



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Tuesday 16th January 2024**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Hall

Present: Sean Semple (Chairman), Bryan Jones, Mark Sanderson, Roy Milnes, Anne Morris, Melanie Mellor, Gerald Altree, Janet Cooper, Paul Cummings, Freda Davies, Philip Dazeley, Julian Hallett, Rachel Lewis, Mike Donovan

1 Opening prayers

Sean opened the meeting with a reading from St Mark, chapter 9.

2 Closed Churchyard

Councillor Rob Taylor sent his apologies.

The Town Council is concerned about the number of cars using the churchyard and would like to fit a combination lock to one of the pair of gates at Old Maids Walk. The other gates would remain open for pedestrian and wheelchair access. The lock number would be available to all regular users and the gate would be opened at service times.

Concern was expressed over access for the disabled, particularly when wanting to visit the church outside service times. It would be an inconvenience to all users but there is unauthorised parking in the churchyard and the Council is concerned about damage to both the new tarmac and the grass verges.

Following a vote with 8 members in favour of the Council fitting a combination lock and 4 members against, it was agreed to offer support to the Council in this matter.

3 Youth Report

to receive a report from Tyron, our Youth Representative

As Tyron was not in attendance it was decided to include any future reports on Youth within the Inspiring Faith Portfolio.

4 Apologies

to receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Caroline Pascoe, Paul Eward, Peter Reynolds and Rosie Winyard.

5 Minutes of the last meeting

to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023
The minutes of 21st November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6 Safeguarding

- i. to receive an update and take any necessary action on any safeguarding matter
Judith reported the action plan was up to date. There are several DBS renewals in the system but are being held up through huge delays with the DBS officer in Hereford.
Paul Cummings expressed thanks to Judith for coming and for having brought us up to the standard we have achieved.

Proposed: Melanie Meilor Seconded: Julian Hallett unanimous
It was resolved to approve the Safeguarding Action Plan as presented by the Safeguarding Officer.

ii. to receive an update on training
 One PCC member needs to complete C1 training

iii. to add the Arts Society to the list of agreed users of church premises

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous
It was resolved to add the Arts Society to the list of users of church premises.

Judith Wiggins left the meeting at 7.27pm.

7 Prayers of Faith and Love

to accept a proposal that the PCC of St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye supports the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith in existing services of the Benefice of Ross with Walford and Brampton Abbots

Proposed: Sean Semple Seconded: Freda Davies unanimous
It was resolved to support the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith in existing services of the Benefice of Ross with Walford and Brampton Abbots

8 Rector's Report

The Rector reported on the following:

- i. Christmas 2023 Services
 Sean circulated figures for the services over Christmas which showed an increase in attendees. Particularly successful were the Carols under the Spire which attracted 225 people over the two evenings.
- ii. New Administrator
 Our new benefice Administrator is Mrs Rachael Daniel who began work on the 2.1.2024. Rachael has experience as a deputy practice manager of doctor's surgeries which will serve her well in her new role with us. The administrator's email continues to be administrator@rossparishes.uk and office hours are Monday – Thursday 9am to 2pm and Friday 12 noon to 5pm.
 On Lou's last day, a small tea party was held and she was presented with a plant and cash from the parish.
- iii. Vision Day
 This year, 17th February, 10am to 3pm, a day of discernment and planning. We will focus on "Consolidation and Confidence".
- iv. Year of Faith
 2024 has been designated as a Diocesan "Year of Faith" following last year's "Year of Prayer".

9 Bishop's Year of Faith

- i. to discuss briefly any thoughts members may have concerning the Bishop's video
 Members had listened to the conversation about the Year of Faith between the Cathedral Chancellor and the Bishop and Archdeacon. One member found it very useful. Another felt it lacked charisma. The conversation described the three year programme of prayer, faith and engagement leading to the 1350th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese in 2026. Several felt that our engagement with the community was already demonstrating our faith as a church but that we need to ensure that it is understood why we do what we do, i.e. it is God's way.
- ii. to note that the Bishop will be holding a teaching day in St Mary's on Saturday 11th May
 This was noted.

10 Benefice Administrator see item 8 ii.

11 Finance Report

- i. to receive a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary action
The report was noted. There were no questions for the treasurer.
- ii. to agree a budget for 2024

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to set the budget for 2024 as proposed by the treasurer

- iii. to authorise the treasurer to send the completed accounts for 2023 to the auditor

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Philip Dazeley unanimous

It was resolved to authorise the treasurer to send the completed accounts for 2023 to the auditor when they are finalised.

12 The Curate's House – Redwood Close

- i. to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation to decline an offer from the Diocese to buy the parish's share in the curate's house

Proposed: Bryan Jones Seconded: Freda Davies unanimous

It was resolved to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation to decline an offer from the Diocese to buy the parish's share in the curate's house.

- ii. to agree to request an updated agreement on the allocation of costs and income relating to the shared ownership between the PCC and Diocese of Hereford.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Bryan Jones unanimous

It was resolved to request an updated agreement on the allocation of costs and income relating to the shared ownership between the PCC and Diocese of Hereford.

13 Inspiring Faith

to receive a report on Inspiring Faith in Young People from Anne

The report from Anne was noted. Anne added that we will be running "Experience Easter" for schools and this year the scouts are to be invited one evening.

14 Churchwardens' report on St Mary's Church building and churchyard

- i. to receive a report on works required by the Quinquennial Report to the church building
Points were noted including a grant of 70% of cost of stonework from the Diocese. Quotes are being received (first one is £5,500) for the work.

A report is also being prepared from one of the stonemasons regarding repairs to the sanctuary floor.

- ii. to agree a Statement of need and significance for a faculty application for the proposed nave platform

Proposed: Freda Davies Seconded: Janet Cooper unanimous

It was resolved to accept the Statement of need and significance prepared by the churchwardens and send it with the Faculty Application for the proposed nave platform.

- iii. to receive a verbal report on possible closure of the open churchyard

A statement for the press and social media had been prepared by the churchwardens and checked by the Diocese. It was agreed this could now be circulated.

15 Fun, Food and Funds Committee

to receive and note a report from the Fundraising Committee.
This was noted.

16 Health & Safety

to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary action
There was nothing to report.

17 Dates to note

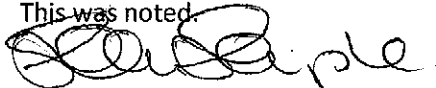
- Candlemas Come and Sing and Sup - 28th January 2024, 6pm, (4pm for singers)
- Benefice Vision Day - 17th February 2024, 10am – 3pm
- APCM - Tuesday 21st May, 7pm

The dates were noted.

18 Date of next Meeting

to note the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March 2024

This was noted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Sample', written over the text 'This was noted.'

19-3-2024

The meeting closed at 8.05pm