

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
Tuesday 11 June 2024**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Amanda Beck (Treasurer), Beryl Bonfield, Michael Gasper, Sian Howard, David Palmer, Ida Stanyer and Nigel Siesage (Secretary).

Also present: Simon Britton (for discussion of Parish Giving)

Apologies for absence were received from Revd Cecilia Adjadje, Kate Adams and Tabitha Fogg.

The meeting opened with a discussion of Psalm 27 and prayer.

24.25 **MINSTER COMMUNITIES:** The PCC resumed its consideration of Minster Communities and received a report from Mr Gasper on the recent meeting he, Mrs Bonfield and Mrs Rudd had attended. He expressed concern about the limited time and lack of guidance available to parishes for reaching decisions about the other parishes with which they might wish to become partners.

It was noted that the storyboards provided by each parish were now available online. The PCC also noted the aids ('Dials') provided to help PCCs assess their parish's strengths and weaknesses. After further discussion, the PCC agreed as follows:

1. To appoint a small working group to refine the PCC's analysis of its position and to examine the opportunities: members - AJ, MG, SH, IS
2. All members, but particularly the working group, to try to identify 6-7 parishes with which St Mary's might combine, preferably by making contacts and taking informal soundings (Vicar to provide some background information)
3. Vicar to liaise with St Guthlac's PCC to identify opportunities for joint approaches to the development of Minster Community
4. Vicar to consider how communication with the wider congregation about the Minster Community process might be developed.

The working group would bring the outcome of its discussions for full consideration at an additional special meeting of the PCC to be held on 30 July 2024.

Action: AJ, MG, SH, IS and All

24.26 **PARISH GIVING SCHEME:** The PCC considered a range of background papers on the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This enabled parishes to receive regular contributions from supporters by Direct Debit, which was a system not available to individual PCCs. Contributions were made to PGS which then collected gift aid and reimbursed the PCC monthly. This also had the benefit of relieving volunteers in the parish of the

considerable administrative tasks of gift aid; and could facilitate increasing levels of giving in line with inflation. Participation in the scheme by individuals was optional, so existing methods of payment would continue to be available, but it was to be hoped that as many members of the parish as possible would make use of PGS. In adopting Parish Giving, the PCC agreed that it would be rolled out as part of the annual renewal of giving exercise in the Autumn.

Resolved That the PCC requests the Parish Giving Scheme to commence operation of the scheme on the PCC's behalf.

Action: AB, Mr Britton

24.27 **NEW SOUND SYSTEM:** The PCC noted that work had begun on the installation of the new sound system, and it was hoped that it would be operational for the coming Sunday services. Noiseboys would be present to assist. The permanent desk would not be ready for some weeks, but this would not affect operation.

24.28 **DISABLED ACCESS RAMP:** The PCC received designs for the proposed ramp which would improve access to the altar in the N Aisle and thus to the Cancel. Some comments on the designs had been provided by the Buildings and Grounds Group. and it was agreed that these should be explored with the architect. Among the issues raised was the size and extent of the proposed side rails, and the material suggested.

Action: AB and Buildings Group

24.29 **QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW:** The Treasurer reported that the Quinquennial Review of the Parish's buildings was due to begin in the coming week. This would provide an opportunity to clarify the needs of the Parish Centre, which could form the basis of a more detailed and costed plan of refurbishment for the Centre. Mr Oldershaw had agreed to brief the architect on the issues he had previously identified.

24.30 **SUSPECTED LEAKS:** With reference to minute 24.23, it was noted that investigation into possible leakage had now been scheduled.

24.31 **IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:** There were no developments to report on the defibrillator or the place of peace projects.

24.32 **ORDINATION:** The PCC noted the arrangements for the forthcoming ordination of Revd Cecilia.

24.33 **HEALTH AND SAFETY:** A visitor to the warm room had expressed concern about the condition of the churchyards and the possible risk of accessing family gravestones. The Vicar agreed to pass on the established information on policy on and responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard.

Action: AJ

24.34 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2024 were taken as read and approved.

24.35 **SOCIAL GROUP:** Mrs Bonfield reported that the recent coffee morning had attracted an estimated 71 visitors and raised £602.59, which was believed to be a record.

24.36 **FUTURE MEETINGS:** The following meetings were scheduled: 30 July (Minster Community discussion only), 17 September, 29 October, 19 November.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm with the Grace.

Chairman