

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 9th May 2022 via zoom**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Miranda Armitage, Dawn and Charles Jenkins, Bill Marwick, Sylvia Walker, James Wright, Jan Copsey, Caroline Watson, Mark Gurney, Elspeth Holmes, Debbie Walker, Lynn Haygarth and Andy Rayment.

Apologies: Peter Debney and Janet Munro.

ACTION

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox welcomed everyone to the meeting, shared his thoughts on Matthew Chapter 11: 28-30 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from, Janet Munro and Peter Debney.

3. Appointment of Treasurer and Secretary

Charles Jenkins and Karen Oxtoby were appointed as Treasurer and Secretary for one more year. All were in favour.

4. Declarations of interest

None.

5. Approval of the PCC minutes of 7th March 2022.

The above PCC minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed, Jan Copsey, seconded, Sylvia Walker. All were in favour.

6. Any Other business

Items for Any Other Business were given to be discussed at item 12.

7. Is it time to change our Vision Statement?

Peter suggested our current vision statement be refined to read "to be a welcome and inclusive church reaching out to our community". Vision being where we are heading and Mission being where we are now. Many agreed that we are reaching out with the love of Christ and that the potential new vision statement with the words 'welcome, inclusivity and reaching out' seemed more attainable. It could also include generosity and hospitality. What does 'reaching out mean?' One parishioner had defined this as 'Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known'.

Caroline mentioned that companies usually have a short snappy vision statement and then a longer Mission Statement to include 3-4 values. Do we involve the church in this and expect multiple opinions? How much influence does the current vision statement actually have on what we do? Bill suggested that the new people coming in to the church really valued the feeling of community. The current vision statement includes the words 'growing family'. The word family could have negative connotations. This discussion will be continued at future meetings.

8. Matters Arising from PCC Minutes 07 03 2022

6.i. Finance Committee Report

Julia Jordan had managed to get an answer from Karen Gardner (independent examiner) on whether the ladder could be capitalised. It could not.

9. Reports vi Welcome cafes

The two cafes held so far had gone well and there had been a nice atmosphere. Lynn mentioned the signage advertising this was quite small. Thanks to all from St John's who got involved.

viii CTI

Peter led the Good Friday walk of witness and had received some good feedback. St John's had joined with the Methodists to share in their Maundy Thursday service,

10. APCM Feedback

Very mixed feedback had been received from parishioners. Some believed it had worked really well to integrate the APCM within the Sunday service others thought it was awful. We could possibly look at a compromise for next year, holding a short service and then holding the APCM straight after.

Communion wine

The use of small cups was discussed instead of everyone drinking from the one chalice. It was agreed at PCC that we should buy/borrow some small stainless steel cups so that we can safely reintroduce the communion wine in the services whilst still having the chalice on the table as a symbol.

13. AOB - Ukrainian Flag

The flag on the church wall is starting to tear. It was decided not to purchase another as it was symbolic. Someone mentioned having a dove of peace displayed as a symbol.

Environment

Lawn Force have passed on information about the weed killers used on the grass. Weed killer is the reason there is no clover or daisies. Sylvia asked if we might want to grow the grass more naturally. Peter mentioned that the wildflower areas set up had been allowed as a means of compromise as there are diverse strong feelings about our grass management.

Action Point - To bring to the next Wardens and Standing Committee.

Carbon Net Zero Working Group

Sylvia reported the team has had some very good discussions on how we get to net zero and read out the following ideas of how to achieve this: exploring solar panels, coming off gas, replacing the strip lighting in the kitchen and the lighting in the lounge with LEDs, installing a smart meter and ensuring we are heating efficiently, ensuring any refurbishment projects are done according to BREEM standards. This did not happen with the toilet project. The gas contract is due for renewal in 2023 and Julia has started to research the best green deals. Peter thanked Sylvia and asked her to present something to the PCC in July.

Action Point - carbon net zero to be on the July agenda

WSC

SW/KO

9. Reports**1. Wardens and Standing Committee (WSC)**

The minutes 19 04 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments apart from getting the WSC out to PCC earlier.

2. Finance Committee.

A. Caroline W reported on the chairs she had been researching and that she was also looking for alternatives bearing in mind we are an Arts and Crafts church. She is taking BREEM standards in to consideration with regards to the materials from which they are made.

To purchase around 150 chairs and repair the floor could cost in the region of £25K. We have 3 legacies amounting to £15700 which could be used. We will roll it out to the church by borrowing some sample chairs from the company and displaying the photo of St John's when it comprised chair seating. We may be able to sell some pews, be given funding advice and access some trust money. Peter commented that flexible chair seating fits in with the vision in the context of a serving building to aid inclusivity and outreach.

Caroline proposed to PCC that we include the legacy money in this project. The majority were in favour, there were none against and two abstentions. JC seconded the proposal. If you have any concerns please email Peter W. People may be happy to donate or to buy their own chair.

B. Progress against budget

Charles reported that income levels are starting to recover and his forecast for the freewill offering based on April's figures stands at £87K (budget £95K). There are now 35 people on the Parish Giving Scheme (approx. 35% of the congregation). Charles urged PCC members that had not moved to the PGS to do so. Hall hire is recovering and projected at £20.6K, Expenditure is harder to predict. The cost of the belfry ladder had not been included in the budget (£7.2K), we may also have to spend more on mission than budgeted and the sound desk seems to be on its last legs. There is no budget for that either. Caroline said the music team needs to discuss what it needs and we may be able to use some of the All Saints surplus kit as a stop gap. New kit could cost £3K. Peter said an anonymous donor has offered £4K to help with the ladder replacement. Charles reported that uptake of the cashless card reader has waned. Could we reinstate the offertory and also mention the card reader again and encourage folk to register with The Giving Machine for online shopping?

3. Property and maintenance

Bill reported that with the help of the two cleaners we are hoping to start decorating the lounge on 1st August 2022. This requires short term employment insurance.

4. Safeguarding

Dawn had circulated her Safeguarding update, action plan and response to concerns and allegations procedure prior to the meeting. She will undertake DBS's of the new PCC members and then inform them of the online training. Some of the other PCC members are yet to complete their training which was due by 7th March.

Action Point - Please complete your training, ask Dawn if you are having problems and let her know when you have completed each module.

Any volunteer must complete a confidential declaration form.

Action Point - DJ to display policy on domestic abuse on notice board.

The response to concerns and allegations procedure was reviewed and reapproved.

Peter thanked Dawn and Charles and Julia for their reports.

PCC

DJ

10. A report about an area of ministry - The Ark

James reported that The Ark services were formed 11 years ago out of a vision to form a L'Arche community where people with and without disabilities build community. He explained the service format held once per month in church (twice per month when solely on zoom during lockdown). Currently 30-35 people attend represented by 10 churches of which half the people have disabilities. James reported on the wonderful gifts and talents he had experienced from the people with additional needs and also the deep relationships that had come out of zoom. Dawn also added how humbling it is to be part of it. Peter thanked James for his presentation.

Action Point - To keep inviting the congregation to each Ark Service. It is part of our inclusion, welcome and outreach.

11. Items for the next agenda and or WSC

Carbon net zero, grounds maintenance, governance review

12. AOB

1. Peter W and Mark to discuss the new website.
2. July Messy Church and Ilkley Half Marathon day - can a BBQ be organised?
3. Christian Aid on Sunday 15th May - Can the card reader take donations for Christian Aid? Yes.
4. Wharfedale Refugee Response Day 1st June - can Caroline borrow and amplifier, microphone and mica stand? Yes
5. Welcome pack - Dawn is re-doing and receiving back comments. It will eventually go on the website and in paper format. She will circulate when ready.
6. The next PCC on 11th July can be in person and on zoom.

Action Point - KO to check on room availability with Sandy.

KO

The meeting closed with The Grace at 22.13pm.

Meeting dates

PCC all Mondays:

9th May, 11th July, 12th September, 14th November, 9th January, 13th March.

WSC:

Tuesday 28th June, Wednesday 31st August, Wednesday 12th October, Wednesday 14th December, Wednesday 8th February