



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday March 7th 2022 - 7pm at Rothley Primary School Academy

Present:

Revd. Rob Gladstone (chair), David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Ferguson, Ray Prince, David Hodgson, Fred Sleath, Margaret Rouse, Alison Parkinson, Linda Poole, Wendy Lewis, Liz Barker, Chris Garnett, Margaret Leverment, Jonathan Pilbeam, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob read Psalm 31. This is a key scripture being used in the face of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He then prayed for peace and justice for the people of Ukraine.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Jenny Pilbeam, Alison Godfrey

Accuracy/Approval of minutes from 24th January 2022:

Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: Fred Sleath and Margaret Rouse will be meeting with Mike Ferguson on March 8th to discuss the church building project. All other actions completed.

<p>Action: Fred Sleath/Margaret Rouse to report back following their meeting with Mike Ferguson on March 8th.</p>

3. Finance

The **Annual Report and Accounts for 2021**, circulated prior to the meeting, were presented for approval and signing off by Rob. The figures had already been agreed by the Independent Examiner.

The document was agreed and signed off by Rob Gladstone on behalf of the PCC. Rob expressed thanks to Sue Wilson and Paul Parkinson for their work producing the document.

There were **four finance policies** for annual review:

- Bank Business Card Policy
- Legacy Policy
- Reserves and Investment Policy
- Stewardship Account Security and Safeguarding Arrangements

The only changes were the updated figures on the Reserves Policy. All were agreed.

The church **Organisation Statement** was presented for annual review and agreed by all.

The **Treasurer's Manual** was presented for review, following minor amendments this year, the most significant of which was to include the Churchwardens, should they wish to attend at any time, and a representative of any major project, as necessary, as members of the Finance Committee. The document was agreed and it was also agreed that this document will only come for future review when changes are made.

The Finance Committee proposed that an audit of our **Internal Financial Controls** is conducted every two years. This proposal was agreed.

An update was provided on the suggestions made in 2019 for projects to be funded from **Pat Foulds' legacy** and the action to date. It is now time to revisit the list, add or remove items and move forward with one or more projects. This is particularly important as Sue informed us that another legacy was received in January 2022: £72,542.69 from **the late Lady Isobel Barnett**. Sue said that we have been greatly blessed with these two exceptionally generous gifts and it is our responsibility to use them in the best ways possible to further the Christian witness of this church.

Following group discussions, the PCC put forward some additional ideas to be added to the list.

4. Operations

Ray Prince reported that there was a leak over the South Aisle. Sealant has been added to four windows on that side but the PCC were asked to place buckets under a leak if they saw one in the future so that the problem could be addressed by process of elimination

We are still waiting for a response from Charnwood Borough Council to our request for planning permission to remove the boiler house, but the paperwork is being put together to apply for a faculty to undertake the work.

Linda Poole reported that some work needs to be done to the OSR roof, following an inspection. These jobs will be costed and completed in priority order.

5. Health and Safety:

The previous Health and Safety Officer left a comprehensive checklist for review every year. Ray has taken on a number of these tasks in role as Church Buildings Manager.

6. Safeguarding

Wendy had circulated the latest guidelines from the Diocese on the use of social media. Steve Thomason is responsible for church social media posts.

Action: Review our Social Media Policy in November 2022.

7. Discipleship

We are encouraged that church activities are returning to normal.

A new team has been formed to visit Mountview Care Home once a month and we continue to reach out in other areas such as the village school.

We are conscious that there are still people needing at home support despite the easing of the Covid restrictions. We are encouraged to see more members of the congregation taking part in leadership. Our 4th Sunday 'Topical Meetings' in church have been well attended.

8. Send

The working group has not met since their previous report, but there were updates on visiting speakers. Rupert Shelley, Director of Mission Partnerships for Crosslinks, will visit on 3rd July. Crosslinks is celebrating its centenary this year. Mike Duff, Patronage Secretary for Church Pastoral Aid Society, will visit on 11th September. PCC members were encouraged to put these dates in their diaries. In particular, the visit of Mike Duff will be important, in view of future developments in the Diocese.

In addition, Rob mentioned that the first stages of the Broadnook development were starting and he has been approached again in relation to the Churchwardens' Field. Charles Poole will lead any discussion on this matter.

9. Shaped By God Together

Since the last PCC meeting, we had received a communication from the Diocese asking us to discuss questions similar, although wider-ranging, to those we covered last time.

The PCC split into small groups to discuss the following:

- 1. What would you identify as your church's biggest strengths? What could you offer a Minster Community?**
- 2. What would you identify as the areas where help is most needed? What would you hope to gain from being part of a Minster Community?**

The following were mentioned:

Strengths:

financial management; PCC; pastoral care, fellowship; Fellowship Post; administration; growing lay leaders; music; housegroups; links with school and community; clear biblical focus and teaching; teamwork; Growing Families Group; other church groups e.g. Men's Group, Mothers' Union; outward-looking; numbers; attendance at services.

Weaknesses:

School work; involving young people; variety of worship styles; evangelism on the new estates; women's ministry; communication via social media; access to a wider demographic; corporate prayer; IT support; sustainability and succession planning; working with other denominations; parking; toilets.

10. Vicar's Report

Rob had circulated his report prior to the meeting and there was an opportunity for questions and comment. Regarding the experimental service pattern, Rob wanted to leave discussion and change until after the APCM, as planned, but in light of the clocks changing at the end of March, it was decided, after a vote, that the 4pm service would move to 6pm from Palm

Sunday, 10th April. Further adjustments and changes might follow after discussion at our May PCC meeting.

A nominal budget of £500 was agreed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with more funds being made available if needed.

11. APCM

The APCM will take place at 11am on 3rd April in church. The required notice will be displayed from 20th March.

The meeting ended with thanks and prayers at 9.00pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

APCM Sunday April 3rd 11 am in Church

Informal PCC Thursday April 7th

Business Committee April 7th

SusanPinkus March 11th 2022