

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Wednesday 25th September 2024**

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

ACTION

Apologies: Debbie Walker, Miranda Armitage, Sylvia Walker, Peter Debney and Jan Copey.

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from John 14 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Sylvia Walker, Miranda Armitage, Sylvia Walker, Peter Debney and Debbie Walker.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Approval of minutes 15/07/2024

Niki Gibson and Sharon Crosby had accidentally been missed of the attendance list. 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. Growth Steering Group Presentation by James Wright

The Growth Development Plan July 2024, Steering Group meeting notes 6th August 2024, Barnabas meeting notes 15th August 2024 and The Growth Steering Group Report had been circulated to PCC prior to the meeting.

James explained that the purpose of the Steering Group, initiated by the PCC in November 2023, was formed with the aim of developing an overall strategy that supports the three/four congregations and to grow and make proposals to aid the growth in the ministry to children and young people. Hence the Growth Development Plan. This is a work in progress, and some ideas have already been implemented. The meeting with Ben Walker of the diocese on 15th August enabled the group to carry out a SWAT analysis on current resources and concluded that nurture and discipleship were the next steps.

The Growth Steering Group Report draws out seven key areas to focus on which are contained in the plan:- 1) nurture of faith and discipleship, 2) intergenerational worship within the 10 am services, 3) the resourcing of the toddler groups, 4) the development of Messy Church, 5) starting youth groups for secondary school age children, 6) development and wider publicity of the Ark and 7) connecting with schools and the wider community.

After highlighting these James read an addendum to the Report from the meeting of the Growth Steering Group the previous evening identifying three priorities: - Nurture of Faith and Discipleship, Ministry to Children and Young Families, and Youth Groups. James confirmed the resources required to address the priorities mentioned in the Report. The resources being, for volunteers and a curate or an assistant priest but also the need for a Children and Young Families Worker, to co-ordinate and grow this vital ministry at St Johns. James recommended that the Legacy and Grant be used to fund this provision. Caroline Watson then mentioned the job description that had been drawn up some time ago but not circulated for a Community Development Officer.

A discussion ensued around the vision to grow a younger and more diverse church especially when census information indicates there are many more older people than young families in Ben Rhydding. Sylvia's email, about how we provide for the elderly contingent

of our congregation was also mentioned and heeded. If we can have more younger people in the church, they will also be able to serve the older generation. It was agreed that we need to build relationships with the parents that come to the toddler groups and Messy Church and try to provide and retain those children and parents that have outgrown Messy Church. Conversation continued around the need for a resource for this work along the lines of a Families and Young people's Worker.

James Proposed that the PCC accept the Growth Development Plan and accompanying report, that the PCC request that Peter investigate obtaining another resource in the form of a curate/curate in training/retired clergy and that the PCC look at finding another resource in the form of a Families and Young Peoples Worker with consideration to the job description for a Community Development Worker. The PCC were all in favour.

CW

PW

DJ

Action Point – Caroline Watson to email out the job description she prepared earlier for consideration.

Action Point – Peter Willox to contact the bishop regarding an extra clergy resource.

Action Point – Dawn to liaise with regards to the safeguarding parts of the safer recruitment process.

Peter expressed thanks to the steering Group and particularly to James for all his hard work in taking the lead and putting the presentation together.

7. Matters Arising

1) Prayers of Love and Faith

Peter explained that we still need more guidance from the bishop on how these prayers are to be used. There was a broad feeling of support within the PCC for the use of the prayers with some having reservations about it. Peter intends to run the Living in Love and Faith course again in October. For now, we will await further clarity and proceed with caution.

8. Reports

1) Wardens and Standing Committee

- The shrubs overhanging the paths have been trimmed back and Niki was asked to test out with her wheelchair.

- Following a quote received it has been decided the church clock in the tower is too expensive to repair.

- Caroline W reported that we do not need a full faculty to repair the north aisle roof.

The PCC agreed to spend £50K plus in repairing the North Aisle roof, which will be run by the diocesan architect and undertaken by the appointed builder. Proposed, Caroline Watson, seconded by Caroline Elston, all were in favour.

2) Finance

- The August accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Caroline W asked for information on what the reserve for The Ark, was to be spent on.

The 2025 budget will be discussed at the November PCC.

3) Property and Maintenance

- Caroline W reported that the lightening conductor appears to have snapped and that she will contact the contractor.

4) Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Dashboard had been circulated to PCC prior to the meeting. Dawn reported that there were just two training modules to complete by one person.

PW

Lynn Haygarth has offered to help with DBS checks.

Action Point – Peter W to sign and return to Dawn the necessary paperwork

concerning Lynn's new role so that Dawn may return the form to the diocese.

Dawn mentioned that a recent non-church event had resulted in the need for urgent safeguarding advice. It transpired that the event, run by church members, but not in St John's name, had not gone through the hall hire booking process, which includes access to safeguarding documents, policies, and procedures. PCC concluded that if church members want to use the premises for non-church activities, they still need to go through the hall hire process and receive the relevant paperwork. This will only take place if booked through our booking co-ordinator, Lisa King.

5) Environment Committee

Lynn reported that the committee had supported the Fair-Trade Fashion Show and that Eco Tips from the committee were regularly included in the weekly newsletters. The Committee also discussed the Earth Day weekend. The Environment Committee and Carbon Net Zero Group will be involved in the planning of the 2025 Earth Day weekend.

6) News from the diocese, deanery, deanery synod, CTI

The next Deanery Synod meeting is 24/10/2024, 7pm at St Peter's church hall.
The next BEAF meeting is 01/10/2024 at Bradford Cathedral.

9. Items for the next agenda

- Budget 2025

10. AOB

- Bradford 2025 City of Culture website now open. How might St John's Church engage with it? There will be the ability to advertise our community events such as The Purple Room, Cantores, etc.
- Peter W has been asked whether a famous pianist and violinist may use church for free on Thursday 29th May 2025 for a charity event. The PCC agreed.
- There will be another Earth Day weekend starting on Saturday 3rd May 2025. We need to involve the Environment Committee this time.

11. Future PCC and WSC dates

PCC Mondays

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

WSC Wednesdays

23rd October, 11th December and 12th February

The meeting closed with The Grace

