



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Wednesday 9th March 2022**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

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

1. Opening prayers

Sean opened the meeting by leading a responsorial prayer for the people of Ukraine.

2. Closed Churchyard

Councillor Rob Taylor had nothing to report.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Roy Milnes, Freda Davies, Paul Mason and Caroline Pascoe.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of 12th January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Safeguarding

There was nothing to report.

6. Finance Report

i to receive a report from the Treasurer
The report was noted.

ii to consider a report on bequests and agree to start the process of winding up the bequests

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous

It was resolved to start the process of winding up the bequests described in the document submitted by the Treasurer.

iii to agree the draft budget
The draft budget was considered but needs further work*.
A request was made for a clear summary of the budget.
The budget will be brought back to the next meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the deficit and how it can be addressed. Members suggested both a review of expenses, (Parish Share, colour printing, amount of heating) as well as the need for increasing our income for consideration. A further campaign to increase giving was

felt necessary and a group consisting of John Setchfield, Paul Cummings, Mark Sanderson and Peter Reynolds was formed to consider the best way forward. It was further suggested that the Rector ask a carefully worded question of the BBC Any Questions Panel when they visit Ross Church regarding the funding of parish churches which would bring our plight to the attention of the media, both nationally and locally.

**Following the meeting it was discovered that the budget circulated was only a first draft and that the Treasurer was awaiting further information before being able to complete it.*

iv to approve the Financial Statements and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 for recommendation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting subject to receipt of the Independent Examiner's approval

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Bryan Jones

unanimous

It was resolved to approve the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 with three minor amendments:

Page 1 - change 31st December 2020 to 31st December 2021 at the top of the page;

Page 2 - Achievements and Performance, first sentence of second paragraph to be changed to "Toast and Toddle, LEAF and Messy Church (which has begun to bring its work to Sunday services from time to time) have continued both online during lockdowns and in person following the easing of restrictions while work in the schools has been severely restricted due to the pandemic; and

Pages 8 and 9 - insert commas (where figures are greater than £999) in 2021 total funds' columns.

7 St Mary's Church building and churchyard

i to receive an update on the tree work in the open churchyard

One tree was lost in the recent storms and has been removed. There has been no further progress on other tree work.

There has been an issue of fly tipping of garden waste in the churchyard from a nearby garden. The churchwardens will write to the offender asking them to stop.

ii to receive progress report on the installation of the defibrillator

The defibrillator is waiting to be ordered and will now be attached to the noticeboard outside the church

iii to await the outcome of a working group which is now considering the streaming and AV systems and note that the Friends of St Mary's have agreed £10,000 towards the cost of a new sound system.

A report was circulated outlining details of the two quotes received. Further to this, funding for the streaming has been offered by the son of Peter Thacker, a former church warden. Mark and Freda have been looking at possible grant funding for the screen and projector.

iv to note the installation of the new Rectors display boards

The Rector congratulated Mark on the excellent new Rector's display boards on the side of the clergy vestry. Mark then explained a further project which is the enlargement of the nave platform (see circulated plan on website). Funding has been found (in memory of Peter Thacker) and it will have an oak floor and cover the area from the chancel, up to the outer edge of the first pair of pillars. Kevin Bonehill, a local craftsman, has been consulted (as requested by Philip Thacker).

8 Inspiring Hope

i Platinum Jubilee Plans (summary on website)

to receive a summary of discussion from the Working Party

Paul Cummings referred to the summary of events taking place which was coming together well.

- An additional screening of the coronation in 1953 will take place on the Wednesday in conjunction with Flicks in the sticks.
- The Wye Valley River Festival comes through Ross on the Saturday and will be organising activities around the church.
- A grant of £1,000 has been applied for from the Town Council.
- Co-ordinators are still needed for the children's party and the Tea Dance.

ii Community Hub

to receive a report on the progress of St Mary's Community Hub

- The grant application for £2,500 to Herefordshire Council has been submitted for the seed funding to cover publicity and training.
- It is intended to write to those who do the church welcome to offer them training if they wish to be involved.

9 Inspiring Love

i to receive a verbal report on plans for eco events in 2022

Rosie explained that the group had not met for a while and that progress was difficult with a limited number of people.

- To achieve a Gold Award we have to start again with filling in questionnaires. We are also hoping to complete an eco survey. John Setchfield is checking our gas usage.
- Heather Hurley is carrying out a historical event in the churchyard on 15th June and work is being done with pupils from Ashfield Park School including an exhibition in the church.
- The Rector added that two beehives are to be installed in the Rectory garden – surplus honey can be sold for the church (Bee Blessed).
- The Rector has also received an email from Father Richard Williams of Hay-on-Wye regarding a River Pilgrimage of the Blessed Virgin Mary to raise awareness of the pollution in the River Wye. A sculpture of the BVM would be floated down the Wye from Hay to Monmouth and would arrive in Ross on Thursday 18th August. A procession and service may be possible – to be considered at the next meeting.

ii to note that having explored the possibility of installing solar panels, it is not feasible – noted

10 Fund raising

i to note that support is vital for fundraising events, especially the Promise Auction on 2nd April, the proceeds of which will go towards the new sound/video/steaming systems.

Members were urged to seek promises as soon as possible – noted

ii to guarantee a sum of £2,500 to cover the initial cost of the flower festival to be held 26th to 29th August

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: Janet Cooper

unanimous

It was resolved to guarantee £2,500 to cover the initial cost of the flower festival.

11 St Mary's Hall

to note that the rent arrears for the office in the hall have now been cleared and talks are ongoing on getting the lease signed – noted.

12 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary actions – there was nothing to report

Ukraine

A motion to bring forward a quarter of our anticipated charitable giving for 2022 in order to make a payment to the Disaster Emergency Committee had been made.

Proposed: Paul Eward

Seconded: Peter Reynolds

unanimous

It was resolved to make a payment of £1,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee for aid to Ukraine as soon as possible.

Discussion continued about the situation in Ukraine and ways in which we could help.

The Diocese is not co-ordinating any work but recommends supporting local initiatives. It is important that anything we do is both accountable and sustainable.

Prayers are being offered in church on Thursdays between 5 and 6pm.

The Fund Raising group had already planned an organ recital for 30th April with the organist of the Lutheran Church in Dnipro before the troubles started. It is hoped that this will still go ahead and proceeds go to Ukraine rather than church funds as originally intended.

13 Date of next meeting

to note the APCM will take place on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8.45pm.

Tiffany M. John

8/6/22