

- ii to ratify decisions made by the Standing Committee since the last meeting
 - a to purchase 100 sets of crockery and cutlery and purchase additional glasses.
 - b to purchase additional tables and a table trolley for the church
 - c to go ahead with the lighting repairs (see report, item #13ii for full details)
 - d to purchase a new humidifier for the organ at a cost of £3557

Proposed: Peter Reynolds Seconded: Gerald Altree unanimous

It **was resolved** to ratify four decisions by the Standing Committee

7 Rector's Report

The Rector gave a verbal report.

There is ongoing work by a group from the benefice being undertaken on ways to find ministerial assistance which will be vital as clergy and lay reader assistance is reduced.

There are lay people currently undertaking training to lead services.

Talks are taking place with John Kyrle High School on the possibility of creating a part-time chaplaincy at the school.

A closer working relationship with our benefice PCCs would be beneficial to us all. Brampton Abbotts PCC is inviting our PCC to a barbecue in the summer and Walford is hosting an event on 6th November in Walford Church to work together in a joined up way, e.g. planning the events calendar and discretionary fees.

In open discussion, the Ministry Team were thanked for their continuing work – resulting last Sunday with a congregation of 123.

It was suggested that we reinstate the welcomers outside the church before the 9.30am service.

8 Finance Report

- i to receive a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary action

A report from the Treasurer was received and noted. A summary of the year's financial position was given and the following proposals were made:

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Janet Cooper unanimous

It **was resolved** to submit the 2022 accounts for audit in due course.

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Gerald Altree 15 for 1 abstention (Mark Sanderson)

It **was resolved** to offer an increase of 9.9% in the remuneration paid to the Director of Music and the Organist for 2023.

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous

It **was resolved** to accept the transfer of the assets and responsibilities of the Hannah Purchas for the Poor Fund, subject to Charity Commission approval.

A proposal to transfer the account from National Westminster Bank to Lloyds Bank was abandoned.

- ii to receive a report on the giving campaign

Thanks was given to Mark who has been a driving force behind the campaign.

A letter showing the results has been sent to all givers *copy attached to minutes.

A thank you evening will take place on Saturday 25th February (with cheese & wine which is being donated for the occasion).

- iii to note receipt of an energy costs grant

A grant of £6,150 was received via the diocese from the Archbishops Council to go towards energy costs. The secretary will write a letter of thanks.

9 Inspiring Hope

to receive a report on the Warm Spaces initiative and proposed Community Hub, the Coronation, Remembrance and the CDT.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous

It was resolved to return the Herefordshire Council Grant of just under £2,500 for a Community Hub.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Roy Milnes unanimous

It was resolved not to accept the warm spaces award of £200 due to lack of take up from the community

It was agreed that it was good that we had responded positively to both these initiatives but it has been proved there is no current need for either.

Should a need arise in the future, we will be in a position to put plans into action again. In the meantime, Paul and Fay will continue to attend the warm space in the hall on a Thursday where two regulars come for the morning. They will keep it under review.

10 Inspiring Faith

to receive an update from the Inspiring Faith Portfolio Convener (Peter)

Peter gave a verbal update. Work has been kept going by the Ministry Team and by volunteers, particularly with Toast & Toddle, Messy Church and the Youth Choir and we are beginning to see parents and families attending the 9.30 service on a regular basis. There are also three new attendees at the 8am service.

Open the Book has resumed in Brampton Abbots, Walford and Ashfield Park Primary schools and either clergy or OTB visit both Brampton Abbots and Walford every week.

Classes from Ashfield Park recently visited the church as part of their curriculum studies. Paul Mason suggested a working group be set up to put a curriculum package of materials together which volunteers can use with schools when needed.

11 Inspiring Love

to receive a report from the Inspiring Love Portfolio Convener

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted.

Rosie would continue with eco church and with both Melanie and Julian's backgrounds in learning disabilities, it was hoped to work more closely with Enviroability. A meeting was taking place this week.

12 Policies

i to approve the draft Venue Hire Policy, Conditions of Hire and Venue Hire Agreement

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous

It was resolved to adopt the draft Venue Hire Policy, Conditions of Hire and Venue Hire Agreement with new hire charges (as amended by the meeting) to take effect from 1st April for existing bookings and immediately for new ones.

ii to approve a Lone Working Policy

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to adopt the Lone Working Policy.

This will be sent out to all "lone workers".

13 St Mary's Church building and churchyard

i to receive a progress report on the installation of the defibrillator

Slow progress is being made. Roy Milnes reported that the First Responders were also able to help.

ii to receive a report on the lighting

The new lighting is a vast improvement, not only by being more efficient but the added colour changers give scope for all sorts of effects as well as providing a much better white light.

Thanks was given to Mark Sanderson for his work on this.

mg

14 St Mary's Hall

to receive a report from the Hall Committee and take any necessary actions

It was noted that the tenant of the upstairs office suite had given notice and would be leaving on 31st January. There was discussion on the suitable use of all the upstairs rooms, bearing in mind that currently the energy performance is very poor in spite of the roof insulation and an EPC would be required for letting as an office from 1st April.

It was agreed that the Hall Committee would explore the possibilities and report back to the next meeting.

15 Fundraising & Social Committee

to receive a report from the Fundraising Committee

A report was noted. The recent Come and Sing had been a resounding success both socially and financially. It was agreed to invite Brampton Abbots and Walford to the next one on Palm Sunday (2nd April).

A talent campaign will be launched for Lent where members of the congregations will be invited to accept £10 from the church and grow it during Lent, to be returned with profits at Easter.

16 Kitchen Equipment and tables

- i to note recommendations from the working group on improvements to the kitchen facilities, in particular, the need for separate equipment to that used in the hall
 - ii to note with thanks that Colin Leggate has undertaken a food hygiene course, a requisite for one person working in a kitchen where food is sold
 - ii to note the purchase 100 sets of crockery and cutlery and purchase additional glasses.
 - iv to note to purchase additional tables and the table trolley for the church
- All noted.

17 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary actions

The old wooden step ladder kept in the hall was dangerous and has been destroyed. A new one is being purchased.

18 Dates to note

The following dates were noted:

25th February 2023, 7pm, Giving Cheese & Wine Evening now

28th January 2023, 10am – 3pm, Parish Vision Day

19 Date of APCM

The APCM will take place on Tuesday 16th May

Annual reports for the year up to 31st December 2022 will need to be prepared well before this date.

20 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st March 2023

Further consideration of the day on which PCC meetings take place be given by the new PCC following the APCM.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.50pm

* Letter sent to all those who responded to the giving campaign

Dear Friend,

We wanted to bring you some good news from our recent campaign.

At the end of September, we wrote to you as we launched.

We contacted:

- **72 regular givers** to our church to ask them to consider:
 - an increase in giving of up to 20%,
 - a switch to the [Parish Giving Scheme \(PGS\)](#) if not already using it,
 - making their donation inflation proof by *index linking* their giving and using *Gift Aid* if able to do so.

We also wrote to:

- **98 members of our congregations who don't currently give to St Mary's on a planned regular basis** to ask them to consider:
 - giving to St Mary's regularly (and offered the real-world example of £75 as the average monthly donation),
 - doing this through the [Parish Giving Scheme](#),
 - making their gift *inflation proof*, and to use *Gift Aid* where possible.

We have now compared giving levels in December 2022 with December 2021. This is how you've responded:

- **The total given via PGS in December 2022 has increased by 22%** – that's an increase of £1135 to £5154 per month. **That is what we asked for!**
- **12 more people give via PGS** – 66 people now give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)
- **6 people have made their donation inflation proof** – that's now 37 of the total of 72 givers

We'd like to thank you for your part in this, and we'd like you to share with us in celebrating what we consider to be a successful campaign.

Thank you for your continuing support for and confidence in St Mary's. If you have been unable to revise your giving at this time, please accept our thanks for considering it and be assured that the most important gift you can give is that of yourself.

By way of a celebration and a "thank you" for all you give, we'd like to invite you to a cheese and wine evening in St Mary's on **Saturday 25th February at 7.30**. RSVP: https://bit.ly/CheeseAndWineRSVP_or_01989_562175.

Please be assured that no church money is being used for this evening; the wine and the cheese have been donated privately.

With kind regards, and on behalf of all at St Mary's.

Paul Eward – Giving Secretary
Roy Milnes – PCC Treasurer
Sean Semple – Rector