**St Giles Parochial Church Council Meeting**

**George Chapel 7.30pm Wednesday 15th June**

**Present:** Al Ferraro, Jude Hill, Christopher Wheaton, Sheila Wheaton, Barry Hayman, Martin Crew, Johanna Langheld, Roger Ottway, Daphne Carter, Christine Hutchings, Peter Rhodes, Neil Sutcliffe, Lizzie Battrum, Johnathan Ayers, Sarah Slack, Catherine Elliott, Lucy Bolt

**Apologies:** Chris Lane, Ellen Dann, Peter Watkins, Hilary Walters, Richard Crawley, Claire Voce

*Opening Prayers*

1. **Planned Giving**

Background: Planned giving has declined over the last couple of years due to movement within the congregation. There has not been a proactive focus on encouraging planned giving in recent years and Church finances reflect this. An uplift in planned giving is required to balance the books.

Discussed how strongly explicit or discreet requests for giving should be. General feeling that openness with congregation about church income v expenditure/financial responsibilites required with more explicit request for giving.

Christopher Wheaton (CW) presented a planned-giving programme he has used successfully in other churches based on Understanding, Responsibility and Generosity and the Lectionary timetable that supports the programme.

Agreement that it is important to manage the risk of anyone feeling uncomfortable or believing that they are being made to feel uncomfortable. The planned giving programme to be presented clearly as on behalf of the PCC and congregation and to encourage, engage and enthuse.

A booklet to be produced to complement the planned giving programme, to enable reflection on the areas presented during services and to facilitate setting up planned giving.

ACTION: AF and CW to take forward and present back to PCC.

1. **Parish Profile**

The parish profile group met last week and were able to present the draft of the parish profile.

Barry Hayman (BH) has drafted the profile document and presented the WIP content and design. Overall feedback was very positive. Points raised regarding fonts and accessibility.

Daphne Carter (DC) confirmed that the profile group had worked from guidance and exemplars provided by the Diocese. The Diocese have to sign off the completed document and will be able to flag if any changes or alternative formats are required to meet the Accessible Information Standard.

ACTIONS: BH to present font alternatives to profile group.

Aim is to complete text and content plus revisions in time to be circulated prior to July PCC meeting.

1. **Any Other Business**
   1. **Deputising for Church Wardens**

Requirement for persons that can occasionally deputise for church wardens e.g. to lock up church if both church wardens are away together (but not ‘together’). Johnathan Ayers has kindly offered to help. A 2nd would be helpful. If others are opening up before the 1st service it’s helpful if they can put coffee on too.

ACTION: let AF know if anyone else is able to support this.

Al / Jude to remind others with keys, who might help open up, about other aspects of the role.

* 1. **Churches Together West Bridgford**

CTWB are encouraging a representative from St Giles to join their meetings. Unclear if there’s an option for a lay attendee. Greater involvement with Churches Together will support the church in improving community outreach.

ACTION: let AF know if you would like to be the Churches Together lay representative for St Giles.

* 1. **Social/Community Outreach**

Johanna (JL) presented initial suggestions from the community outreach group looking at raising the profile of the church in the locality. The following three ideas were proposed and positively received:

* Christingle Event on Central Avenue with music, Christingle craft and takeaway information about St Giles at Christmas.

Sheila Wheaton (SW) has contacted the council to ask about a pitch on the croquet lawn at the time. The council are awaiting publication of NFFC fixtures on 16/6 before confirming Central Avenue Christmas events.

ACTION: SW to speak to Council to confirm pitch availability and any associated cost.

* Christmas Tree Festival – JL presented the opportunities for linking with the local community by hosting a St Giles Christmas Tree Festival.

ACTION: Subgroup to draft plan and see if enough volunteers are willing to support.

* Post-Covid Church Social - Whereas the objective of the other two events is to improve community outreach, this would be chiefly fellowship focussed to bring the congregation together after a period of significant change post-Covid/the Proudloves leaving/All Hallows plant.

ACTION: AF to clarify if we have permission to use the Rectory garden.

* 1. Rectory Maintenance – Martin Crew asked about the responsibility for general maintenance of the rectory while the property is empty.

AF to clarify where responsibility lies.

*Blessing*

Close