

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
Thursday 14 September 2023**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Revd Cecilia Adjadge, Kate Adams, Amanda Beck, Beryl Bonfield, Tabitha Fogg, Michael Gasper, David Palmer, Lorna Pollard and Nigel Siesage (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Sian Howard and Ida Stanyer.

The meeting opened with a discussion of Ephesians 3.

23/48 MEMBERSHIP

The PCC welcomed Revd Cecilia Adjadge to membership of the PCC as curate. It noted that Judith Rudd had tendered her resignation from the PCC and expressed its appreciation for her contributions to its work.

23/49 ACCOUNTS

The PCC considered the financial statements for the first six months of 2023. These had previously been reviewed by the Standing Committee. The following points were particularly noted:

- the decline in Parish Centre surpluses over the period since 2019. Since the pandemic, there had been some recovery in evening bookings, but the potential for more weekend and school holiday business needed to be further examined. The decorative improvements in the lounge and the smaller meeting room could be helpful.
- following the renewal of giving campaign, there had been an encouraging increase in regular giving (cf minute 23/50 below)
- some legacies had been received recently and their allocation would be a matter for future discussion
- Utility price increases had been a major contributor to the Parish's financial difficulties. Revised energy prices would be known after 1 October.

23/50 RENEWAL OF GIVING

The Treasurer gave an interim report on the response to the renewal of giving programme conducted in recent months. Currently there had been an increase in pledged regular giving of approximately £8,000, which with gift aid would produce approximately £10,000. This would have a noticeable impact on the recurrent deficit, but would not eliminate it.

The PCC agreed that the congregation should be kept up to date with progress, and the continuing need to increase income, both through written communication and, where appropriate, in the context of services. It confirmed that arrangements should be made for Philip Leach from the Diocese to brief the PCC on the Parish Giving scheme.

Action: AJ

23/51 **DIOCESAN CONTRIBUTION**

The PCC considered the level of contribution to be made to the Diocese in 2024, taking account both of the condition of diocesan finances, and the Parish's own resources and likely income. It noted that the Diocese was projecting a deficit of £2million, and had suggested a 10% increase in contributions from parishes. PCC recalled that the Diocese made considerable contributions to the Benefice, not least in clergy stipends and associated expenses.

The Treasurer presented projections illustrating the impact on the Parish's financial position at various levels of contribution to the Diocese.

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that St Mary's contribution to the Diocese in 2024 should be £64,715, representing a 7.5% increase on 2023 (£60,200).

Action: AJ/AB

23/52 **PLACE OF PEACE**

The Vicar reported that two of the four contractors approached for quotes to carry out Phase 2 of the Place of Peace had withdrawn; and of the other two, only one was seen as suitable. The Vicar would continue to discuss this option, with a view to the work being undertaken, possibly in stages, from next Spring. When a detailed quote was available it would be referred to the PCC for approval. The PCC also agreed that Mrs Willis should be taken on as project adviser, paid on a sessional basis.

23/53 **PARISH CENTRE**

The PCC agreed that it would devote the forthcoming Awayday to continuing the review of the Parish Centre. This would be held on the morning of 14 October, not 7 October as previously scheduled.

23/54 **SOUND SYSTEM**

The PCC considered some estimates for the supply of a control desk for the new sound system. There was limited provision for this in the budget for the new system and all proposed desks exceeded this. Taking account of the need to ensure the desk was consistent with the appearance of the church, and the requirement for a Faculty, the PCC approved in principle the desk to be made by local supplier, EMCJ at

£3,935. This was the least expensive under consideration. An appropriate source for the balance not in the original budget would be identified separately.

Action: AB/SH

23/55 **PARISH WEBSITE**

With reference to minute 23/44, the PCC noted that offer to redesign the website had been withdrawn.

23/56 **SAFEGUARDING**

The PCC unanimously approved the appointment of Tabitha Fogg as Safeguarding Co-ordinator and expressed its warm appreciation to her for volunteering.

It was noted that consent forms had been issued for the Sunday Club.

23/57 **FIRST AID**

The PCC agreed to pay for First Aid training for Mark, the Parish Centre caretaker.

23/58 **DISABLED ACCESS**

The Vicar reported that progress with plans for a ramp into the Lady Chapel had been delayed by developments in the Church architect's business.

23/59 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 20 June 2023 were taken as read and approved.

23/60 **STANDING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on 2 August 2023 were received and approved.

23/61 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There were no matters to report.

23/62 **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

The PCC noted that there was no Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in St Mary's or the Parish Centre.

PCC noted concern expressed by a member of the congregation about the condition of one of the paths in the churchyard. It recalled that these were now the financial

and operational responsibility of the City Council, and that the issue had previously been brought to the Council's attention. The Vicar undertook to liaise with the parishioner and to raise the issue with the Council.

Action: AJ

23/63 **FUTURE BUSINESS**

Development of a long-term financial plan should be considered at a forthcoming meeting.

Meetings were scheduled for 14 October (Awayday), 26 October and 21 November.

CHAIRMAN

(Duration of meeting: 1 hour 39 minutes)