

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 pm on
Tuesday 9th July 2019**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Vicar) (Chairman), Angela Amoroso, Mary Britton, Revd Matthew Gough, Sian Howard, Michael Kirk, Andrew Oldershaw, Bob Rutland, Nigel Siesage (Secretary), Anne Squires, David Stanyer and Tanya Willis.

Apologies for absence were received from Rosalind Mathew

The PCC welcomed Matthew to his first meeting.

19/53 Prayers and reflection

The Vicar led the meeting in prayers and a reflection on Luke 7:16.

19/54 Baptisms

The PCC considered a paper by the Vicar on the need to develop a policy on baptisms (and thanksgiving services), there being no existing policy. The PCC welcomed and agreed to adopt four general principles proposed, as follows:

- a. we welcome anyone who wishes to be baptised, and we will do all we can to ensure they are baptised;
- b. our church will continually strive, through our worship, our hospitality and ongoing pastoral care, to welcome those being baptised and their families.
- c. we will ensure that those preparing for baptism (and in the case of children, their parents) have the meaning and practice of baptism explained carefully and appropriately, so that they give full and informed consent, that they can make the baptismal promises with integrity and that their faith is nurtured.
- d. those baptised will be encouraged in their newfound faith by the regular worshipping congregation.

The PCC then discussed in some detail:

- whether there should be some definition of those to whom baptism in St Mary's might normally be available, based on residence and/or connections
- whether baptism and thanksgiving services should take place only during Sunday morning services, other than in highly exceptional circumstances.

The Vicar agreed to consider the discussion in developing a further draft of the policy document.

19/55 Parish Centre

The PCC received a paper on possible development in the Parish Centre:

1. St Mary's Pre-School: The proprietors had requested permission to extend the outdoor space they currently use to provide more capacity for outdoor activities. The PCC approved this in

principle, subject to further consideration of the extent of the space and any financial consequences.

2. Parish Office: It had been suggested that the office might be enlarged into the cloakroom area. The PCC felt that this merited further consideration, but that this might affect the Pre-School, and that other options, possibly including the use of the Cottage Room, should first be explored.

19/56 **Doing the Everyday Better**

The PCC recalled that in 2017 it had noted a number of suggestions under this heading. It reviewed the original list and noted where these had either been implemented (the majority) or not pursued after further consideration.

The following specific points were noted:

- Pictures of PCC members and other office holders now needed to be updated on the notice board.

Action: Mr Siesage

- Welcome arrangements could still be something of a bottleneck. It was important to distinguish between providing a welcome (especially to new attenders) and holding a general conversation.

It was also suggested that a notice board outside the entrance to the Parish Centre would be useful for engagement with the wider community and with users.

19/57 **Quinquennial Inspection and buildings matters**

Mr Oldershaw reported that the inspection had taken place on 13 June, and had gone well. He had accompanied the architect. A number of issues had been identified but nothing which dramatically affected the Parish's existing expectations. The spire remained the outstanding issue. The full report was awaited.

Tenders for the work on the spire were due to be received from three companies on 19 July and would be reviewed by the Buildings Group.

The work on the exterior lighting of the church (minute 19/05(d) refers) had now been fully specified and applications for planning consent and a faculty would now proceed.

19/58 **Minutes of the PCC**

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 6 June 2019 were taken as read and approved.

19/59 **Action list**

The PCC received a fully updated action list. Further updates were approved. It was noted that the welcome pack was now being developed under the auspices of the Worship and Outreach Group.

19/60 Safeguarding

There were no current matters to report. A new national handbook had now been adopted by the Church of England and would be considered by the PCC for adoption locally in the Autumn.

19/61 Health and Safety

The policy on health and safety needed to be updated and should be an item for consideration at a future meeting.

19/62 Sub-groups

- a. Worship and Outreach: There had recently been a productive meeting.
- b. Social and Fund-raising: There had been no recent meeting Mr Kirk reported on sales of tickets for the forthcoming organ recital by James Gutteridge. The PCC received the notes of the meeting of the Christmas Tree Festival organising group, held on 2 July 2019. The PCC expressed its appreciation of the work of the group.
- c. Spire Fund-raising: Mr Siesage reported briefly.

19/63 First Aid training

This was recognised a high priority on the action list. Mr Oldershaw agreed to investigate the best way to take it forward.

Action: Mr Oldershaw

19/64 Next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 5 September 2019 in the Narthex.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm with Grace.

Chairman