



**Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting**  
**Monday November 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School**  
**Academy**

**Present:**

Rob Gladstone (chair), Margaret Rouse, Alison Godfrey, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Lewis, Liz Barker, Susie Clark, Jonty Pilbeam, Linda Poole, Chris Garnett, Wendy Ferguson, Alison Parkinson, Ray Prince, Fred Sleath, Margaret Leverment, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

**1. Opening Prayers/Reading**

Rob read from Matthew chapter 7.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Linda Poole (Bell Ringers' fees under item 4)

**Apologies:** David Hodgson

**Minutes from September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022** agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters arising:** Wendy Ferguson will send the Social Media Guidelines for the next meeting.

**3. Operations**

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting

***Interim expenditure to be ratified:***

It was necessary to 'upgrade' the outdoor speaker system in time for the Remembrance Sunday Service and the Christmas Lights On. In the near future it will be needed for the outdoor Carol Service and it will also be used for Shine events. It was agreed to take the money from legacies. Proposed by JP, seconded by RP and **agreed**. Fred Sleath has been taking this forward.

Linda Poole reported that the felt needs replacing on the OSR shed roof. It is covered with tarpaulin at the moment to attempt to stop leaks onto toddler group equipment.

We have received complaints from neighbours on School Street concerning people parking on double yellow lines. Linda has politely reminded clientele that they should not park there.

Ray reported that we now have a Faculty for the clock repair and it is anticipated that work will start in January 2023. The faculty for the removal of the boiler house came through on November 21<sup>st</sup> and several local firms have submitted estimates for the work. The cost will be around £20,000. It is estimated that the work will start early in 2023.

20 additional pew cushions have been purchased at a cost of £780. Sue Wilson proposed that they be funded from legacies. All **agreed**.

The Church Building Improvements Group will be meeting soon (December 5<sup>th</sup>). There have been some amendments to the original drawings to include storage in the Tower Room.

**4. Finance**

***Budget 2023***

The latest version of the budget for 2023 shows a projected deficit of almost £22,000. This is largely accounted for by the likely impact of new gas contracts for our two buildings from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Such a large budget deficit is concerning and we will have to monitor the situation throughout 2023,

whilst agreeing the budget figures as they stand. After questions and discussion, the budget was **agreed**.

### ***Future strategies***

Sue Wilson drew attention to a number of matters raised in the Finance Report which will need careful consideration in the short and medium term:

- Being careful with our energy consumption
- Rob has asked that we look for 'green' gas contracts, ones that include carbon offsetting, next year. Those will be more expensive, so we need to be ready to take that decision when figures are provided. We have had 'green' electricity contracts for several years.
- Beginning to consider options for the time when the church heating system needs replacing
- Our open church suffered some petty vandalism and theft during the October half term. We will need to be vigilant if we wish to open the church next year as we are responsible for the care of the building.
- This year the insurance policy for our two buildings received its overdue five-yearly review by Ecclesiastical Insurance. As is usual, there was no adjustment to the premium for the current year, but we have not yet been informed of the figure for 2023. We were found wanting in some areas, most importantly in health and safety recording, so this may result in a higher premium if we are considered a greater risk. Hopefully, these issues are being put right.

### ***Annual Report 2022***

We are required to produce a detailed report to the Charity Commission each year. We also choose to include additional narrative information about our activities during 2022. Please note the **deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> January** for these narrative reports to be submitted to Sue Wilson.

### ***Bell Ringers' fees***

The Bell Ringers had submitted a proposal to increase the fees the PCC charges for wedding bells to £150, both to be in line with other local churches and to reflect the considerable time and commitment involved in being a bell ringer. The last time the fees were revised was 2017. This was **agreed**.

Sue asked whether the problem with the intercom between the tower and the vestry door, mentioned in the Bell Ringers' minutes under 'Possible use of bellringing funds', was being addressed. Ray is looking into this, but eventually the choir vestry door will no longer exist as an entrance.

## **5. Working Groups**

### **Send**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting listing upcoming events.

### **Discipleship**

The Advent book was publicised.

### **Communications**

Rob Gladstone meets Liz Sleath monthly to attempt to get ahead on communications and help raise awareness of what is happening at Church in our community.

We have had a response from someone who may be interested in running the website for us. There has been a vacancy since Steve Thomason left this summer.

A Christmas card is being prepared for delivery to every house in the parish.

## **6. Safeguarding**

Everything has been updated and is running well. Lisa Cook is working on updating the DBS register. Susie Clark is ensuring those who work with Little Fishes are suitably trained and certificated. The

Warm Space group will be approached re DBS and any necessary safeguarding training. Safeguarding requirements change regularly. Wendy will send out the Social Media guidelines for discussion at the next meeting.

### **7. Warm Welcome**

Sue Jackson spoke in church the previous day to inform the congregation of this new initiative, which had just started. The aim is to provide a warm and welcoming space for anyone who needs it, whether for financial reasons or loneliness and isolation. It will be on Friday afternoons, 2pm-5pm, in the OSR. We have co-ordinated with the Baptist Church and community groups in the village to provide a service at a time when no other existed. There is grant funding available from the County Council for this type of outreach work and Tim Jackson (Soar Valley Outreach) is making the application on behalf of everyone.

### **8. Vicar's Report**

All **agreed** the times of the Seasonal Services.

#### **Foundation Governor at Rothley Primary School Academy**

We have 3 but there is still a vacancy. We are potentially looking for someone who is not a parent with a child at the school to help the balance on the Governing Body.

#### **Follow up to Living in Love and Faith**

A pamphlet had been circulated prior to the meeting. Rob was anxious to emphasise that this issue is essentially about the authority of Scripture and the purpose of this agenda item was to raise our awareness of the current discussion taking place within the Church of England. He read out relevant sections from the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England to remind us of the doctrinal basis of the Anglican Church. He showed us relevant material from the Church of England Evangelical Council website and directed us to a series of video resources under the title 'God's Beautiful Story'.

A short time for questions followed, during which a variety of views were expressed, and this is a topic which is likely to be revisited in the future.

### **9. Review and Prayer**

The previous agenda item dominated the thoughts of all groups. Susie Clark read a letter she had received from one of the mothers attending Little Fishes during a short stay in Rothley. The letter was a great encouragement as it showed much appreciation for this provision. Two members of Little Fishes had been invited to take part in switching on the village Christmas lights the following week.

**Meeting closed at 9.30pm**

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Business Committee Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 7pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley  
PCC Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 7.15pm, Rothley School**

*Papers and requests for agenda items/time to Susan Pinkus by **Sunday January 15th** please.*

*SusanPinkus February 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 Redraft*