

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 15th July 2024**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Caroline Watson, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Caroline Elston, Debbie Walker, Miranda Armitage, Dawn Jenkins, Andy Rayment, Mark Gurney, Elspeth Holmes, James Wright, Niki Gibson, Sharon Crosby and Peter Debney.

ACTION

Apologies: Lynn Haygarth, James Wright, Philip Johnston, Sylvia Walker, and Jan Copsey.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from Ephesians 3 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Jan Copsey, Sylvia Walker, Philip Johnston, Lynn Haygarth and James Wright. Phillip has sadly informed PCC that he is having to stand down from PCC.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Approval of minutes 13/05/2024

Item 2 should be reworded from ('there is a potential saving of £1K per month' to 'potential significant savings....')

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

5. Any Other business

Items for Any Other Business were given at this point to be discussed at item 10.

6. Matters Arising

- The steering group minutes have now been circulated to PCC.
- The Animal Blessing Service was small but worth doing.
- There is still no Treasurer. We may need to send out another mail chimp to Messy Church to ask.

7. Reports

1) Wardens and Standing Committee

- Caroline W put a notice into ask for volunteers to sweep the church on a rota basis as Tom's hours do not allow for a great deal of cleaning. Caroline E and Karen O have volunteered. The difficulty in getting volunteers was noted. The question was asked whether we need to communicate the jobs better and even to inform the congregation of Tom's remit. We do not have the number of young adults coming through to church that we did twenty years ago who might take up voluntary roles, and Messy Church is not integrating into church.

- Dawn clarified 'all regular volunteers need to complete a confidential declaration form and to complete the basic awareness training as a minimum requirement. Where there may be vulnerable adults and children present. This basically includes all our church activities; all groups are also required to have leaders with the appropriate DBS checks and higher level of training. She stated As far as I am aware (and I am reliant on the group leads informing me of, any changes to their group) we are up to date with all training and checks.'

- Yesterday, 14th July, the service was shortened to watch the Ilkley Half Marathon and the runners seemed to enjoy our support. It was good to have a visible presence in the community.

2) Finance

- The half year budget monitoring figures had been circulated to PCC prior to the meeting. The freewill offering is down on budget and electricity slightly higher due to the cold

summer and having to heat the vestry. Most things are on track, but the lightning rod is broken and has not been budgeted for. In October we will review the situation to see if we can pay and more share.

- Caroline W referred to the £10340 legacy briefly discussed in the May PCC meeting. In November 2023, PCC had agreed a resolution to put all the legacies into the roof fund, however, shortly after, a sizeable legacy had been received. The Clergy and wardens teams wondered if it should be used for a project, such as a community worker. There is already a £12.5K gift and a further £2K in the project pot. A discussion ensued as to what PCC wished to do with this legacy. A vote was taken as to whether this money should be split between the roof and the project pot. Four people voted for this. A vote was taken as to whether all the money from this legacy should go into the project pot. Ten people agreed to this proposal. Peter suggested a small group be formed to look at the job description produced by Caroline W so that we can now decide the next steps for the project.

PW

Action Point – Peter W to email the job description to both the Steering Group and PCC and invite members to join a working group.

The PCC is aware it does not know the needs of the community and may need to employ a community worker to liaise with the various agencies to identify the needs and decide the activities we might potentially be able to offer the community.

3) Property and Maintenance

- Caroline W reported that a company is coming out to inspect and report on the church clock which is not working and to ascertain how much it might cost to get running again.
- The tables that were ordered have arrived.
- Peter has phoned Bradford Council about the speed bump outside church and the road narrowing which will affect traffic especially when there is a funeral. We may have to monitor the effect on the traffic flow and safety and go back to Bradford Council on this.

4) Safeguarding

- The PCC reviewed and agreed the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy.
- The PCC reviewed and agreed the procedure for responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- The PCC reviewed and agreed the church activities to be: Messy Church, The Ark, Sunday School, CYFA, the two toddler groups and the Welcome Café.

Dawn informed PCC that DBS checks are only valid for three years now unless you subscribe to the DBS update service, where Dawn can run a check . Likewise, training needs to be renewed on a three yearly basis. Some PCC members will be getting reminders about this as their 3-year anniversary comes up. Dawn will also facilitate training where necessary. Dawn has requested help with her role as Safeguarding Officer and DBS Administrator and Lynn Haygarth has offered support with the DBS applications. Many thanks to Dawn for all her hard work in this role. It is much appreciated.

5) Growth Steering Group

James Wright has started to put an action plan together. Some actions have already been started such as praying for families and young people in every service, encouraging a sharing time at the end of the service; holding a café-style celebration service in June which included breakfast and was very interactive. In September, the Steering Group are going on training from the diocese called 'Engage Worship.' Andy R commented that the worship using videoed worship through the desk and screen worked well yesterday.

We will need a separate PCC meeting to look at the finalised action plan. Peter is inviting the diocesan Barnabas team to review where we are and how we can be resourced and is also inviting two members of the Youth and Children's team.

CYFA is shrinking in numbers and there is a publicity problem with the ARK in that places like 'Outside the Box' are not fully aware of The Ark services.

6) The Environment Committee

Nothing to report.

7) **News from the diocese, deanery, deanery synod, CTI**

CTI is in a state of flux. New vicars appointed in Menston and Sutton in Craven. Vacancy in Sildsen. Riding Lights Theatre Company are getting involved with Bradford 2025. Bishop Toby will ask if people want to get involved with it in telling the story of Bradford and our part in it.

8. **Prayers of Love and Faith**

PCC

Peter read out his pastoral letter which is going out to parishioners this week regarding prayers for couples in same sex relationships.

Action Point – PCC to go on the link in the upcoming letter and read the Prayers of Love and Faith for further discussion at the next PCC.

Now that this has been passed by General Synod, St John's needs to have a stance on how it approach a request when same sex couples ask church for a blessing on their civil partnership.

PW

Action Point – Peter to set some dates to run a Living In Love and Faith course again.
More discussions to follow.

9. **Items for the next agenda**

- Living in Love and Faith discussion
- Steering Group framework discussion.
- Away day planning.

10. **AOB**

- Open the Book is continuing next term under the leadership of Janet and Diane. They will do an 'Open the Book' at the 10am service on the fourth Sunday of September.

Action Point – to advertise in schools and in Messy Church and invite families to the service.

- Peter W asked if we could also move Harvest to 4th Sunday in September. PCC agreed.
- Peter W has been asked by E Hall if Amnesty International can run an afternoon tea. It was suggested they run it in the Welcome Café.
- Items of pastoral news were shared for information and prayers.

11. **Future PCC and WSC dates**

PCC Mondays

25th September 11th November 13th January and 10th March at Nikki Gibson's (Five Oaks) unless otherwise indicated.

WSC Wednesdays

4th August 16th October 11th December 12th February

The meeting closed with The Grace

