

PCC Meeting

Monday 7th October 2024

Minutes



Location: 4 Warneford Way, LU7 4PX

Present: Rev'd Steve Marsh (Chair and Minister), Katharine Reedy (Mission Enabler/Churchwarden & Reader), Frank Reedy (Mission Enabler, Treasurer & Reader), Stu Blofeld (Mission Enabler/Churchwarden) Clare Nichols, Philip Nichols,

Apologies: Sharon Soanes (Secretary)

1. Opening prayer

Steve Marsh

2. Apologies:

None

3. Minutes from previous meetings:

- 15th July 2024 – approved

4. Action points from this and previous meetings

Actions to take forward			
Reference	Action	Responsible	Due Date
15JULY 06	Develop 4 th Sunday Ideas Ongoing	PCC	16 th Sept
15JULY 06	Investigate Church Away Day	KR	25 th Nov
07 OCT 05	Let GH know that one or two Christian songs can be included in Wednesday morning 0-4s session Done	KR	9 th October
07 OCT 06	Arrange Alpha Youth baptisms and baptism prep	SM, SB	20 th October
07 OCT 06	Create publicity and start advertising half-term holiday club taking place on 30 th October	KR	15 th October
07 OCT 06	Establish day and time for second (Sandhills) homegroup	KR	20 th October
07 OCT 06	Contact football club leaders to see if they are happy to have act of remembrance on the field	SM	27 th October
07 OCT 06	Agree date of next informal worship service Done – 10th November	PN and PCC	11 th October

07 OCT 06	Youth programme – KR to send Sermon Sheet to SM to get copies printed off, SB to sort out clipboards for use in service	KR, SM, SB	20 th October
07 OCT 06	Agree date and venue for young people's baptisms – approach Hockliffe Street about using their baptistry (Northall Chapel as back-up – KR has contact)	SB, SM	20 th October
07 OCT 06	Whole Church Awayday – think about youth workers we could approach to lead young people's activities	SM	25 th November
07 OCT 07	Approach musicians and singers (Rising / Open Voices) for Beer / Hot Chocolate and Carols on 14 th December	KR	20 th October
07 OCT 07	Title for Families Carol Event and design publicity, to include list of other CGS Christmas events	SM	21 st October
07 OCT 08	Liaise with Greenfields and Norton Court managers about carol singing for residents Done	KR	14 th October
07 OCT 08	Reach out to other churches to see if they would like to join us for carol singing in the estate(s)	KR / SB	20 th October
07 OCT 08	Find out from JT if she would like to do a Christmas wreath-making evening and book Astral Park for the relevant date	SM	20 th October
07 OCT 10	Put into practice 'quick wins' from listening workshop, including getting feedback from café team at end of service	SM	1 st November onwards
07 OCT 11	Talk to SB and DG about leading on a 4 th Sunday	SM	By 24 th October
07 OCT 12	Produce flyers about Christmas activities (including Christingle service) to give out at half term holiday club on 30 th October	SM, SB, KR	By 24 th October
07 OCT 13	Ask CGS community for ideas for Mission giving	FR	By 24th October
07 OCT 14	Updated Safeguarding Risk Assessment – send feedback to KR	KR and all	By 11 th October
07 OCT 15	Share logon details for free Canva account (for designing flyers etc.)	KR	By 15 th October
07 OCT 15	Consider whom to approach for new PCC Sec	SM and All	By 25 th Nov

5. Looking Back

- Wednesday Summer Holiday Club – this went really well, relationships with regulars are becoming established and it's starting to feel like a real community.
- Wednesday Café (term-time)
 - Music, Movement and Rhyme for 0-4s – GH would like to do some Christian songs. This could fit well with the childminders' curriculum, which includes exposing the children to faith. The NHS staff, if leading this session, would of course not be expected to do this.
Action: KR to go back to GH to give the go-ahead for one or two Christian songs to be included.
- Alpha Youth – is now finished. It went very well and the group are now moving into doing baptisms for 3 members. There will be a pre-baptism course.
- House Group
 - has successfully run the Blessings Course
 - did some more sharing of stories in the summer term
 - currently studying the book of Ruth
- Worship Service 6th October – was well-led by PN and enjoyed and appreciated by all, including the musicians. The advert for the event was communicated effectively. Majority of people contributed out loud, which is encouraging, though not compulsory. Are the pews a blocker to participation? Most felt not, but we could set out chairs for a more informal space. Set-up at Billington is very easy. Keeping it to an hour is good. Agreed we would like to try it again and a Sunday evening in November would be the best time. The worship time could develop, e.g. praying in tongues, and inviting interpretation. It needs to be a safe space and something that we grow slowly. It is great for those who lead to come and receive.
- Listening Workshop: See item 11 below.

6. Looking ahead

- Service rota for November to Feb currently being drawn up
- October Half Term Holiday Club 30th October – plans are well in hand and we will be advertising it soon. Action: KR to do flyer and promote via Mailerlite mailing list, Facebook, Town Council and other local groups and networks.
- Home Group
 - After October Half Term – considering the Lectio course by 24/7 Prayer: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/podcast/introducing-lectio-divina/>
 - There is interest in a second Home Group meeting on the Sandhills side of town – this could be daytime or early evening (7pm). KR had started to explore this with people. There may be one or two from the Wednesday morning café who would like to join in. GH is happy to host. Next step: identify a suitable day and time, bearing in mind SM's day off (Friday) and people's other commitments.
Action: KR
- Remembrance Sunday 10th November – Chapel Time. Steve to make contact with football club leaders to talk about doing something on the field.
Action: SM
- Next informal worship service to take place in November.
Action: PCC to agree date [post-meeting note: it will be 10th November].
- Quiz Night 22nd November being organized by Fiona and Julie

- Youth Program – the new format is for youth to stay in 1st and 3rd Sundays. Sermon sheets worked well for young people, where they can make their own notes. Preachers to give a heads-up in advance to youth leaders on what they will be talking about. Katharine to send the sheet to Steve to print out. Stu to get clipboards so people can write easily on the sheets when sitting in the service.

Action: KR, SM, SB

- 3 members of CGS Youth would like to get baptized. Date and venue to be agreed.
Action: SM / SB to coordinate with relevant families. SM to approach Hockliffe Street about using their baptistry. (Another option could be Northall Chapel – KR has a contact there).
- Whole church away day – agreed we would like to do this. It is important that children and young people are well catered for. SM mentioned the possibility of getting in a youth worker from another church, which had happened in one of his previous churches.
Action: KR to explore possible dates and venues. SM to think about youth workers we could approach.

7. Beer & Carols ~~Friday 13th December~~ Saturday 14th December

- PN & CN will be away that weekend which leaves a gap for band leader. Agreed to move the event from Friday 13th December to Saturday 14th December, and hold it at an earlier time, aimed at families. Family-friendly activities will be needed as well as carols. RG had suggested making it more interactive by spinning a dial to see what song it lands on. Hot choc and carols rather than beer.
- Music/Choir:
 - Need to recruit band leader and musicians – KR to start this process
 - KR has approached Rising and Open Voices

Action: KR

- Publicity – think of the new title.
- Flyer: Check dates and activities
- Sure 2 Door need flyers soon

Other promotion ideas:

- Posters
- Social media
- Give to Greenleas school?
- Hand out to football crowd

Action: SM and all

Organisation for on the afternoon / evening:

- PA / Sound system: Speaker and Wireless Mic. Bought to test.
- Drinks: mulled wine and hot chocolate
- Food: Fiona D
 - Mince Pies and Cake
- Decorations: Julie / Fiona D?
- Welcomers / Stewards
- Consider whether to have a Raffle and / or a Quiz

8. Christmas Programme

- Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November: Christmas tree festival. FD is organising the CGS contribution
- Sunday 1st Dec 3:30pm: Carol Singing at Greenfields
- KR to speak to Greenfields Manager about arrangements, and co-ordinate music.

Action: KR

- Thursday 5th Dec Carol Singing in the estate (invite other churches to be involved)

Action: KR / SB

- Saturday 14th December : Beer / Hot Chocolate & Carols
 - Sunday 22nd December Christingle Service, Astral Park at 3:00pm
 - Billington Carol Service at 6pm
 - Tuesday 24th Dec: Midnight Mass available at Billington on Christmas Eve.
 - Wednesday 25th Dec: Christmas Day
 - Other Possible Events
 - Christingle service for the Music, Movement and Rhyme children.
 - Christmas wreath evening – check with Julie
- Action: SM
- Cake and Carols at Norton Court – KR to check with Sue Keane the manager about dates
- Action: KR

9. Review of the Families Outreach Worker

- SM met with Prebendary David MacGeoch, new vicar at All Saints and David expressed interest in the Families Outreach Worker project and our previous efforts to do a team-wide project. Discussions to continue about how the Team might support and be involved in the project.
- Next Steps: agreed that we would like to make the Families Outreach Worker a full-time role and do the fund-raising to support this. We may be able to enlist the support of other people in the town (outside our churches) to help us with this.

10. Listening Workshop

Themes

- Review the balance between giving and receiving
- Clearer prayer provision after services
- More discussion off the back of sermons
- Less music in service (to allow the above)
- Too much social time around chapel time – use this to go out on the football field
- We need a second Home Group
- Desire for Outreach Worker Project
- Increase our presence / people's awareness of us
- Working with other churches
- Socials
- Church Away Day
- Café on a Sunday – Re-envision Pop Up Sunday Cafe.

Easy Wins

- Work on getting a good balance between giving and receiving
 - 'Just Come / Just Be' services at Billington, monthly?
- Start a new home group on Sandhills side of town after Half Term
- Clearer prayer provision at the end of services – be clear who is available and where they will be
- Discussion off the back of sermons – some want an immediate response
 - Could use the 4th Sunday to review the month
- Try a theme for a month to help people go deeper
- Move Communion to sooner in a service
- 2nd Sunday – some find the unstructured time difficult. Have less social time around Chapel Time: Steve tried this on 5th Sunday, starting the reflection at 10am.
Also agreed this is an opportunity to focus more on café and interacting with the football crowd. We could have some people inside praying, with others going out to engage with the football crowd.
- Sunday Café: agreed that the current café set-up seems to work well and is sustainable. Jen's feedback – there were fewer people but much better conversations. We should remember to invite feedback at the end of the service from people who've been on café.
Action: SM remind service leaders to invite café team to feed back at the end of the service

Larger Review

Agreed to do this at PCC Away Day Saturday 25th January 2024. To include:

- Review of service structure and content
- Outreach Worker Project
- Increasing our Presence/People's Awareness of us
- Working with other Churches
- Socials
- Church Away Day

11. Fourth Sunday Ideas

- SB suggested having prayer station type activities
- Invite Dave G to lead a fourth Sunday

Action: SM to approach SB and DG about leading on a 4th Sunday

12. Communication

- Agreed to have flyers about Christmas activities to give out at Oct Half Term Holiday Club
- Christingle Flyer

Action: SM, KR, SB

13. Finance

- FR gave an overview of the financial situation, which is broadly in line with predictions
- The bank account has now moved from Santander to Lloyds, and signatories are all set up
- Mission Giving – agreed to ask people for their ideas for Christmas giving

Action: FR to post a message in the WhatsApp channel.

14. Safeguarding

- SM had met with Hazel F regarding the Safeguarding Officer role.
- CGS Safeguarding Officer: Mike T is in post and Hazel has handed over to him.
- KR had updated the CGS Activity Risk Assessment for Wednesday drop-in and Sunday services. Thanks to those who had made feedback. Any other feedback to be received via email by Friday 11th October. KR will then share the document with MT
Action: KR and all

15. A.O.B's

- SS has stepped down as CGS PCC. PCC to consider who to approach to replace SS.
Action: SM and all
- We now have a free Canva subscription for CGS.
Action: KR to share the logon details.

16. Closing prayer

17. Date of Next Meetings:

~~Monday 18th November~~ Moved to 25th November
No meeting in December

PCC Away Day Saturday 25th January 2024

Monday 24th February

Monday 17th March

Monday 14th April

Monday 19th May

PCC Away Day Saturday 21st June 2024

Monday 21st July 2024