

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday September 18th 2023 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Parish Church

Present:

Fred Sleath (chair), Margaret Rouse, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Lewis, Susie Clark, Linda Poole, Ray Prince, Nigel Willey, Margaret Leverment, Alison Parkinson, Chris Garnett, Liz Barker, Wendy Ferguson, Susan Pinkus (secretary), Sneha Ninan (observer)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Fred read from Philipians 2.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Rob Gladstone, David Hodgson

Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC July 3rd 2023. All agreed.

Matters Arising:

Summer Picnics

Susie Clark reported on the success of the summer picnics. The feeling was that these were very successful in fulfilling our evangelistic aims. Thanks to all those people involved in what was a lot of hard work, but well worth it. People were introduced to Rothley Church, some of whom didn't even realise where we were. It is also our mission to take a more community-based approach with a wider reach. There then followed a discussion about what we should do to build on this success and follow up.

Fred then welcomed Sneha, our Context-Based Ordinand, to the meeting.

Church Improvements/Appeals Brochure

Fred has been working with Steve Thomason on a brochure for the Church Building Improvements Project. This brochure will be ready in draft form for our meeting on Sunday October 1st.

Action: Churchwardens to ensure this meeting is notified in the Fellowship Post, emphasising the 11 am start.
--

3. Evangelism

David Wilson addressed the group with Practice 2 from the CPAS resource 'How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture': ***Pray for Five***.

The purpose is intentional prayer for five people who fit into three categories:

1. Those who as far as we are aware are not yet Christians.
2. Those with whom we have contact.
3. Those for whom we have concern.

A brief discussion followed.

4. Finance

Parish Contribution 2024

Sue Wilson reported that in Leicester Diocese, every church contributes an annual amount towards the provision of ministry throughout the whole. This helps to fund clergy stipends and housing, as well as the wide range of support and training provided for lay ministers, parish officers and congregations. Parish

Contribution is not a levy, but a donation decided annually by each individual PCC. It is by far the largest item of our expenditure each year, and we are currently paying £96,430 in 2023.

In deciding the amount to offer for 2024, we are asked to *take time to consider the needs of our church and the needs of all churches in the wider diocese.*

The needs of our own church are set out in the Finance Report and comprise the draft general expenditure budget for 2024 and the upcoming Church Building Improvements Project: after careful consideration, the Finance Group has projected a General Fund deficit of £18,600 for 2024; and the estimated cost of the Church Building Improvements is £384,000, two-thirds of which will need to be raised from donations and grants at the same time.

In the context of the wider diocese, we are asked to *work towards covering the cost of our stipendiary post as a minimum, and to consider how we contribute towards additional ministry costs as well.* We are currently covering the £58,558 requested for having a full-time incumbent, and we are contributing a further £37,872 to the diocese.

As is our usual practice, we had a discussion, then a time of prayer, and then a secret written ballot to arrive at our offer for 2024. In the ballot, we were asked to state whether we thought our Parish Contribution should stay the same, or to give a specific percentage decrease or increase.

The results of the secret ballot were: no votes in favour of a percentage reduction; 8 votes in favour of maintaining our current contribution; and 7 votes proposed possible increases ranging from 1% to 10%. The majority decision, to maintain our current payment figure, was taken and will be acted upon for our 2024 Parish Contribution.

5. Operations

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

Linda Poole reported that the AV projector and screen will be installed in the Old School Rooms on October 4th/5th. Linda reminded people who oversee locking the OSR after usage to please check that all the lights are off, including those in the toilets. She then circulated photographs of improvements to storage area in the office.

Ray Prince reported that 4 tenders had gone out for work to cover work recommended in the Quinquennial Report. The Faculty for the stained glass window work has been approved. Charnwood Borough Council are expected to start work on the north boundary wall on September 30th. This is at the Council's expense. Ray has had a meeting with the Open Space Department at Charnwood Council regarding the ongoing maintenance of the Church grounds (grass cutting, weed spraying, footpath). The Council Tree Advisor has agreed to cut back the tree overhanging 14 Church Street.

There then followed a brief discussion on the proposed wildflower area in the churchyard. Chris Garnett and Susan Pinkus volunteered to help Ray with this.

Action: Ray Prince, Chris Garnett and Susan Pinkus to meet to consider the proposed site.
--

6. Church Terrier.

This is an inventory of all the fixtures and fittings in the church building and Churchwardens must check this every year. This year several redundant items have been identified. The PCC will be briefed on these at our next meeting on October 1st.

7. Working Groups

Send was the only group to have met since our last PCC meeting.

Margaret Leverment sent a report prior to the meeting, which was circulated. She proposed that a donation of £500 from the 2023 Discretionary Tithe be given to Serena Cook towards the expenses she needs to raise to support herself during her year working for the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship in Aberystwyth and Lampeter Universities. This was seconded by Margaret Rouse and agreed by the PCC.

8. Safeguarding

Wendy Ferguson reminded us that it is time for the Safeguarding Autumn Review, so time to check that everyone involved in Church activities with adults, children and young people have completed their safeguarding training and have up-to-date DBS certificates, and also to ensure that all risk assessments are up-to-date and complete. We shall need to review our safeguarding policies at our PCC meeting in November. Wendy is still working alone as our Safeguarding Officer. As yet, no one has volunteered to assist her. Wendy also gave a reminder to the PCC that it is a **legal requirement** that trustees complete safeguarding training so, for members whose training is still outstanding, please complete this as soon as possible.

9. Health and Safety

Fred Sleath will be meeting with Mark Davies to address any alterations to our Health and Safety Policy this year. He felt that a general raising of awareness of health and safety was required.

10. Vicar's Report

This report was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was confirmed that the Evening Service will be at 6pm throughout the winter. No changes are being made for the end of BST this year. It was also confirmed that Shine will be continue to be held at 4pm every 1st Sunday of the month.

Fred Sleath read a letter to the PCC which he received on September 18th. It contained up-to-date information and plans regarding the Minster Communities planned by the Diocese and the latest implications for Rothley Church. We are now invited to become involved in this process.

It was agreed that we should be involved in the process, although some members expressed concern that they needed more information. There is information on the Diocesan website.

Action: Secretary to send out the letter and its attachments to all PCC members.

Meeting closed with The Grace at 21.20 pm

NEXT MEETINGS:

Extraordinary PCC meeting Sunday October 1st 11 am: Rothley Parish Church

Business Committee: Wednesday November 1st 7pm: 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley

PCC Monday: Monday November 13th, 7.15pm: Rothley Primary School Academy

*Papers and requests for agenda items/time for November 13th meeting to Susan Pinkus by **Sunday October 29th** please.*

SusanPinkus September 22nd 2023