



## **Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting** **Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School**

### **Present:**

Rob Gladstone (chair), Fred Sleath, Margaret Rouse, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Lewis, Susie Clark, Linda Poole, Ray Prince, Nigel Willey, Margaret Leverment, Chris Garnett, Liz Barker, Wendy Ferguson, David Hodgson, Susan Pinkus (secretary), Charles Poole in attendance up to, and including, item 3.

### **1. Opening Prayers/Reading**

Fred read from Haggai 1, reminding us of the call to build the house of the Lord.

### **2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**Apologies:** Alison Parkinson

**Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC November 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.** Agreed as an accurate record.

**Minutes from the Extraordinary Open PCC meeting re Minster Communities on December 3<sup>rd</sup>** were noted.

### **Matters Arising:**

- All actions completed
- Health and Safety Review has been undertaken by Mark Davies.

### **3. Finance**

#### **Annual Report & Accounts 2023**

There were one or two figures still to come in to enable Sue Wilson to complete the annual accounts for 2023, but she was expecting the General Fund to break even at the end of the year, which would be a very good result in the current economic climate. Almost all the narrative reports had also been received. During the next few days Sue would be putting everything together to submit the full document to the Independent Examiner at the end of January.

#### **Contactless Giving**

The PCC had been sent Charles Poole's paper detailing his research and proposals on Contactless Giving, and Charles was in attendance to answer questions directly. He briefly outlined again what he had presented in his papers, highlighting the two viable options and his recommendations. In response to a question, Charles anticipated that the cost of setting up and operating the contactless giving system would be more than covered by donations received from those who would not otherwise have given. The PCC agreed (with 1 abstention) to adopt the method of contactless giving recommended by Charles and also agreed that a second portable card reader should be installed in the Old School Rooms.

### **4. Shaped By God Together (SBGT)/Minster Communities**

The conversation prompts have all been submitted and Area 2, which stretches from the A46 to the Staffordshire border, will be divided into four proposed Minster Communities at a meeting of Area Deans, Lay Chairs and the Shaped by God Together team on January 25<sup>th</sup>. A data pack will be produced for every parish and it has been suggested that PCCs arrange an additional meeting to consider this information before their representatives attend the next SBGT meeting at the end of February.

### **Prayers of Love and Faith**

In November 2023, by a very slim majority, General Synod approved the optional Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) for use within regular public services. The choice of whether to use the prayers rests with the incumbent; however, it is recommended that it is also discussed by the PCC. The Business Committee had circulated four proposals and, after discussion, they were put to the vote as follows:

1. CPAS states 'we believe that every church we support should be a place of welcome and a community of love for anyone who attends, no matter their belief, gender, sexual orientation or background'. In the light of this we propose to adopt the CPAS Basis of Faith and Outworkings of Faith, which is specific about marriage and sexuality, given that we are a CPAS church.

**Agreed: 12 for, 3 against, 1 abstention**

2. To maintain CPAS as sole patron of Rothley parish and to reject any shared patronage that may result from SBTG.

**Agreed: 12 for, 3 against, 1 abstention**

3. The PCC strongly requests that the present and any future incumbent of Rothley Parish Church do not use the Prayers of Love and Faith, nor allow any other clergy or lay ministers to use them within the church or parish.

**Agreed: 12 for, 3 against, 1 abstention**

4. The PCC resolve that we will only be part of a Minster Community where the Prayers of Love and Faith are not used in any parish within the Minster Community, and where clergy and lay ministers who are part of the Minster Community agree not to use the Prayers of Love and Faith in any setting.

**Agreed: 9 for, 5 against, 2 abstentions**

However, as the decision was far less clear than for the previous proposals, Rob requested that we do not adopt this proposal.

## 5. Church Reordering

The faculty application is being prepared for submission in February. The PCC agreed that, ideally, all pledges for giving should be received by the end of April.

## 6. Operations

Old School Rooms: Linda and Ray are trying to track down missing keys to OSR in the hope that some might be returned. The PCC agreed that keys should be given back if they are no longer required.

Church: Ray Prince requested that the Choir Vestry be kept clear of 'rubbish'.

The Quinquennial Inspection repairs to the church have started and will take about 6 weeks.

The boundary wall repair has been delayed but should be started by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the responsibility of Charnwood Borough Council. Similarly, Charnwood Borough Council will also be pruning trees in the churchyard.

## 7. Working Groups

### Send

The regular and discretionary tithe allocations in the circulated report were agreed.

### Evangelism

The carol singing outreach over the Christmas period was well received.

Suggestions for future initiatives included a Come and Sing Day and a Prayer Group.

## 8. Safeguarding

Wendy Ferguson had circulated two documents prior to the meeting. Wendy updates our details on the Diocesan data base frequently. There has been one data protection issue which has been dealt with effectively.

Once again, she reminded the group that certificated Safeguarding training is a legal requirement for all members of the PCC and there are still members who have not done this. This is a worrying situation as they could be asked to step down if this training is not done. There was some discussion about whether evidence of Safeguarding training being completed before an individual stands for election to the PCC should be a requirement in the future. This will be considered further.

Safeguarding issues for the care homes we visit is meeting the required criteria and training is ongoing.

Safeguarding is very important and needs monitoring constantly to ensure that all legal requirements are being met.

### **9. Vicar's Report**

This report was circulated prior to the meeting. There was a brief discussion on the report. Rob assured the PCC that there is provision for families that would like to go on the St George's House, Devon, family holiday but can't afford it.

**Meeting closed with prayer at 21.20 pm**

### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Business Committee: Wednesday February 29<sup>th</sup> 3pm: 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley**

**PCC Monday: Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7.15pm: Rothley Primary School Academy**

*Papers and requests for agenda items/time for March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to Susan Pinkus by **Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>** please.*