

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
Tuesday 17 September 2024**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Revd Cecilia Adadje, Kate Adams, Michael Gasper and Tabitha Fogg.

The meeting opened with a reading of I Corinthians 12.

24.38 MINSTER COMMUNITIES

The PCC resumed its discussions about Minster Communities. (Minute 24.38 in particular refers). The Vicar reported on informal conversations he had had with clergy in other parishes, and information he had received from the Diocese on the criteria likely to be important in guiding the formation of the new communities. These were consistent with the approach discussed and endorsed at the PCC's July meeting.

Taking account of the information available to them from personal enquiries and the Minster Community meetings, members of the PCC had written to the Vicar, indicating those parishes which they thought had the best potential to form a mutually beneficial and viable partnership. The following had stood out as a result of this exercise (alphabetical order):

St Christopher, Saffron Lane
St Denys, Evington
St Guthlac, Knighton
St Paul, Oadby
St Peter, Oadby

The PCC emphasised that it would approach discussions with these parishes with an open mind, and that this list did not preclude conversations in a positive spirit with other nearby parishes, such as St Andrew, Aylestone.

The Secretary was authorised to forward these conclusions to the Diocesan team to inform the forthcoming discernment process.

Action NPS

24.39 ACCOUNTS

The PCC considered interim accounts for the half year to June 2024. These had previously discussed by the Standing Committee at its meeting on 20 August 2024. While church income was slightly better than forecast and expenditure was on budget, it was noted that the number of regular givers had not increased following the recent renewal campaign. It was also the case that contributors often did not increase the level of their gifts.

It was suggested that, to help provide for the Parish in the longer term, it might be appropriate to draw attention to the possibility of providing for a legacy to the church.

The figures for the Parish Centre showed an overall reduction in lettings, but expenditure was below budget and therefore a small surplus, slightly better than budget, was currently projected.

The total PCC deficit for the year was forecast at £23,728. If achieved, this would be a very small improvement against the budget figure of £24,735, and the reserves could not sustain this level of deficit if continued. The Quinquennial inspection might give rise to additional unforeseen costs. It was therefore essential:

1. to resume the work examining opportunities for cost savings
2. to continue to promote increased regular giving.
3. to investigate improved organisational arrangements and systems for generating increased income from the Parish Centre

It was agreed to establish a Parish Centre Management Committee, consisting of the Vicar, the Treasurer, Mr Palmer and Mr Siesage to address the third item.

24.40 CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESE

The PCC **approved** a recommendation of the Standing Committee that the Parish's contribution to the Diocese for 2025 be increased by 2.5%.

The PCC recognised the difficult financial position of the Diocese, but noted that the contributions made by the Knighton Benefice were among the most substantial in the Diocese. In view of the state of the Parish's reserves, it would be difficult to sustain the current levels indefinitely.

24.41 PLACE OF PEACE

It was noted that the gardening contractors now hoped to begin work in November.

24.42 SOUND SYSTEM

The PCC noted with satisfaction the installation of the new sound system. An application had been made for a grant towards some of the costs. The PCC thanked Dr Howard and Mrs Beck for their work on this project.

24.43 DISABLED ACCESS TO CHANCEL

The PCC expressed its concern about the delays in advancing this project.

24.44 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 11 June 2024 were approved subject to correcting minute 24.35: for 171, substitute 71.

The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 30 July 2024 were taken as read and approved.

The minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee held on 20 August 2024 were approved.

24.45 SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING GROUP

The PCC noted that £645.13 had been raised at the coffee morning on 14 September. This was a record.

24.46 SAFEGUARDING

It was reported that, following a recent welcome increase in the number of children attending church, the necessary parental consent arrangements had been made.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Chairman

Length of meeting: 1 hour 41 mins