



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Tuesday 21st March 2023**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Hall

Present: Tiffany Jackson (Chairman), Sean Semple, Anne Morris, Gerald Altree, Janet Cooper, John Setchfield, Julian Hallett, Mark Sanderson, Paul Cummings, Paul Eward, Paul Mason, Peter Reynolds, Rachel Lewis, Rosie Winyard and Roy Milnes. Judith Wiggins left at 7.18pm

1 **Opening prayers**

Tiffany opened the meeting with prayers and a bible reading from Exodus 2.

2 **Closed Churchyard**

Cllr Taylor sent his apologies and but had sent brief notes

- The Council had undertaken a small repair on the tower path but most is still in its damaged state. Balfour Beatty say it does not need any work but the Town Council agrees with the PCC that it does. Cllr Taylor is pursuing it. However, if unsuccessful, the Town Council is responsible for the upkeep of the paths.
- The Town Council is aware that a coping stone on the Church Street wall needs replacing.
- No more news on the Covid Memorial Bench yet.

3 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Freda Davies, Bryan Jones and Melanie Mellor.

4 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of 17th January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5 **Safeguarding - Judith Wiggins spoke to the meeting.**

to receive an update and take any necessary action on any safeguarding matter

- There are still one or two PCC members who need to do C1 safeguarding training.
- There are one or two outstanding items on the Action Plan to complete but we are well ahead
- The process of checking names of helpers is being carried out. It was noted that the Diocese is very slow in checking DBS applications.
- New volunteers are needed for help with pastoral care. Role descriptions, and the process of interviews, referencing and induction days are now being considered by the Rector and Safeguarding Officer. This will be followed by DBS and Safeguarding training.
- There is a huge amount of work involved and Sean thanked Judith for all she is doing.

6 **Standing Committee Report**

It was noted that:

- i. the Standing Committee met on 30th January and 6th March
- ii. decisions were made to approve the use of the hall by U3A and Pendeen Surgery Patient Participation Group

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- iii. a decision was made to approve the free use of the church by Ross Choristers for a concert for which the proceeds would be split between Ukraine charities and St Mary's

7 Inclusive Church – Same-sex unions

Proposed: Sean Semple Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous

It was resolved to approve the following statement:

“St Mary’s PCC welcomes the recent decision of the Church of England’s General Synod to provide prayers to bless same-sex unions in church, and when these prayers are available supports their use in the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye”.

8 Life-link Chaplain

to receive a report from Paul Mason

The report had been circulated and a further presentation was given by Mark Sanderson. There were plenty of questions which were answered by Paul, Mark and Caroline.

Following a good discussion four resolutions were made.

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Julian Hallett unanimous

It was resolved in principle to support the project of a Life-Link chaplaincy

Proposed: Peter Reynolds Seconded: Janet Cooper unanimous

It was resolved in principle that either a part of the PCC’s share of the curate’s house or reserves be lodged as collateral

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Paul Mason unanimous

It was resolved in principle to commit to act as the employer of the chaplain, with all the ensuing HR responsibilities

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Janet Cooper unanimous

It was resolved in principle to underwrite the costs of the project, provided that 60% funding can be sourced from TR funds and deanery parishes which will be approached for a contribution to the remaining 40%

It was agreed that the PCC will need to meet in early June to agree the next stage.

The Rector thanked the working group for all their work.

9 Finance Report

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

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Rosie Winyard unanimous

It was resolved to approve the accounts and authorise the Chairman of the PCC to sign them.

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Gerald Atree unanimous

It was resolved to approve the draft budget for 2023.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous

It was resolved to approve the Contract of Employment for the administrator (as circulated) and authorise the Rector to sign it.

Proposed: Rosie Winyard Seconded: Roy Milnes unanimous

It was resolved to authorise the Rector to act for the PCC on any matters arising at short notice under the administrator’s Contract of Employment.

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous

It was resolved to confirm the appointment of Roy Milnes as correspondent with Herefordshire Council for the Lottery Licence

10 Inspiring Hope

to receive a report on the Warm Spaces initiative

Paul Cummings reported that between three and five people come on a Thursday and some others are expressing interest. In reality this has never been about a warm space - in part as the Hall is not warm. However, it has proved a useful way of extending the hand of fellowship to a few men that are in something of a chaotic wilderness. They appear enthused and are now appearing ahead of opening time offering to help put up tables etc. Those attending choose films to watch. Thanks to Len Paul whose help is much appreciated.

Although it is costly in terms of time and hall use, Paul would like to see it continue for the foreseeable future as it provides a real tangible outreach activity for St Mary's.

11 Inspiring Love

i. to receive a verbal report from Julian on work with Enviroability

Melanie and Julian had met up with members of the Enviroability team in the church and were considering ways of getting the church membership involved in Leisure Link, which provides opportunities for Enviroability service users and others to join together for evening social and leisure activities.

ii. to receive a report from Rosie on Eco Church

We continue to strive for a gold award with some sections well on the way but more work to do in the buildings section.

The Environment Day service will be on Sunday 4th June and include a talk with Yolande Watson, Herefordshire County Councillor and also an expert in hedgehog conservation. Children's work to link in-Rosie to discuss activities with Caroline to be used in. It is hoped to link in Messy church and incorporate the hedgehog trail and expansion to the churchyard.

Enviroability will make up some hedgehog boxes so the trail can be extended outside.

Friends of St Mary's Open Gardens takes place that weekend and Enviroability hope to sell bird seed and bird boxes in the church/churchyard over the weekend.

Rosie referenced the book "Sarn Helen" by Tom Bullough as inspiring reading on climate change and action. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/feb/15/sarn-helen-by-tom-bullough-review-notes-from-a-small-country>

12 St Mary's Church churchyard and building

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

John Setchfield reported that the Archdeacon had given permission for the defibrillator to be put up on the side of the notice board and it had now been purchased. It should be installed by the next meeting.

ii A lime tree had come down in recent gales, blocking the pathway from Old Maids Walk to the church. A contractor had cleared the tree at a cost of £1,800 immediately, allowing that day's funeral to take place in church! The Rector's sons will be using their talents of splitting logs and selling them to parishioners for the talent scheme.

iii On Monday 8th May (volunteer day), the Churchyard Angels will be having a volunteering day in the open churchyard. All welcome to come with garden tools.

iv. A report had been circulated by Mark on the possible installation of a projector and screen in the church. It was noted that there could be grant funding available towards the costs, including a dementia grant and money from the Friends of St Mary's.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Sean Semple unanimous

It was resolved to agree in principle to install a screen and projector in the church (subject to funding) and apply for a faculty for this work.

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13 St Mary's Hall

Peter Reynolds reported that since the last meeting, Turning Point had changed their minds and wished to renew their lease. A new five year lease has been drawn up and Turning Point appear to be content with this.

While the rental of £800 per quarter may not be a full market rent, the new provisions allow us to charge them for their electricity usage and a proportion of our insurance, water and fire prevention expenses.

It is hoped to get the lease signed by 1 April.

14 Fundraising & Social Committee

- i. to share plans for the Coronation Weekend
 - A report listing the events planned had been circulated.
It was agreed to apply for a £100 street party grant from the Town Council for the church street party which will follow the service of celebration on the Sunday
 - It is hoped that a projector might be purchased (but not fixed) before the Sunday evening Windsor Concert and used with the large screen (currently in the south porch).
 - A card was being prepared to send to the King with a pastel watercolour of the Market House by David Hughes to be signed by as many in the town as wish to sign it (using loose leaf pages as in the book of condolence for the Queen).
- ii. to note other fundraising activities currently taking place
 - A list of events to the end of the year had been circulated.
 - The Talents scheme has taken off with lots of initiatives taking place including sales after church on next two Sundays and at next coffee morning
 - The last chance to book supper on Palm Sunday is on Sunday 26th March.

15 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary actions
It was noted that the new ladder has now been purchased.

16 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting is the APCM on Tuesday 16th May at 7pm in church with wine being served from 6.40pm. A short meeting will follow for the new PCC.

The meeting closed with prayers at 9.09pm

Zaffery Jm 26/6/23