



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
at 7.15pm in St Mary's Hall

**Present:** Peter Reynolds (Vice Chairman), Bryan Jones (Churchwarden), John Setchfield (Churchwarden), Gerald Altree, Paul Cummings, Paul Eward, Paul Mason, Roy Milnes, Anne Morris, Rachel Lewis, Mark Sanderson, Rosie Winyard, Tim Waters

**Prior to the meeting,** Paul Symonds introduced members to a peregrine falcon and his handler from the International Birds of Prey Centre to talk about the possibility of putting up a platform for peregrines to nest (see #12 iii). Peter Reynolds thanked them for coming.

### 2. **Closed Churchyard**

to receive a report from Councillor Rob Taylor

Cllr Taylor apologised that there had been no weed control around the churchyard. The work had been delayed because of Covid but was scheduled to be done in the coming weeks.

Work on the Church Street side of the Churchyard retaining wall is to be undertaken as soon as a contractor has been appointed.

John Setchfield was waiting for the Royal British Legion to plant a memorial tree to Fred Jones along the path leading to the Prospect. Cllr Taylor informed members that the planting of a Plane Tree was being considered to replace the former beech tree in the Prospect as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee.

The secretary had received an email from the Town Council to say that memorial safety testing would be carried out in August in the closed churchyard. The church office would be notified before work begins.

*Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 7.25pm*

### 1. **Chairman's welcome and opening prayers**

Peter Reynolds opened the meeting with a prayer.

### 3. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from the Revd Sean Semple, the Revd Tiffany Jackson, the Revd Caroline Pascoe, Canon Freda Davies and Janet Cooper.

### 4. **Minutes of the last meetings**

to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**5. Rector's Report**

to receive and note a report from the Rector

The Rector's report was noted. The "shake up" including the appointment of the three new, key, lay people referred to in the report was unanimously agreed to be a great thing. It was noted that we are fortunate to have in Sean, a Rector who is an amazing pastor and teacher who has inspired us all, together with our curate, Tiffany.

**6. Inspiring Faith Portfolio and Inspiring Faith in Schools Portfolios**

to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Faith convenors, Peter Reynolds and Paul Mason

Peter gave a verbal report. Toast & Toddle was increasing in numbers and able to meet again in the church. Other areas were moving forward more slowly.

Paul reported Bibles would again be distributed to Year 3 pupils at Brampton Abbots School before the end of term. He hoped to encourage local schools to visit church in the Autumn by reminding them of the materials that had been prepared especially for school educational visits.

**7. Inspiring Hope Portfolio**

i. to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Hope convenor, Paul Cummings  
Paul presented his comprehensive report.

- The job club is now being pushed by the community larder as a means of reaching those who would benefit from the safe space it offers to clients.
- A meeting with the Tourism Officer at Ross Town Council has taken place to look at ways of using the church building.
- Links have been made with Turning Point. Street Pastors (as currently found in Hereford) are also being considered.
- WISH website – this is still being looked into

ii. to receive results of investigations to establish a Community Hub for Ross Parishes

- It is hoped to create a help desk/community hub in the church with information and leaflets

iii. to consider how the coordination of communications is progressing and learn of initiatives taken/being considered to date

- It was no longer necessary for a Director of Communications to be appointed as there are already people doing much of the work
- A Comms Committee had been set up by the Rector and regular weekly articles were now being published in the Ross Gazette and noticeboards in the town were being considered for use to publicise the church. Further initiatives may be considered in due course

Proposed: Paul Cummings      Seconded: John Setchfield      Unanimous

**It was resolved to establish a Comms Committee to oversee communications**

**8. Inspiring Love Portfolio**

to receive a progress report from the Inspiring Love convenor, Rosie Winyard

- i. to receive an update on the work of the eco church group

This was going very well with excellent progress being made in the award system. A special service on 21<sup>st</sup> June had been well received and followed by a churchyard ecological survey when an exciting number of different species of flora and fauna were found.

Enviroability had offered to make bird nesting boxes and wildlife signs.

Proposed: Rosie Winyard      Seconded: Roy Milnes      unanimous

**It was resolved accept an offer from Enviroability to make bird nesting boxes and hand painted signs explaining that parts of the open churchyard were being left uncut for wildlife.**

Rosie and John Setchfield would agree locations and fixings.

- ii. to begin to think about ways of reducing our carbon emissions

Rosie was grateful to John Setchfield for his work on establishing the church's current carbon footprint which was quite high at 58 tonnes.

Already we are using energy efficient lighting, but it is a challenge to find other ways of reducing this figure. It is hoped to bring new proposals to the next meeting.

**9. Digital Ministry**

to receive a report from Mark Sanderson

Mark highlighted the need for a fixed camera (as opposed to tripods and iPads) in order to get a better quality of picture and stop the church looking like a film set when streaming services. The Treasurer pointed out that a donation for streaming equipment had been received and there was sufficient left to buy the required camera. Mark pointed out that this could be bought with an option to return it after 30 days if it was not suitable.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson      Seconded: Rosie Winyard      Unanimous

**It was resolved to purchase a camera for streaming at a cost of £600**

Mark added that we would need to consider cabling, another large expense, and additional screens, and would be looking at the best way to tackle this.

**10. Church Welcome**

to consider a welcoming presence in church whenever it is open

Rachel Lewis explained that there has been a marked increase in visitors in recent weeks and with the introduction of exhibitions in the church even more can be expected.

It was proposed to encourage other members of our church and the wider community, including the Friends of St Mary's and the Town Ambassadors to engage with offering a warm welcome to visitors.

An appeal would be in the newsletter and website for interested people to get in touch and members were urged to talk to their friends about getting involved in a very enjoyable and rewarding ministry.

A coffee morning would be arranged in church for interested people to find out more including a short tour of the church, details of where the kettle is kept other useful information!

**11. Finance**

- i to receive a report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

- ii to consider a letter from the Bishop and agree the Parish Share for 2022

The Treasurer pointed out that maintaining last year's this level of giving was unsustainable and we would need to draw on reserves if we were to pay the same amount. Members understood this.

Proposed: Peter Reynolds      Seconded: John Setchfield      12 in favour, 1 abstention

**It was resolved to keep the Parish Share at the 2021 level of £70,686**

- iii to authorise Bryan Jones as a signatory to the PCC's bank accounts

Proposed: Peter Reynolds      Seconded: Paul Mason      unanimous

**It was resolved to authorise Bryan Jones as a signatory to the PCC's bank accounts**

- iv to consider ways of increasing giving

The Vice Chairman began the discussion by suggesting that we might look ways of saving money in order to reduce our deficit by finding more efficient ways of doing things, looking at the fuel we use for heating or whether we still need to print full orders of service each week instead of using the red books. The Finance Group would consider this and report back to the next meeting.

There was discussion concerning the forthcoming stewardship campaign. A cheese & wine evening to thank those who already give and explain why their giving is so important would take place in September, followed by a Stewardship Sunday with a Q&A session with the Rector and the Treasurer at all services on that day.

It was agreed that the Stewardship Campaign must be very carefully planned.

Further topics included:

- Targeting whole town, not just the congregations
- Draft letters from the Treasurer and the Rector to be considered at the next meeting
- people who use the church e.g. the Choral Society audiences and members should be included
- a Legacy Campaign encouraging legacies for general purpose funds
- a simple pull up banner asking for money
- involving Friends of St Mary's
- should "time" be included as well as money?

**12. St Mary's Church building**

- i. to receive a final report from John Setchfield on the refurbishment  
The refurbishment and the floodlighting are complete except for minor work to rectify the automatic doors in the rain.  
Thanks were expressed to the Friends for the flood lighting, especially the late John Taylor, Ashley Letts and Mark Sanderson.

- ii. to appoint Richard Lamb as architect for the forthcoming quinquennial inspection

Proposed: Peter Reynolds      Seconded: Bryan Jones      unanimous

**It was resolved to appoint Richard Lamb as architect for the forthcoming quinquennial inspection.**

- iii. to receive an update on progress of the proposed photographic backdrop to the high altar from Mark Sanderson  
The backdrop would cost £250 to be paid for by the Friend of St Mary's. John Setchfield was waiting for permission from the Archdeacon although it was felt that this should not be necessary as the backdrop is not going to be fixed permanently.
- iv. to consider a request from Paul Symonds (councillor) to allow a platform for any passing peregrine falcon to nest on  
Views of members ranged from being very much for this to it being a terrible idea!  
It was agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting by which time more information could be obtained in order to make a properly informed decision.
- v. to consider an offer to provide a defibrillator for the church  
Proposed: Peter Reynolds    Seconded: Roy Milnes                      unanimous  
**It was resolved to accept the kind offer of a defibrillator for the church and authorise the churchwardens to arrange a suitable site and the necessary permissions.**

### 13. St Mary's Hall

to receive a report from Peter Reynolds  
The report was noted. Since it had been written, the formal lease with Turning Point for the office suite upstairs had been signed.

### 14. Brampton Abbots School

- i. to note and accept the resignations of Peter Jenkins and Keith Richards as Foundation Governors at Brampton Abbots school  
  
This was noted.
- ii. to nominate the Revd Tiffany Jackson to become Foundation Governor  
Proposed: Peter Reynolds    Seconded: Paul Mason                      unanimous  
**It was resolved to appoint the Revd Tiffany Jackson as a Foundation Governor at Brampton Abbots Primary School.**

### 15. Fundraising & Social Committee

to receive a report from the Fundraising Committee  
A comprehensive report of planned events had been circulated and was noted, beginning with various exhibitions in church, a walk in August, Saturday coffee mornings from September and a Christmas Tree Festival in November. A community flower festival was also being planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

### 16. Clergy Covenant

to adopt the Clergy Covenant set out by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

Proposed: Peter Reynolds                      Seconded: Roy Milnes                      unanimous

**It was resolved to adopt the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing on behalf of the congregations of St Marys.**

It was agreed to put details of the Covenant in the Newsletter and on the website for parishioners. It was further agreed to meet informally on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm in the church to consider how best to fulfil our obligations.

**17. Safeguarding**

to receive a report and agree any actions arising from it

The report was noted.

Members asked the secretary to obtain a copy of the action plan and circulate it to members.

**18. Health and Safety**

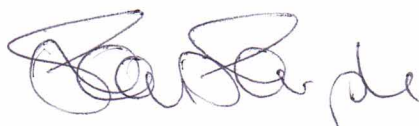
to consider and agree any actions required

Nothing to report

**19. Date of next meeting**

the next will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting ended with the Grace at 9.15pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Sample', written in a cursive style.