

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
Thursday 9 May 2024**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Kate Adams, Beryl Bonfield, Michael Gasper, Sian Howard, Ida Stanyer and Nigel Siesage (Secretary).

Also present: Judith Rudd (for discussion of Minster Communities)

Apologies for absence were received from Revd Cecilia Adjadje, Amanda Beck, Tabitha Fogg, David Palmer.

The meeting opened with a discussion of Psalm 63 and prayer.

24.18 MEMBERSHIP AND PCC OFFICERS: Following the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the following appointments were unanimously approved:

Vice-Chair: The Church Wardens

Standing Committee: The Vicar and Church Wardens; The Treasurer; David Palmer; Kate Adams, (PCC Secretary in attendance)

PCC Treasurer: Amanda Beck

PCC Secretary: Nigel Siesage

Electoral Roll Officer: Eileen McKellican. PCC noted that Eileen intended to stand down at the next APCM after completing the scheduled revision of the roll.

Health and Safety Adviser: Simon Britton

Safeguarding Officer: Tabitha Fogg

Environmental Champion: Sian Howard

Publicity Officer: vacant

Giving Scheme: Simon Britton

Sub-committee convenors:

Social and Fund-raising: Beryl Bonfield

Worship: The Vicar

Buildings and Grounds: The Vicar

The PCC noted that there were vacancies on the PCC and considered ways in which members of the congregation might be encouraged to join. These included presentations from existing PCC members on their roles, and encouraging interested people to attend an open meeting as observers.

24.19 MINSTER COMMUNITIES: Mrs Rudd and Mr Gasper reported on the Diocesan Minster Communities meeting they had attended on behalf of the Parish. (Previous reference minute 24.12). It had been made clear that a development of this sort was essential to the financial viability of the Diocese, and that parishes which did not participate could expect, over time, to have no clergy or other stipendiary staff funded by the Diocese. In engaging in discussion with other parishes about the

formation of communities, it was important to be honest about a parish's strengths and weaknesses and to respect different traditions and practices.

There was an extensive discussion about the characteristics and locations of parishes with which St Mary's might form a community, as well as other considerations, such as the catchment areas of schools, the proximity of universities and other institutions, and whether existing deanery and local government boundaries were relevant.

Members would continue to approach the discussions with goodwill and open minds. A 'storyboard' had been prepared identifying the characteristics, strengths and challenges of St Mary's, based on established practice and discussions in the parish. This was welcomed and approved by the PCC. It would form the basis of conversations with other parishes, which would share their storyboards.

Further Diocesan 'conversation prompt' meetings were scheduled and it was agreed that Mrs Rudd, Mr Gasper and Mrs Bonfield should attend the meeting on 14 May; and Dr Howard and Mrs Stanyer should attend the meeting on 2 July.

In view of the tight decision-making timetable, it was recognised that additional PCC meetings might be required.

- 24.20 **NEW SOUND SYSTEM:** Dr Howard reported that a Faculty had now been granted for the installation of the new sound system. Unfortunately, additional costs would now be due because VAT had become payable on the desk in which the equipment would be installed. This extra cost would be partly offset by the £750 included in the original quote for the equipment. On this understanding, the PCC approved the additional expenditure and expressed the hope that the equipment could now be installed as quickly as possible.

(Post-meeting note: It was subsequently established that the provision for a sound desk in the Noiseboys contract was £940 plus VAT, exceeding the new VAT requirement. The final cost of the desk including VAT was £4722.)

- 24.21 **PCC PRIORITIES AND REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE:** The PCC received a paper summarising possible priorities for the PCC based on the Parish's established vision and objectives; and the initial report of the Standing Committee's sub-group reviewing areas of expenditure. These would be a matter for further detailed examination, but it was noted that the vacancy for a music coordinator was currently generating savings. It was agreed that the Vicar should speak to various interested parties to see what longer term economies might be made without sacrificing the desired level of music provision.

The longstanding objective to appoint a children's outreach worker remained an important aim. The PCC noted that it would be well placed to ensure that such an appointment was made in the context of a new Minster Community.

24.22 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024 were taken as read and approved.

24.23 **BUILDINGS:** It was reported that there was some evidence of damp high on the east wall of the chancel. Mr Oldershaw was obtaining a quote for the scaffolding which would be needed to assess the situation.

24.24 **FUTURE MEETINGS:** The following meetings were scheduled: 11 June, 17 September, 29 October, 19 November.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm with the Grace.

Chairman