

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 13th May 2024**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Philip Johnston, Caroline Elston, Debbie Walker, Miranda Armitage, Dawn Jenkins, Sylvia Walker, Andy Rayment, Mark Gurney, Elspeth Holmes, James Wright, and Lynne Farrer in part.

ACTION

Apologies: Lynn Haygarth, Nikki Gibson, Jan Copsey, Caroline Watson, and Peter Debney.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from Mathew 11 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Presentation on the work of the Carbon Net Zero Group by Lynne Farrer

Lynne informed PCC that the carbon footprint results are now reported on the APCM annual report. In 2023 gross Co2 emissions were 17.8 tonnes (21.3 tonnes in 2022) and the net Co2 emissions in 2023 were 2.4 tonnes (2.7 tonnes in 2022). These results had been circulated to PCC together with the 2023 energy usage submission and the Carbon Net Zero Action Plan and notes prior to the meeting. Lynne went through the points listed on the report. Items already actioned consist of Crown Gas renewal on a green carbon-offset tariff, green journey energy audit and development of a short to long term action plan. Items currently under consideration are use of magnetic sludge device to improve efficiency of the hall boiler, location of winter church services (there are potential significant savings when services are held in the hall); bike rack, infra-red heater for the church office and church heating app to remotely control the heating and reduce wastage. Andy Copsey is already looking at a church wide app to control the hall, lounge, and church easily. Longer term plans consist of finding an alternative energy source to gas and planning for solar panels. It might be easier to obtain grant funding if we already have solar panel fund set up. The PCC accepted the Action Plan as a living document and that any funding issues would automatically be brought back to PCC.

A discussion ensued about how the group might help the community reduce their carbon footprint in a domestic setting. The group do intend to communicate tips via the church notices and the notice board and posters. Thanks to Lynne and the Carbon Net Zero Group for all their hard work. The PCC accepted The Carbon Net Zero report.

Separate to the above, Peter then asked if PCC were happy to accept the Environment Committee Report sent by Lynn Haygarth. PCC accepted this report.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Lynn Haygarth, Nikki Gibson, Jan Copsey, Caroline Watson, and Peter Debney.

4. Declaration of Interest

Peter Willox declared an interest at item 12.

5. Approval of PCC Minutes 11 03 2024

The minutes were approved by the PCC as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Any Other business

Items for Any Other Business was given at this point to be discussed at item 12.

7. Matters Arising

- The action for PW and CW to approach Messy Church for a Treasurer has not yet taken place.
- The ‘Under One Roof’ project had been launched by DJ at all the different services and has been included in the Mailchimp bulletin including the costs given by CW. At the end of April 2024, the fund stood at £8379 excluding monies from the quiz night. The next two events are the Barn Dance 8th June, Kate’s Gold Rush, and the Bridge afternoon tea on 6th July. The Ark is proposing an afternoon tea and Lynne Wright is offering an evening of dance on 11th July. DJ is publishing events every week and asked that if anyone has any fundraising ideas to let Dawn know. CW has applied to three organisations for grants, two of which have declined and we are waiting on the third to respond.
- The PCC appointed Karen Oxtoby as PCC Secretary.
- The PCC appointed Kath and Tony Hannam, Ian Piercy, Bill Marwick, Ari and Sue Boerrigter, Pat and Micheal Savage, Andrew and Janet Munro, Irene Tod, Elspeth Holmes, Karen Oxtoby, Jeff and Amanda Pagett, Libby Chapel and Richard Archer as Sides People. Elspeth wishes to step down as soon as possible. Gillian Sinfield has now stepped down.

8. Priorities for the coming year

- Feedback from Peter’s Ministry development review
Peter’s ministry development review is part of a three-year cycle. This year it was held with Mike Coe, The Area Dean. His actions in response to last year’s review was to keep on doing what he is doing. Jan Copsey has also had her review. She may legally officiate for another 1.25 years after which she will need to apply for permission to officiate. She is currently taking a step back. Looking ahead, Peter said we need to consider what pastoral model might make St John’s sustainable when he retires. We may not get another fulltime vicar and may need more lay people. PCC will also need to have a discussion at some point about how it feels on offering prayers of blessing in the morning service for civil same sex/transgender marriages. This debate has been semi approved by the General Synod and left to individual churches on how they respond. PW still needs to catch up on the latest thinking from the General Synod.

- Feedback from the growth group

The growth group has met five times. Peter informed PCC they are currently looking at having an intergenerational café style all age worship on 4th Sunday of the month starting with a breakfast at 9.15am. This may draw on elements of the Explore service and The Ark. If they can get a team together it could be trialled in June and July.

Peter and James attended a Leeds Diocese event called TEND in Ripon on Saturday, 27th April about mission and ministry with children, young people and families and attended workshops run by Jo Young and Natasha Lee specialists with young children and intergenerational worship respectively. They have offered to come to talk to the PCC.

Likewise, Jude Smith of the Barnabas Project has offered to meet with the clergy and PCC, using the ‘Compass Tool.’ The aim of this is to identify strengths and weaknesses, identify next steps and barriers and identify support the diocese may give. The PCC said it was happy for Peter to access this external advice from both sources.

In August it is suggested that there be a Messy Church drop in at the same time as the Welcome Café.

Peter informed PCC of some funding in place to potentially employ a Community Development worker. £10K from a legacy and £12.5K from a gift has come in. After PCC’s decision in November to ringfence all future legacies for the roof, PCC were asked if the legacy could be diverted to a project. Dawn commented that we need to understand what the role is before we commit to changing the legacy. Therefore, no decision could yet be made.

It was requested that the steering group send the wardens the minutes of their meetings to

avoid a lack of communication and conflicting ideas. James said he would send the minutes to the PCC.

JW

Action Point – Please circulate growth group minutes to PCC.

9. Reports

There was nothing to add to the reports of the Wardens and Standing Committee, to finance or property and maintenance. Peter reiterated what Caroline Watson had said at the APCM, that if you see a job that needs doing, just do it (if possible).

Safeguarding

Dawn has spoken to the three new PCC members with regards to safeguarding compliance and can deliver training where necessary.

The PCC reviewed the non-church activities for children and vulnerable adults for the year. These consist of Lynne Wright's Theatre Arts dance group and CTI2000. The PCC is aware hire agreements which include safeguarding compliance are in place for these activities.

DJ

Action Point – DJ to ask Lisa King to inform her if any new regular non-church bookings for children and vulnerable adults are introduced.

News from the diocese

Mike Coe is on sabbatical.

10. Items for the next agenda

- Job specification for Community Worker.

11. Pastoral News

Pastoral items were discussed.

12. AOB

- Peter Willox had declared an interest for this item. Keeley Willox has asked PCC if she and Sophie may hire the hall/lounge 3 - 4.30 or 4 – 5.30pm on third Sunday of the month for a maintenance choir as part of social proscripting for health and wellbeing. This may conflict with The Ark twice per year. The PCC agreed, initially for the duration of a year.

- Sylvia alerted PCC to the fact that no one had signed to help at the Welcome Café on the following day. Peter said he would be there.

- Sylvia reported that we raised £410.93 for Christian Aid from the bring and buy cake sale.

- Sylvia informed PCC that there will be an animal blessing service on 23rd June.

SW

Action Point – SW to invite MP

13. Future PCC and WSC dates

PCC Mondays

15th July, September TBC, 11th November 13th January and 10th March

WSC Wednesdays

12th June 14th August 16th October 11th December 12th February

The meeting closed with The Grace

