

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
3 March 2022**

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

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

22/13 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

The Vicar opened the meeting with a reading from 1 Thessalonians. Members prayed in silence for members of the congregation who were unwell.

22/14 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The PCC considered the annual accounts for 2021, including the management accounts and the budget for 2022. These included a brief summary of the main features of the Parish's financial position, emphasising that giving by church members had not returned 2019 levels and that the costs of running the church (i.e. excluding the Parish Centre) were not covered by giving.

The accounts had previously been considered by Standing Committee and were now recommended for adoption. If approved, they would be submitted to the Charity Commission and presented to the APCM at its forthcoming meeting for information.

After discussion, the PCC formally adopted the accounts unanimously.

22/15 WORSHIP ON THE 3RD SUNDAY

The PCC recalled that it had agreed to review the form of worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month early in the present calendar year. It received a paper by the Vicar giving the background to the adoption of Morning Worship and its development in the period since it was introduced in September 2018. Attendance figures at all services since May 2021 was noted. It was recognised that these were distorted by the impact of the pandemic. It was difficult to see a clear pattern, and an additional factor may have been the effect of changing the times of the two regular Sunday services to 9am and 10.30am.

Members acknowledged that for some parishioners the new services were unsettling and unappealing. Others, however, had embraced the opportunities for more varied and informal forms of worship. It was felt that, with a return to more stable provision of services, the opportunity should be taken to provide longer and more detailed advance notice of the nature of forthcoming services, both through the

newsletter and if possible to the wider community. The possibility of visiting preachers should also be pursued.

With this in mind, the PCC **agreed** to retain the existing pattern, to monitor the responses closely, and to review the arrangements again at Easter 2023.

22/16 **MUSIC COORDINATOR AND CHOIR DIRECTOR**

With reference to minute 22/3 of 20 January, the PCC received a paper setting out in more detail the duties which might be allocated to a paid employee as music coordinator and choir director. It noted that these would not replace the role of the organist within Sunday worship and that the possibility of directing the choir regularly in Evensong services might also be incorporated.

The PCC agreed that the Vicar should now draft more formal terms of appointment based on this outline and taking account of feedback he had received. This would be considered at a future meeting.

22/17 **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

1. Resumption of the administration of Holy Communion

The PCC noted the guidance from the Church of England on the possible resumption of the provision of Holy Communion, noting that real risks of virus transmission were still present in many public activities. The PCC endorsed proposals by the Vicar for the re-introduction of communion in both kinds, subject to a number of mitigations, and on the understanding that communicants could choose not to receive consecrated wine from the common cup. Intincting (dipping) would not be allowed as this carried a higher risk of virus transmission.

2. Admission to communion before confirmation

The PCC noted that, although in the past confirmation was a prerequisite to taking communion, there was now no required rite, apart from baptism, before a person could receive communion. Each church could shape its own policy on the offering of communion to baptised children over 5 who were not confirmed, subject to the approval of the Bishop. If St Mary's wished to extend communion to unconfirmed children under the age of 18, there had to be a consultation process and a formal resolution of the PCC. Any such children had to have been taught the meaning of the act to the satisfaction of the minister.

The PCC **agreed** that it would be appropriate to initiate the consultation process and to obtain the feelings of the congregation, in the light of which it might then be possible to put a formal proposal to the PCC.

22/18 BEQUEST

The PCC noted the receipt of a substantial request from the estate of the late Isobel, Lady Barnett. Members were encouraged to give consideration to possible uses of the bequest. This would be a matter for later detailed consideration.

22/19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 were approved subject to a correction to the attendance record, and an addition to minute 22/3.

22/20 SAFEGUARDING

There were no matters to report.

22/21 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no matters to report

22/22 STANDING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on 22 February 2022 were approved. It was agreed that the issue of costs of postage should be further considered at a future meeting.

22/23 WORSHIP SUB-GROUP

There had been a recent meeting of the sub-group, at which the details of the pioneer worker post had been further developed.

22/24 BUILDINGS SUB-GROUP

With reference to minute 22/13, the architect was considering improvements to access within the church and to the east door. His proposals would be taken to the sub-group in due course.

With regard to the proposed designs for a place of peace, the Vicar had engaged Tanya Willis and would meet her to discuss the plans shortly, following which arrangements would be developed to involve the congregation in taking the proposal forward.

22/25 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following topics were identified for forthcoming meetings:

- The work of the Platinum Jubilee group
- The future role of the Social and Fundraising group in the light of the planned establishment of an organisation for friends of Saint Mary's
- Parking for local schools.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5 April at 7:30 PM

The meeting closed at 9:46 PM with Grace.

Chairman