

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 11th September 2023**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Bill Marwick, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Caroline Watson, Mark Gurney, Lynn Haygarth, Miranda Armitage, Sylvia Walker, James Wright, Caroline Elston and Jan Copsey.

ACTION

Apologies: Peter Debney, Dawn Jenkins, Andy Rayment, Elspeth Holmes, and Debbie Walker.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Dawn Jenkins, Andy Rayment, Elspeth Holmes, Peter Debney and Debbie Walker.

3. Declaration of Interest

None.

4. Approval of PCC Minutes 17 07 2023

The minutes were then approved by the PCC as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Caroline Elston, seconded by Janet Munro, all were in favour.

5. Any Other business

An Item for Any Other Business was given at this point to be discussed at item 13.

6. Worship and discipleship for our three congregations – continuing discussion

A lengthy discussion ensued re the above subject. This was a continuation from the discussion started at the July PCC by Peter, in response to his presentation made and the paper he had emailed to the PCC prior to the meeting.

Some thought it might not be a good idea to put in more levels of leadership (one for each of the three congregations). Peter is present at all of these meetings and finds it hard to delegate. There are sometimes administrative tasks that could be delegated to people to relieve the pressure on Peter, that we are not aware of. James said the PCC needs to discern what is God's calling for the three congregations. Perhaps we need to grow our 10am congregation before we can resource other groups. James suggested starting by celebrating our festivals Harvest and Pentecost etc with our families. The discussion then centred around how we grow Messy Church and what happens when the children grow out of it. This has already been discussed among the young people's leaders and suggested that Pathfinders could possibly join with Messy Church on their Sunday afternoon. Are CYFA and Pathfinders another congregation and could they take part in the activities at All Saints and Christchurch? Both of these churches have youth leaders, and a greater number of children attend. Do we move the morning services to accommodate families so that Messy Church can stay on the second Sunday afternoon, or do we move Messy Church to a different afternoon? It was pointed out that moving services would be problematic. Moving the morning services would be difficult for the musicians and moving Messy Church would be difficult for those who go to Messy Church at Christchurch. It was therefore decided to leave the pattern of services as is and to put more energy in to Messy Church and to try to grow its leadership. It was also suggested that we need to make the three congregations more visible to each other and to include them in the morning prayers. Other suggestions were to change the second Sunday into a Café Church maybe with breakfast, or to have a Messy Church on a Sunday morning.

7. Living in Love and Faith

Peter informed PCC that the House of Bishops have produced some prayers for use in the

blessing of same sex marriage. This has not yet been accepted by the General Synod, but if it is accepted, PCCs in churches will have to decide where they stand on the issue. Peter will seek advice from Bishop Toby. Peter invited anyone that wanted, to discuss this with him individually.

8. Matters arising

The Clothing Sale

There are no leaders in place to run an October Sale in Church though some non-church people are still prepared to help out. Up to fifty people help per sale. It was agreed it would be a shame for St John's to lose the sale.

Action Point – Peter to speak to Jane Wearing.

PW

Open The Book

The team have had a meeting with Mandy Thorlby of Otley Christian Resources Hub. They have decided to run the assemblies once per month and have bookings up to Christmas including What's The Story of Christmas. Miranda suggested it would be a good idea if Open The Book could come into school to do the Easter Story as it is in danger of being lost. Could we offer an Easter assembly for children and parents?

Action Point – MA to speak to the new Headteacher of Ben Rhydding Primary School.

9. Sandy's role and Caretaker

Sandy has asked to retire as booking secretary after many years of sterling service. St John's has now advertised a ten-hour post for a caretaker to take on some of Sandy's duties plus other tasks as specified in the job description. Peter Willox, Caroline Watson and Dawn Jenkins will be on the interview panel.

Lisa King has offered to help with the administrative role of doing the bookings with the church administrator.

10. Reports

1. **Wardens and Standing Committee**

Sylvia asked if the £10K donation might be used on solar panels. Caroline W explained that it was a donation specifically for a person but that solar panels would still be looked at soon. It was noted that Tony Watson has been researching solar panel provision for some time and is currently waiting for someone to get in touch re acquiring a quote. Caroline E offered to start getting quotes.

2. **Finance Committee**

We are still without a Treasurer

Action Point – Peter to ask again in the notices.

PW

The budget is generally on track; St John's is paying its budgeted Share. Some hall hirers are behind on their payments. The PCC agreed unanimously by email in August that a deposit account be opened at the Skipton Building Society for church funds in order to gain a better rate of interest. Caroline W and JJ have now liaised over the current position of the finances.

3. **Property and maintenance**

The church floor, which has been sanded and sealed, will be finished on 12th September; the fabric has arrived for the chair re-covering; cleaning will take place Wednesday pm and Thursday and the chairs arrive on Friday 15th. Mark agreed to let the organ tuner into the vestry at 9.30am on Friday.

We have a current shortfall of £300 after the sale of pews on the seating project but someone else has agreed to pay the difference if necessary. Caroline W asked to order another twenty-four chairs.

In the light of health and safety concerns around aerated concrete, Caroline located the church hall roof specification and spoke to the architect who confirmed the

roof is not constructed of aerated concrete.

There is water ingress by the notice board in church and in the top corner of the hall. The water in church is the result of missing pointing below the window and the water in the hall, probably the result of blocked gullies and hopper, which have now been cleared of leaves. We need to monitor the hall ceiling when it next rains.

The boilers have been inspected and £2040 expenditure will be incurred to replace a pressure part. This will take place 09 10 2023.

Caroline W asked PCC not to turn on the white fan heaters in church until they had been serviced as they are now full of dust and are dangerous.

Fire safety will be addressed on the next PCC agenda.

Action Point – CW to liaise with Peter Debney

4. **Safeguarding**

Dawn had circulated the Safeguarding Action Plan with the instruction for PCC to review the list of church-run activities. The PCC agreed these to be currently CYFA; Lighthouse; Messy Church; The Ark; Open The Book; Toddlers; The Welcome Café.

Caroline confirmed she had read a copy of the Church Wardens safeguarding responsibilities.

5. **News from the Diocese, Deanery, CTI**

Philip Bishop is the new Vicar at Burley and Tim Swinglehurst the new priest at Sacred Heart and Burley Catholic churches.

CTI are trying to strengthen the link with CTI2000 and CTI and are also trying to get The Ark more closely related.

Peter mentioned the Diocesan News that comes out by email and suggested we ask Sue Boerrigeter to send an article in about the work to the church floor and the new seating.

CW

The Deanery Synod has not met.

6. **Environment Committee**

Lynn reported she had attended an inspirational meeting at St Mary's at Embsay regarding environmental practices in church and that we are doing quite well as a church with regards to operating in an environmentally friendly way.

11. **Proposed Music Weekend**

Miranda is yet to obtain a date to book the church in the Spring of 2024 to run this event. She requires help to organise this. Bill Marwick offered to help and has numerous contacts. In addition to this we have been approached by the organiser of Ilkley Live with a possibility of hosting musical events over a weekend next July. Keeley is also contacting three singers about an Earth Day weekend in April.

12. **Items for the next PCC agenda**

Fire Safety.

13. **AOB**

Cleaning this week, Wednesday pm and Thursday.

There will be a big clean in October on a Friday TBC.

Peter gave out some items pastoral news.

14. **Dates of future meetings**

PCC Mondays - November 13th, January 15th, March 11th

WSC Wednesdays –October 11th, December 13th, February 14th

The meeting closed at 9.50pm with The Grace.