



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
at 7.00pm via Zoom

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

### 1. **Opening prayers**

Tiffany opened the meeting by leading a prayer called Labour of Community. She explained that prayer can continue during the meeting and if, at any time, anyone felt the need, they could display the praying hands symbol on their computer screen.

### 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Sean Semple and Caroline Pascoe.

### 3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved to be signed by the Vice Chairman.

### 4. **Safeguarding**

There was nothing to report.

### 5. **Rector's Report**

The Rector had submitted a report prior to the meeting.

The Vice Chairman highlighted three things – the opportunity to pray throughout the meeting, his hope that everyone was onboard with the vision and three points we should consider when making decisions, i.e.

- Is what we are thinking of Christian?
- Is it in line with our vision?
- Who benefits?

Since writing the report, the Ministry Team were excited by the theme of Justice for our Lenten focus, a theme being embraced by the CofE this year. Members were asked their views and those who spoke were very positive.

A suggestion that there was much material from the Iona Community on this theme was made.

It was also noted that a lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is lobbying Parliament on the changes to the benefit system, showed that injustice needs to be tackled not just talked about.

Freda asked that anyone else let the Ministry Team know of their opinions.

**6 Vision Day 2022**

This year's Vision Day takes a different approach to previous ones. It will be considering the process of what we are doing rather than agreeing what we should do.

Using photographs submitted by the congregations, we will be led by the Revd Steve Radley. Photos with a short caption, relating to inspiring faith, hope and love can be submitted – full details are on the website - and members are encouraged to get as many members of the church to attend as possible.

**7 Deanery Report**

An important consultation will be taking place soon regarding the provision of clergy in our deanery.

60% of the population of the deanery lives in the parish of Ross

Nearly 50% of the income to the diocese from the deanery comes from Ross

10 parishes give less than £5,000, 2 give more than £17,000

6 full time clergy are employed in the deanery but we are only paying for 4.5 clergy.

How do we provide clergy for all in our deanery?

It is important that we all engage in this consultation.

**8 "Let's talk about death"**

Thanks to the work of the Bereavement Group, St Mary's has been recognised as a bereavement friendly church with many activities taking place to support the bereaved.

The group is planning an information morning on 26<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 12 noon. A

"game" using cards called Grave Talk will be used as an icebreaker, followed by a session with a panel of professionals (e.g. funeral directors, St Michael's Hospice, Marie Curie, solicitor).

**9 Community Hub**

Following the last meeting, there was concern that the PCC were not sufficiently enthused about the use of the church as a Community Hub. Clarification as to what was required was requested – it is purely a signposting service – direct help cannot be given to those in need but anyone in need who drops in can be shown where they can get appropriate help.

It was added that in no circumstances should anyone be given money by volunteers.

In addition, our toilets can be available when there is a welcomer on duty and it may be possible to provide tea or coffee if necessary. A list of telephone numbers, leaflets from various organisations offering help and a computer with access to the WISH website would be required. The grant available would cover the cost of these things as well as training for volunteers.

It was agreed that this fell within our vision to inspire hope and love to those in need.

Concerns were expressed about whether our church welcomers, most of whom were nearer 80 than 70, would be comfortable taking on the role of Community Hub Volunteers.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson      Seconded: Janet Cooper      unanimous

**It was resolved to apply to become a Talk Community Hub, including applying for a grant.**

**\* As part of the discussion, the PCC was reminded that there should always be a second door unlocked when the church is manned to allow an alternative exit in the event of an emergency blocking the main entrance. This should be the chancel door.**

*Due to Roy's unstable internet connection the Finance Report would be considered after the Church Building Report.*

**11 St Mary's Church building and churchyard**

i to receive a report on the tree survey in the open churchyard – JS

There are 91 trees in the closed churchyard of which only 9 need attention.

We have the best example of a Silver Pendant Lime Tree in the county and 27 different species of tree. John will obtain a quotation for the work required.

ii to consider planning for the electrical work in the church – JS

The electrician will carry out the electrical inspection and sort out the lights at a cost of £380 + VAT, the date to be advised.

iii to make a decision on the installation of a defibrillator for the church - JS

A donation given for this will more than cover the cost of a defibrillator for the church.

Following discussion on the location, it was agreed that rather than keep the defibrillator in the porch where it would be inaccessible if the church was locked, it should be put on the wall next to the Community Larder where it would be under cover and available to more people.

iv to discuss requirements for audio/visual equipment – MS

There are three aspects of this, all of which are important and will continue to be so in the future.

- **Streaming** continues to play an important role, especially for funerals but also for the few who are still uncomfortable attending church. While numbers have gone down for regular Sunday services, when things go wrong, someone always asks what has happened.

- **Audio equipment** (including hearing loop) still presents problems. A new lapel mic has been bought to replace the faulty one used this last Sunday.

Recently there have been several users who have not been heard (the Bishop being one) and it was felt that we should consider replacing the whole system. There is also a problem with the hearing loop which has not worked for some time.

- **Visual equipment** needs extending. The two existing screens cannot be seen by everyone. Visuals are likely to be used more and more so again this will help to set us up for the future.

Mark has uploaded a further document to the members page of the website (under January 22 meeting documents) and asked for everyone to read it and make comments to him (please copy in Rachel). He is also meeting with another contractor this week.

The treasurer pointed out that we have £6,400 in a restricted fund for P.A. equipment. The Friends of St Mary's are also keen to help out with this project. It was further suggested that we have specific fund raising for this.

v to note that work has been done on the lightning conductor – BJ noted

**10 Finance Report**

to receive and note a report from the Treasurer

The Vice Chairman began by thanking Roy for all his work.

i) The report including an addendum and the income and expenditure account and balance sheet for 2021 was noted and the treasurer reported that the shortfall on general expenses for the year was £8,000, far less than anticipated. This was partly due to the fundraising (Nick and Janet's walk and the Christmas Tree Festival).

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: John Setchfield

unanimous

**It was resolved that the accounts for 2021 be submitted for audit.**

- ii) £4,000 is available for the 2021 Christian Giving.

Proposed: John Setchfield

Seconded: Paul Cummings

unanimous

**It was resolved to give a total of the £4,000 divided between the following charities:**

Ross Community Development Trust	£600
Children's Society	£600
Barnabas Fund	£600
Kisiki College, Namutumba	£600
Embrace the Middle East (Lebanon fund)	£600
Society of Martha and Mary, Sheldon	£600
Enviroability	£400

- iii) The shredder in the office needs replacing.

Proposed: John Setchfield

Seconded: Tim Waters

unanimous

**It was resolved to replace the shredder in the office at a cost of £139.**

The new accounting software was a huge improvement.

The Finance Group (Roy, Paul Cummings, Paul Eward, Paul Mason, Tim and John) would now meet regularly.

A budget would be drawn up for the coming year.

## 12 St Mary's Hall

to agree a way forward to collect the rent due for the office in the hall (rent due from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021)

Peter reported that there had still been no payment with two quarterly payments overdue and the third now due. It was agreed to persist with requests for payment and if nothing was paid within the next two weeks, a solicitor's letter would be sent.

## 13 Fundraising & Social Committee

to receive and note a report from the Fundraising Committee

The report was noted. Included was a request for £110 to print cards depicting a watercolour of St Mary's donated to the church.

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

unanimous

**It was resolved to spend £110 on printing 1,000 cards (with envelopes) for sale in church and at events.**

## 14 Date of next meeting

the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.00pm

A Parish Vision Day will take place on Saturday 22nd January 2022, 10.15am to 2.00pm

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.30pm.