

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 12th September 2022 on zoom**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Bill Marwick, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Dawn and Charles Jenkins, Miranda Armitage, Elspeth Holmes, Caroline Watson, James Wright, Jan Copsy, Mark Gurney, Debbie Walker and Peter Debney.

Apologies: Sylvia Walker, Andy Rayment and Lynn Haygarth.

ACTION

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from Matthew 11 verse 25 onwards and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from, Sylvia Walker, Andy Rayment and Lynn Haygarth.

3. Declaration of interests

JW had an interest at item 8.

4. Approval of the PCC minutes of 11th July 2022.

There was one correction at item 6 to amend the word 'welcome' to 'welcoming'. The above PCC minutes were then approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Janet Munro, seconded by Jan Copsy, all were in favour.

5. Any Other business

One item for Any Other Business was submitted to be discussed at item 13.

6. Feedback on governance over the last 18 month

Peter asked the PCC their views on the effectiveness of the new governance model adopted over the last 18 months. PCC meetings are held every other month and Wardens and Standing Sub-Committee meetings in the month in between.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Some of the clergy find it a bit disjointed with a large gap between PCC meetings but some preferred the separated meetings.

People complained about the length of the PCC meetings and suggested we could finish at 9.30pm if reports were written and only discussed if there were updates or questions.

It was suggested we spend more time discussing mission into the community, meet bi-monthly but provide monthly reports and take more decisions by email or on SharePoint?

It was noted that in the last few PCC meetings we discuss vision at the start of each PCC and have a mission focus too, but the mission focus tends to be too late on in the meeting.

It was decided to continue as we are for now but to try to streamline the meeting so that reports are written and put on SharePoint/emailed rather than discussed at length.

Action Point - PCC to email Peter with ideas on how to streamline the PCC meetings.

PCC

James suggested pressure should be taken off Peter by somebody else chairing the meeting.

PCC

Action Point - PCC if you think you could chair the meetings please speak up.

7. Vision

- Peter shared the poster drawn up by John Tinkler based on the words of the new Vision Statement *'For St John's this means: Working together 'within' to improve the well-being of those who come into our church community and space.*

Working together with other groups 'without' for the well-being of our local community.

Through the above two processes to find opportunity to engage members of the local community with the gospel and bring people into a relationship with Jesus, which we believe is helpful for the well-being of our community and all who live here.'

A lengthy discussion ensued around what the PCC thought of this poster and whether it

should be displayed inside church as well as outside.

How can we make this a reality and help people in the community find Jesus and be Jesus to people? Is it through meeting practical need? Do we feel equipped to be disciples? The church needs to look out to draw people in. Can we use the outdoor space more effectively? Can we make church language more accessible? It was suggested that the word 'without' be substituted for another.

Action Point - PW to circulate the poster to the PCC.

PW

- Peter presented the idea of church providing a warm space one day per week in the Winter and also potentially holding the Welcome Cafe weekly. Peter asked PCC if we could agree to heating the church one day per week in the Winter. It may involve doing some activities and definitely extra cost. The PCC agreed. Other organisations in Ilkley are also offering a warm space so it is crucial to coordinate this.

Action Point - PW to go back to CTI to say the PCC is in agreement.

PW

- Some comments have been made using legacy money for mission to people rather than in to funding chairs. Some money has been gifted to the church which could be put towards buying time for a person to do outreach. How we spend our money missionally now and in the future will be in item on the next PCC agenda.

Action Point - How we spend our money missionally to be an agenda item at the November PCC.

KO

8. Matters Arising and actions from PCC Minutes 11 07 2022 not covered later

- Welcome pack - Completed by Dawn, the copies have been taken and more can be copied by the administrator. Peter thanked Dawn for a job well done in putting it all together.

- Gardening - Karen has communicated to Luke about the new mowing regime and to Lawn Force about no longer treating the whole strip of lawn containing the wildflowers by the hedge.

- Peter mentioned he had reported back to the WSC on his discussion with Lynne around the hall hire and we are seeing how things go. Caroline reported we are looking to see if we can delay the further increase in charges by not reducing the discount for a while.

The activities taking place on church premises are valuable to the community and it would be beneficial to both if church could increase its collaboration with the hirers and improve communication to them. Which other community groups might we engage with and offer a space to. E.g. Scouts church parade; Ilkley Literature Festival; a working space for professionals?

9. Reports

1. Wardens and Standing Committee 28 08 2022

The minutes of the above had been circulated prior to the meeting.

2. Finance Committee

A. Approve insurer

Caroline informed PCC that the insurer Trinitas, had put in a more competitive quote than Ecclesiasticas, our current insurer. The policy has greater coverage and insures equipment going out of the building. Bill proposed that we change to Trintas, seconded by Jan Copsey.

Action Point - CW to let Julia Jordan know to cancel policy with Ecclesiasticas.

CW/JJ

B. Progress against budget

Charles had circulated the budget monitoring sheet as at 31st August 2022 prior to the meeting and declared us to be back on track.

C. Finance questionnaire

The summary of questionnaire responses had been circulated prior to the meeting and PCC were asked to come up with 3 action points. Suggestions were:

1. To reinstate the offertory plate during the service even if not passed around

anymore as a symbol of our giving.

2. To encourage more people to join the Parish Giving Scheme and place the information leaflets in the pews.

3. To improve communication around short term fundraising projects such as the sound desk; the chairs; the floor repairs. Many people are not aware there is a problem from the sound system but everyone benefits from it. Mentioning the need to finance a new sound desk quickly may capture people's imagination and encourage them to give to the project.

Action Point - PW to mention the problems of the sound desk on Sunday.

PW/CW

Caroline to liaise with PW on costing and donations already in.

4. To explain to the congregation again how the Share is used.

D. Generosity week starting 25th September 2022

Charles would like to start by thanking everyone for their increased giving.

Action Point - CJ and PW to liaise to decide how to address this.

PW/CJ

3. Property and maintenance

- Chairs - Caroline has organised 5 example chairs and has asked people to fill in a questionnaire to rate them. We still need to get a quote for the floor repairs.

Peter thanked Caroline for all her work on this.

- The lounge is nearly finished being painted; the kitchen shutter is scheduled to be repaired; the ladder in the Tower Room has been replaced but the trapdoor is still not done. The wooden Swiss clock may need replacing. Peter thanked Bill for all his hard work.

4. Safeguarding

Dawn had circulated the updated safeguarding action plan prior to the meeting.

Action Point - Please complete your outstanding training by 14th November and speak to Dawn if there is a problem.

The Open The Book team is undergoing training this week.

The document 'Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders' had been circulated. This is with reference to the church wardens and PCC knowing their responsibilities (see Page 21).

The Ark risk assessment has come up for its annual review and will go out to the team. James thanked Dawn for all the hard work she puts in to the role of Church Safeguarding Officer.

5. Environment Committee

Sylvia had emailed to say

'we shall be focussing on sharing our various church's thinking and progress towards carbon net zero at the next Deanery Synod in October'.

6. News from diocese, Deanery, Deanery Synod, CTI.

The Diocesan clergy conference was a success. In the Deanery Synod there are now two vacancies from Burley and Silsden.

10. A report about an area of ministry - Messy Church

To be held at a later PCC meeting.

11. PCC approval of date for the Clothing Sale

The PCC approved the date of the Clothing Sale to be held on 15th October.

12. Christmas

The clergy team will meet to discuss.

Action Point - If anyone has any ideas on how to do Christmas differently please get in contact.

PCC

Miranda asked if the PCC was happy for the school to decorate the trees outside church again. The PCC agreed. Miranda also asked if anyone wanted to buy some sustainable solar lights for the trees. It was agreed not to light up the church this year as we did in 2020 and 2021.

13. Items for next agenda

How we use our money for mission.

Messy Church update

Succession planning for Wardens, Treasurer and PCC secretary.

14. AOB

Arrangements for showing the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen

Peter's personal laptop will be used to stream the ceremony on the big screen in church around 10am onwards. Tea and coffee to be served.

Action Points - To communicate this upcoming event at church on Ilkley Chat and to community groups and to put out the collection plate.

PW

The meeting closed at 10.07pm with The Grace.

Meeting dates

PCC all Mondays:

14th November, 9th January, 13th March.

WSC:

Wednesday 12th October at 4pm, Wednesday 14th December, Wednesday 8th February 2023.

