

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
16 September 2021**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Revd Matthew Gough, Amanda Beck (Treasurer), Beryl Bonfield (Churchwarden), Sian Howard (Churchwarden), Andrew Oldershaw, David Palmer, Lorna Pollard, Judith Rudd, Bob Rutland, Nigel Siesage (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Josh Crick de Boom, David Stanyer and Ida Stanyer.

21/78 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

The Vicar led the meeting in a discussion of references to money in the Bible.

21/79 PARISH FINANCES

Amanda Beck presented papers outlining the Parish's recent and latest financial position. These indicate that in the first six months of the year, the financial position was broadly satisfactory in the circumstances. Regular giving had been steady, though plate collections, income from events and Parish Centre bookings were inevitably down.

In light of this information, the **PCC agreed**

- a) that £20k of the previously agreed contribution to the Diocese, which was currently being held for reason of caution, should now be paid; and
- b) that the next instalment of £20k should be paid before the end of the calendar year.

The PCC renewed its expression of warm appreciation to Mr Stanyer for his work on these accounts and as Treasurer over many years.

The PCC noted the need to review Parish Centre bookings policy on a future occasion, to ensure that suitable business was not being turned away.

Action: NS to add to Action Plan

21/80 CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESE

The PCC considered a range of documents informing the decision on the level of the Parish's contribution to the Diocese for the next financial year, taking account of the financial reports previously discussed. These papers included one by the Vicar, outlining the background to the setting of parish contributions, and recent discussions by the Standing Committee.

The PCC noted that the Diocese estimated that the gross cost of maintaining one parish priest – including salary, National Insurance and other oncosts – was £53,000. It was suggested that this should be the starting point for any reasonably well-resourced parish's consideration of its contribution level. It was pointed out that the Knighton Benefice consisted of two parishes, both of whose contributions could be attributed to these costs.

At its recent meeting, the Standing Committee had considered a number of options based on different financial scenarios. These were:

- A figure based on current projections as the 'balancing sum', which would not require support from the Parish's reserves (£43k on current estimates)
- A figure based on the costs of the incumbent (as summarised above)
- A higher figure making some extra provision for poorer parishes and the financial challenges facing the Diocese.

After extensive discussion, the PCC **resolved** by 8 votes to 2 with 1 abstention:

That the St Mary's Knighton Parish Contribution to the Diocese for 2022 be set at £56,000.

The PCC also agreed that this discussion prompted a need, at forthcoming meetings, to consider:

- a) The revival of the Parish Giving scheme after the pandemic
- b) The general financial principles governing future major financial decisions, particularly with regard to the application of the reserves.

Action: AJ, AB (NS to reflect in Action Plan)

21/81 RESUMPTION OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The PCC considered arrangements for restarting a number of normal parochial activities following the reduction in the risks of Covid-19 and the relaxation of government regulations.

The PCC endorsed the proposals for adoption of the new regular schedule of Sunday services, modified provision for processions and serving, arrangements for the welcome team, resumption of live music and provision of refreshments, and amended arrangements for distribution of newsletters and for the Sunday Club.

The PCC **agreed** that church funds should be used to cover any small expenses already incurred for the Christmas Tree Festival, should a reintroduction of restrictions lead to the cancellation of the event.

It was **agreed** that the form of the 10.30am service on the 3rd Sunday of the month should be reviewed in the first quarter of 2022.

21/82 MUSIC

The PCC noted that Michael Relph had agreed to co-ordinate the musicians and the songs they play on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in St Mary's, and to assist the choir as it resumes its contribution on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If this process developed successfully for all, a more formal arrangement with Mr Relph would be considered.

The PCC welcomed these steps.

21/83 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PIONEER WORKER

The PCC received a paper by the Vicar outlining the purpose and role of an appointment of a Pioneer Worker; the funding and supervision arrangements; and the possible next steps. (Previous reference minute 21/66).

The PCC **agreed**

- a) That the post should in principle be approved (confirming its original pre-pandemic decision)
- b) A small group be appointed to carry the process forward, reporting regularly to the PCC
- c) The plan and its purpose should be shared with the congregation
- d) There should be discussion with the Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, and learning from the experience of other churches
- e) The possibility of making this a joint appointment with St Guthlac's, and of collaboration with other parishes, should be explored
- f) Additional funding sources should be explored.

It was hoped these stages might be completed by the end of December. The detailed job description, salary, hours etc would then be agreed, to be followed by recruitment and a possible start date in summer 2022.

Action: AJ

21/84 LEGACY POLICY

Discussion of this item was postponed.

21/85 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 8 July 2021 were approved.

21/86 ACTION LIST

The PCC reviewed and updated the action list. The amended version would be presented at the next meeting.

Action: NS

21/87 ECO-CHURCH

Revd Matthew presented a report outlining the areas audited, and the findings.

21/88 SAFEGUARDING

There had been no matters to report.

21/89 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no matters to report.

21/90 COMMITTEES

The PCC received the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on 23 August 2021.

21/91 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The PCC noted:

- The benches in the churchyard had not yet been fixed down (21/71 refers)
- The City Council was looking into the question of street signs to the church (21/74 refers)
- Bookstall: a location had been agreed but the idea had not been implemented (21/76 refers).

21/92 FUTURE BUSINESS

The following items would be considered at future meetings:

- a) Project for the development of a place of peace in the churchyard.
- b) Structure of PCC agenda.

21/93 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 October at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10 pm with Grace.

Chairman