

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 11th March 2024**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Caroline Watson, Debbie Walker, Bill Marwick, Miranda Armitage, Dawn Jenkins, Andy Rayment, Mark Gurney, Elspeth Holmes, James Wright, and Julia Jordan in part.

ACTION

Apologies: Lynn Haygarth, Sylvia Walker, Jan Copsey, Caroline Elston, and Peter Debney.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from Psalm 46 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Lynn Haygarth, Sylvia Walker, Jan Copsey, Caroline Elston, and Peter Debney.

3. Declaration of Interest

None.

4. Approval of PCC Minutes 15 01 2024

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

5. Any Other business

Items for Any Other Business was given at this point to be discussed at item 14.

6. Report on 2023 Annual Accounts

Julia Jordan, the bookkeeper at St John's Church had joined the meeting to present the 2023 accounts and handed out a paper copy of the slides to each trustee at the meeting. Julia had also emailed PCC the same accompanied by detailed notes on what every line item referred to. Please see those notes for exact details.

Total giving is down slightly on 2022 figures though planned regular giving has shown an increase of 1.4%, other types of giving e.g. from grants and legacies is less than the previous year. The events and activities, mostly from hall hire which is up to £29.3K is now back to pre-pandemic levels. Caroline W opened an account at the Skipton Building society which has yielded a better rate of interest too.

Total expenditure has reduced compared with 2022 and this also includes a £5K budgeted decrease in Share payment from £94K in 2022 to £88K in 2023. There was also a reduction in repairs and maintenance although the church admin costs have increased with a full year of the administrator and the appointment of the new caretaker in October 2023.

Julia informed PCC there would be a surplus of around £6K. There are still changes to be made in the reporting of a few items such as the chairs. Julia will submit the accounts to the independent examiner. PCC were happy to accept the accounts subject to any changes requested by the independent examiner. Peter thanked Julia and Caroline for all their work in preparing the 2023 accounts.

7. Allocation of Mission Budget

John Sheen had circulated the proposed 2024 Mission budget prior to the meeting. The total amount for 2024 is £7350 split between ten mission partners plus £100 for

contingencies. Otley Christian Resources Hub had emailed all PCCs to ask if we could review our giving to them as many churches had had to withdraw. It was agreed that we would give £565 from Mission and a further £275 from general funds to support them. The PCC were happy to approve the Mission Budget.

8. Matters Arising

- Easter and Ben Rhydding Primary School

Peter still needs to speak to the Headteacher about an Easter service. It is too late to organise a 'What's The Story of Easter?'

- Treasurer role

Caroline explained how stressful it was for her as Warden trying to oversee the Treasurer role as well. Although the role has been communicated on numerous occasions, we may still need to target church families at Messy Church.

Action Point – Peter Willox to communicate the need for a treasurer at Messy Church with Caroline Watson in attendance. We also need to send a mailchimp out to Messy Church about the role requirements.

PW/CW
Admin

- Church Secretary

A new church secretary has been appointed called Beverley who will start on 9th April 2024. She will work during Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- Bar licence

It is too expensive to extend the hours for the current bar licence which covers the hours of 7 – 10pm.

- Steering group

James Wright reported on the two meetings held. Fourteen and ten people attended, respectively. The meetings have proved very encouraging, and some ideas have already emerged. James asked if he could speak about some of the ideas at the APCM. One idea is to hold a main Sunday Service with Messy Church on an afternoon as a one off. No model currently exists for children after the Messy Church maximum age has been reached.

9. Social events and fundraising for the church roof

On Friday 8th March Dawn ran a retreat day and on Saturday 9th March there was an afternoon tea with proceeds from both ringfenced for the roof. Miranda stated that there is a need to appeal to the community. It was decided to have an 'Under One Roof' launch in the faith sharing slot at the Celebration service at on 24th of March.

Action Point – CW to send DJ some facts about the costs of the project.

CW/DJ

Andy R offered to join a fundraising committee.

10. Families and children through the summer

Peter and James suggested we hold an extended holiday club at the same time as the Welcome Café on a Tuesday afternoon. Margaret Beatham is happy to be involved in this. They also suggested it might also be good to offer the children breakfast on a Sunday morning at church.

11. Reports

Wardens and Standing Committee

The minutes dated 22/02/2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Peter has since learnt that St John's is due to receive a legacy from the late Monica Hill of £10K. This is will not be restricted. We also received a donation two years ago of £10K plus gift aid for the purpose of a community project. A decision needs to be made on how we spend both amounts and whether any is used for the roof. Caroline has not yet asked anyone for a hall piano as she needs to determine what is needed. The church organ is in a bad state and may need to be dismantled as the cost to repair would be around £100K.

Property and Maintenance

The Wardens and Standing Committee appointed Pickles as the contractor for the roof.

Safeguarding

Dawn had circulated the current dashboard prior to the meeting. Most actions have been met. The PCC is aware of its duty to ensure St John's comply with GDPR procedures for record keeping. Andy Copsey has unintentionally fallen into the role of data controller. This is something that should eventually be handed over to the new church administrator. Dawn will finalise her annual safeguarding report for the APCM.

Environment Committee

Lynn has asked that space on the notice board be given to the Environment Committee. The committee also want to progress solar panels as a project. It was agreed that the use of the notice board be delegated to the Wardens and Standing Committee as it is a buildings matter. Tony Watson has already spoken to Leeds Solar who have done a plan and will prepare costings. The Wardens are constantly being asked about lots of projects. It is important that the events we put on use the space in church and get as many people as possible in from outside to show case to the community how it can be used. There is potential to hire out both the church space and the Tower Room.

Peter mentioned Keeley's Earth Day weekend on 20th April involving environmental groups, such as Climate Action Ilkley. There will be a singing workshop in the afternoon followed by a concert at night and an environmentally based service on the Sunday. The Environment Committee may also wish to get involved. This fits in with one of the marks of mission preserving 'the integrity of creation.' It would be good if we could involve the children and the Ark too.

News from the diocese, deanery, and CTI

There is a CTI forum meeting 12/03/2024, the clergy are meeting to discuss the 2025 City of Culture. The diocese is sponsoring the Christian theatre company Riding Lights to do community work over one week.

Sylvia has asked to step down from the Deanery Synod.

12. Pastoral News

Peter informed PCC of those in our congregation currently struggling with various afflictions for our prayers and information. Peter thanked Bill and James for their hard work on PCC over the years.

13. Date of the next meeting

WSC Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm

APCM Mopnday 29th April at 7.30pm

PCC – Monday 13th May at 7.30pm

The meeting closed with The Grace.

