

**ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on  
26 October 2021**

**Present:** Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Revd Matthew Gough, Beryl Bonfield (Churchwarden), Sian Howard (Churchwarden), David Palmer, Lorna Pollard, Judith Rudd, Bob Rutland, Nigel Siesage (Secretary), David Stanyer and Ida Stanyer.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Amanda Beck, Josh Crick de Boom, Michael Kirk and Andrew Oldershaw.

**21/94 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION**

The Vicar opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 126 – A Harvest of Joy.

**21/95 SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER**

The PCC noted that the recent Diocesan Synod had voted by a substantial margin in favour of a Minster Communities framework. It was envisaged that there would be up to 25 such communities within the Diocese, each with a leadership team of at least four paid positions and led by an ordained oversight minister.

There would now be a consultation process which it was hoped would be completed by 2026, the centenary of the Diocese. It was noted that the adoption of a particular Minster grouping would be subject to the approval of each parochial church council

There would be a number of pilot projects, and the PCC considered whether St Mary's should put its name forward to participate in a pilot. The PCC agreed that the Vicar should express interest in participating in a pilot, subject to further information.

**Action:** AJ

**21/96 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PIONEER WORKER**

In the light of the intention that the new Minster community leadership teams should include one member whose focus would be on children and young people, the PCC considered whether it should continue to pursue its own plans to appoint a pioneer worker (minute 21/83 refers). After discussion it was agreed that the appointment should not be delayed any further and would probably be beneficial in the establishment of any Minster community incorporating the Knighton churches.

The Vicar reported that he had begun the actions approved at the last meeting, and had collected a number of job descriptions for similar posts.

**21/97 A PLACE OF PEACE**

The PCC recalled that the Vicar had circulated a short video suggesting the possibility of developing the churchyard to create what was described as a place of peace. Some members had subsequently looked around the churchyard and had given further thought to the possibility of adapting the layout of the churchyard to create different areas that would provide the wider community with opportunities for reflection, prayer and to encounter God. Mr Oldershaw had subsequently provided a paper setting out his thoughts on how this might be developed.

The PCC warmly welcomed the idea in principle, and agreed that some preliminary professional advice should now be sought about how the concept might best be realised. It was agreed that the project would be an appropriate one to be supported by the proposed organisation of Friends.

It was agreed that the project could also be adopted as one of the objects of the funds raised by the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival. The PCC emphasised that decisions of this nature should normally be subject to prior approval by the PCC.

**Action:** AJ to identify sources of professional advice.

**21/98 ECOCHURCH**

The Revd Matthew gave a presentation on the submission, which was now ready to be made on behalf of Saint Mary's for Ecochurch status. The analysis of the Ecochurch team was that overall St Mary's now met the standard for a bronze award. The PCC welcomed the progress, thanked those involved in the work, and agreed that the award should now be applied for. A plaque should be purchased from A Rocha, and an additional donation of £50 should be made.

**21/99 FORMAT OF PCC BUSINESS**

Some concern had been expressed at the format of PCC agenda papers. In particular, the placing of the minutes of the previous meeting at a late point in the agenda and the absence of a specific 'matters arising' item had been highlighted. After discussion it was agreed that the existing structure was acceptable. Care should be given to management of the business to ensure that there was good notice of the agenda; that any specific 'matters arising' appeared as substantive items; that, as far as was possible, discussion did not exceed the time allocated to a specific item; and that all items were adequately covered in the two hours normally set aside for meetings.

It was agreed that there should in future be a quarterly report on finance. This could be a formal item if there was no substantive financial business to discuss.

**21/100 FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S**

The PCC received a summary of a meeting of the Spire group held on 29 September 2021. This had considered *inter alia* the arrangements for establishing a Friends organisation. On consideration of this report, the PCC agreed:

- a. The organisation should be the Friends of St Mary's, and should not seek to cover St Guthlac's, to avoid confusion of messages
- b. The Friends should not register as a separate charity but operate within St Mary's current charitable registration
- c. Social events aimed at the wider community would normally be promoted under the Friends heading. It would be a vehicle for a gradual expansion of events following the pandemic. The desirability of opening the church more often outside service times was noted.
- d. The Friends should have their own governing committee, which reported to the PCC. It was important that this committee had external members (ie non-members of the congregation); the chair should be a church member and church members should be in a majority.
- e. A new PCC working group be established to work up the details of the organisation. NS and DP would be initial members.
- f. Banners should be commissioned to replace the InSpired banners currently on the churchyard railings, bringing out the success of the appeal and pointing to the future.

**21/101 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were approved.

**21/102 ACTION LIST**

The revised action list was received.

**21/103 SAFEGUARDING**

There were no incidents to report. It was noted that the Parish was now using the safeguarding dashboard made available by the Church of England to monitor and record any incidents. The annual review of safeguarding should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**21/104 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

It was agreed that a minor accident at the recent Knighton Players production should be recorded in the Parish accident book.

**21/105 SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP**

The PCC received a report of the meeting of the Social and Fundraising Group held in September 2021. It noted that it had subsequently been decided to print and

distribute a professional leaflet marketing the Christmas Tree Festival. Precautions prompted by the pandemic were noted.

**21/106 RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Churchwardens had received a request from the Diocese to complete a church security risk assessment provided by Leicestershire Constabulary. It was agreed that the Churchwardens should consult Mr Oldershaw about this.

**Action:** SH, BB

**21/107 FUTURE BUSINESS**

The following were noted:

Review of Legacy Policy & use of recent legacies -at first convenient opportunity  
Safeguarding Annual Review 2021 – at November 2021 meeting  
Reserves policy – at January 2022 meeting

**21/108 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 25 November at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm with Grace.

Chairman