christina Deacon, that the children should be asked to bring their back packs to church on 4th September, to be blessed.
 - d. **The children and families minister.** Eona Bell is doing well with Bobtails and Choir Church and was extremely good at the fête. She has sent round an e-mail

about “Godly play”, a resource usable by both children and adults. M.Jo. was thanked for his work on the administrative arrangements for employing her.

- e. **The “contemporary” service on some Sunday afternoons.** Wendy Hunter said that she enjoyed this service. However, attendance has been poor. Its future will be reviewed in September.
- f. **Appointment of sidespeople.** The PCC approved the following list, provided by Dugald Wilson:

Charlotte Avery	Malini Jesudason
Janet Barnard	Martyn Johnson
Caroline Blackmun	Rosemary Jones
Lindsay Born	Jenny Knights
Robin Bradford	Bob Lloyd
Geoff & Merylyn Burt	Alastair & Anne Lorimer
Clare Conboy	Martin & Yuri Nuttall
Christina & Nigel Deacon	Jenny Prince
Wendy de Horsey	Maria Sadler
Suzie Filmer	Kerry Smyth
Wairimu Gatome	Stephen Tomkins
John & Valerie Hall	Dugald and Helen Wilson
Terry Hoad	

6. Finance

- a. **The present situation.** M.Jo. said he had nothing to add to the report previously circulated. Our finances are currently in the black. To provide transparent accounting for the money spent on children’s work a separate fund is needed; to avoid an unnecessary duplication of funds the Bobtails Fund is being renamed the Children Fund. Transfers to this fund from the General Fund will be needed. The PCC thanked M.Jo. for his work.

In answer to questions, M.Jo. said that payments on the churchyard of £1599 in March and £1500 in April were, respectively, for past grass cutting, and Hibbitts’ bill for righting unsafe headstones. “Hire of external venues” refers to hirings of the Cotton Hall, mainly for Bobtails. (M.Jo. also said that he had received no recent invoices for grass cutting. Grass in the churchyard has been cut only three times this year.)

- b. **Review of internal financial controls** is a legal requirement. Helen Wilson’s offer to assist with this was gratefully accepted by the PCC.

7. Fabric

- a. **The south wall.** Work on the downpipes, removal of mould, treatment of the Rectors’ Board and repointing of the south wall should have been done by Garry Heslop but his ill-health has delayed the work. It is hoped that he will also clean the church windows.
- b. **Re-ordering.** The DAC will meet in about two weeks time and will consider our re-ordering plans then. Once they have been approved we can put the work out to tender. M.Jo. and M.B. have received a quotation for the audiovisual work. (Rapidly rising costs are a cause of concern: the final cost may prove to be substantially more than the initial quotation.)

The PCC agreed that, if the DAC approves our plans, we should approach the Chancellor for permission to carry them out.

8. Safeguarding. Helen Wilson said that safeguarding training in group sessions is now allowed. This will enable required training to be carried out more easily.

9. Disciplinary procedure. Draft rules for this had been circulated to the PCC. The rules are required in order to ensure fair treatment of the church's one employee; the same rules might be applied in case of serious alleged misconduct by a volunteer. (M.B. said that he had no application of the procedure in view.)

In answer to a question whether the rules permitted dismissal of an employee convicted of a crime not committed in the course of his/her employment by the PCC, it was pointed out that an employee could be dismissed for bringing the employer into serious disrepute.

On the proposal of Bruce Hunter, seconded by Jenny Knights, the PCC approved the draft rules of procedure (copy attached).

10. Matters of report

a. Action Abroad's funds currently amount to £2219, mostly from the Art Exhibition in May. M.Jo. will consult with Clare Conboy as to whether the money should be transferred to Domboshawa College now, or at the end of the year, as is usual.

b. Friends of St Andrew's. Alastair Lorimer said that the programme of events would be as previously announced (coffee morning on 20th August, concert on 22nd October).

c. Deanery. The next synod meeting has been postponed until October, leaving nothing to report.

11. Any other business: training sessions for PCC members have been arranged, and would be available for members of our PCC who wish to attend one. (Details were circulated to PCC members on 30th June. Registrations close on 25th July for the two sessions currently arranged.)

12. Future meetings will be on 12th September at 2 p.m. and on 7th November at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed with prayer by Christina Deacon and a recital of the Grace.