



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Monday January 20th – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

Rob Gladstone (chair), Fred Sleath, Margaret Rouse, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Ray Prince, Nigel Willey, Liz Barker, Alison Parkinson, Wendy Lewis, Chris Garnett, Susie Clark, Linda Poole, Margaret Leverment, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. Opening Prayers/Reading Rob read from 2 Timothy reminding us to 'Defend the faith...and share the faith'.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Wendy Ferguson

Accuracy and approval of minutes from PCC November 11th, 2024. Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

All actions completed.

Safeguarding to be dealt with as a separate item on agenda.

3. Evangelism

Nigel Willey reported back on the Midlands Men's Convention 2024 where the topic was **Talking about what matters**.

We looked particularly at barriers to talking intentionally about spiritual matters. Following Nigel's presentation, members discussed whether coffee after the service was the most conducive place for this and it was generally agreed that we talk about our Christian faith most in small groups where there is an atmosphere of trust and less barriers. We were urged to have the confidence to go deeper. This may lead to being bolder in friendships outside of church.

4. Evangelism Group

Christmas events

All the Carol services went really well. There were many visitors as well as our regular congregation. The Saltmine pantomime was also similarly well attended and financed out of the Evangelism Group resources. Because of its success the school is now interested in running an event by the Saltmine Theatre Company and has approached us for a contribution towards the cost. It was agreed that we should support this.

Events at **Broadnook**: Five families moved in before Christmas; two attended our welcome event in the show home and said they would attend a similar event in the future and encourage other residents to do so. We talked about having a further welcome event when residents start to move into the Bovis Homes part of the development later in the year.

Other events: the **Hope Explored course** was soon to start, with 20 people already signed up.

5. Send

A report was circulated prior to the meeting outlining the amounts proposed for the main and the discretionary tithe. All agreed.

Current allocation of tithe to main societies:

CPAS 25%, Tearfund 17%, Crosslinks 23%, Tanzania Links 10%, Homeless 10% (divided equally between The Carpenter's Arms and Triangle). We agreed that no changes are needed, and that we support a good range of different organisations. We do not hear much about The Carpenter's Arms, but they do a very distinctive Christian-based work with addicts, and it is good to support an organisation based in Loughborough.

2024 discretionary tithe (15% of tithe):

Sue did not have the final figure for distribution, but preliminary figures were around £1,800.

We therefore agreed donations of approximately:

Paul and Cathy Middleton

£450

Mothers' Union	£400
Soar Valley Community Food Project	£400
The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield	£350
CPAS School Ventures	£200

After the meeting, when final church income figures were available, Send (6 of whom are PCC members) unanimously proposed the following:

Paul and Cathy: £525

Mothers' Union: £525

Soar Valley Outreach: £525

The Oakes: £350

CPAS School Ventures: £208.27

Total: £2,133.27

The PCC agreed these figures by email.

6. Finance

Annual reports and Accounts

Work was progressing on this document. All income and expenditure relating to 2024 must be included in the accounts. Some of the figures are not known until after the end of the year, so Sue Wilson continues to gather them during January, hence why the full accounts were not yet available. However, Sue has sufficient figures to report that, unfortunately, for the first time in at least 12 years, we will record a significant deficit on the General Fund. The deficit to date was £11.5k and, although £8k less than we once feared, it is a cause for concern going forward. General Fund income fell by £5k compared to 2023, while General Fund expenditure rose by £8k. The two areas of significant overspend were the audio-visual system, where we had to replace our wireless microphones and one of our screens during the year (£3k) and OSR gas, perhaps because of increased use of the premises (£1k). General Fund giving will need to be encouraged, but this will be difficult until we know the true financial position of the building project.

Sue then took questions.

7. Operations

Linda Poole updated the PCC on repairs to a fault in the roof of The Old School Rooms. Repairs will cost £280 plus VAT and that is going ahead. She also drew attention to the fact that the costs of gas and electricity have risen significantly in the last 12 months; however, so have bookings, income rising from £5600 to £6400. We still are looking at a rota for locking and unlocking, particularly on Saturday evenings when bookings get busy. It's very quiet at the moment but Linda will be in contact with people who have volunteered already, as needed.

Ray Prince updated PCC with maintenance issues. The audio-visual system has been maintained adequately. Someone is still needed to help Sue Jackson when Ray steps down. The Quinquennial 2020 work has been completed and the next Quinquennial Inspection is due this year.

Fire warden training sessions will be run by Fireproof in February and March. A certificate valid for three years will be issued to every person who attends – just one session is required.

We expressed our gratitude to a church member, who wishes to remain anonymous, for a generous donation for repairs to the Garden of Remembrance hedging and lych gate.

Ray drew our attention to the fact that both he and Marion Whitby will be stepping down on May 31st and suggested that these and other vacancies be advertised as soon as possible.

Action: Ray to put a notice in Fellowship Post when work in the churchyard is about to start.

Action: Vacancies for Church officers to be advertised as soon as possible.

Nigel raised a need for more pew cushions when we have large congregations. Ray had obtained a cost of £954 for 20. However, with the current General Fund deficit and the ongoing Church Building Improvements project, it was agreed to defer this request at the present time.

8. Church Building Improvements

There is concern that some of the grants we have obtained towards the Church Building Improvements are time-limited, so the delays which are being experienced with Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department are having a detrimental impact. Our named officer at Charnwood has been in touch with Clive Jackson and we are hoping to have the approval from them by the end of January.

9. Safeguarding.

Two policies need signing off. They have been revisited to accommodate slight alterations and all agreed with the changes.

Proposed Susan Pinkus
Seconded Ray Prince

The next review will be November 2025. New Safeguarding standards are about to be published. Wendy Ferguson will be stepping down at the APCM.

10. APCM

After the Annual Church Meetings in April, we will have vacancies for the following key roles:

Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Church Building Manager
Audio-Visual System Overseer
A Churchwarden
An Assistant Churchwarden

If you want to know about these roles, please speak in the first instance to Margaret Rouse or Fred Sleath.

Susie Clark has agreed to stand to serve another term on the PCC.
Wendy Lewis will be stepping down from the PCC at the APCM.

11. Vicar's Report

Sneha will be finishing her ordinand placement with us on May 31st and her curacy here at Rothley will start on June 29th.

12. Minster Community

There is nothing further to add since the meeting last November. The next meeting of the Coordinating Group will be January 29th.

Meeting closed with prayer at 21.18.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday February 26th 2025, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley
PCC: Monday March 10th, 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School Academy

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for March 10th meeting to Susan Pinkus by Monday February 24th

Additional date: APCM, 11am, April 6th, in Church