Robe then outlined these challenges as follows

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**Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting**

**Monday January 30th 2023 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School Academy**

**Present:**

Rob Gladstone (chair), Margaret Rouse, Alison Godfrey, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Lewis, Susie Clark, Jonty Pilbeam, Linda Poole, Chris Garnett, Ray Prince, Fred Sleath, Margaret Leverment, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. **Opening Prayers/Reading**

Rob read from Romans Chapter 1

1. **Declarations of Interest:** None

**Apologies:** David Hodgson, Wendy Ferguson, Alison Parkinson, Liz Barker

**Minutes from November 21st 2022** were agreed after the insertion of the phrase ‘during which a variety of views were expressed’ in the final sentence of item 8.

**Matters arising.** None

1. **Operations**

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

**It was agreed** to fund the repairs needed to the shed roof and facing wall of the brick store in the OSR yard which were reported at our last meeting (LP circulated photographs): £1380 plus VAT (estimated at 3 days’ work with same contractor as the repairs on the main building).

RP gave an update on the Boiler House and ongoing problems with our AV system.

Work started on the boiler house on January 4th and should be completed by end of first week in February.

We are still waiting for permission from the diocese to go ahead with repairs to the clock.

Severn Trent approached us about having a water meter fitted in the church as our current charges are low.

Water is still leaking into the South Aisle and this is under further investigation.

The AV system has been unreliable of late which has meant we haven’t always been able to livestream services as planned. Sue Jackson has agreed to oversee this in the future and has been working with Ray to rectify problems.

1. **Update on building project and Reordering**

Fred Sleath has met with the architect regarding further storage. Revised drawings are needed ahead of the faculty application.

Charles Poole is obtaining quotations for an appeal brochure which can be used for grant applications as well for direct fundraising.

**Action:** Fred Sleath to post an update in the Fellowship Post and eventually to make a presentation to the congregation at services.

1. **Finance**

The **Draft Annual Report and Accounts** are now complete. This is a detailed report which has to be produced to Charity Commission specifications. The document and finance files will go to our Independent Examiner at Newby Castleman Accountants in Loughborough this week for him to verify the figures and check that they agree with what is reported. Sue wanted to thank everyone who sent in their reports for inclusion in the optional narrative section of the Report.

Once the figures have been agreed by the Independent Examiner, the document will be sent out to PCC members to read in advance of our March meeting, where the whole document has to be agreed and signed by Rob on our behalf.

A full analysis of our financial position is included in the document. However, **the headlines for the General Fund in 2022** are that income increased in all streams, which was a very good result. However, expenditure also rose. We ended with a deficit of just under £1,800. While not welcome, this is a considerable improvement on the expected deficit of £9,400 for the year.

We have not received any figures for a new gas contract yet, so Sue is unable to predict but a deficit as large as £22,000 for **2023 is possible**. While this possibility remains, we need to hold sufficient General Fund reserves to cover it. The situation at present is that we are just slightly short of the required figure and we no longer hold the accumulated reserves we planned to use to pay for the boiler house and the Quinquennial work. In 2019 we put £10,000 into the Church Maintenance Fund to cover the boiler house work. We have so far paid £3,900 for surveys, planning permission and the replacement of the corroded gas pipe into the church and have £6,800 available in the Church Maintenance Fund. However, at least another £20,000 will be due. The balance, and whatever is required for the Quinquennial repairs, may have to be taken from legacies. This will need to be considered at the next PCC meeting.

At the next meeting we also need to review **opening the church during the summer months**, bearing in mind the advice provided by our insurance company and quoted in the Finance Report. As recently as last week, there were still problems with young people misbehaving and vandalizing the streets near the church.

1. **Working Groups**

***Send***

A report was circulated prior to the meeting outlining our mission giving through our annual tithe.

**The PCC voted to continue with the current allocation to our main societies and to agree the following dispersal of the 15% discretionary tithe:**

*. Mercy Air 578.19*

*Mothers’ Union 450*

*Soar Valley Community Food Project 500*

*The Oakes Holiday Centre, Sheffield 400*

*CPAS School Ventures 300*

*Total 2228.19*

*The main increase this year has been in our donation to the Food Bank (SVCFP).*

It was reported that later in 2023 the Send Committee may propose support from this year’s discretionary tithe for Serena Cook, who will be spending the 2023/4 academic year working as a UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship) Relay Worker with the Christian Unions at Aberystwyth and Lampeter. There will also be an opportunity for direct support for Serena by individuals and information will be shared with the church fellowship when available.

***Discipleship*** to meet.

**7. Safeguarding**

Rob gave an update and encouraged all volunteers to undertake the appropriate training, which is easily accessible online.

**8. Update/Report from Deanery Synod meeting November 16th 2022**

The focus of the meeting was ‘Shaped by God Together’, but before moving onto discussion about Minster Communities a number of contextual points were made:

Financial challenges:

* the Diocese had a £2.3 million deficit last year and has a similar projected deficit for this year
* 90% of parishes pay less into central funds than they receive
* 37% of churches have no one under 18 in the congregation
* 55% have less than five in the congregation under 18

There are currently three pilot Minister Communities:

Launde (Billesdon area)

Coalville area

N.E. Leicester (Thurnby et al., Scraptoft, Barkby and Thurmaston)

The latter involves two parishes in Goscote Deanery.

The project is going ahead with the aim to be completed across the diocese by 2026.

**9. Vicar’s Report**

This was circulated prior to the meeting.

For information Rob mentioned that the OFSTED report for Rothley Church of England Academy was now online.

He also mentioned that a group from our Growing Families will be visiting St George’s House in N Devon later this year.

Rob had some concerns about our Ministry Team becoming an ageing team, but was happy to report that new Church members with experience in this field have joined, notably Sue and Andy Willetts. **Andy has to have the support of the PCC to transfer his lay ministry** and **this was agreed by all**. Alison Godfrey has also joined the Ministry Team.

**The Coronation of King Charles May 6th**

There will be a concert in church on Friday evening May 5th and a service and lunch on May 7th.

Rob gave an update on Living in Love and Faith and outlined the next stage in the current process.

Here is the full text of the motion from the House of Bishops to the General Synod which will be debated on February 8th:

*‘That this Synod, recognising the commitment to learning and deep listening to God and to each other of the Living in Love and Faith process, and desiring with God’s help to journey together while acknowledging the different deeply held convictions within the Church:*

* *(a) lament and repent of the failure of the Church to be welcoming to LGBTQI+ people and the harm that LGBTQI+ people have experienced and continue to experience in the life of the Church;*
* *(b) recommit to our shared witness to God’s love for and acceptance of every person by continuing to embed the Pastoral Principles in our life together locally and nationally;*
* *(c) commend the continued learning together enabled by the Living in Love and Faith process and resources in relation to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage;*
* *(d) welcome the decision of the House of Bishops to replace Issues in Human Sexuality with new pastoral guidance;*
* *(e) welcome the response from the College of Bishops and look forward to the House of Bishops further refining, commending and issuing the Prayers of Love and Faith described in GS 2289 and its Annexes;*
* *(f) invite the House of Bishops to monitor the Church’s use of and response to the Prayers of Love and Faith, once they have been commended and published, and to report back to Synod in five years’ time.’*

It was agreed that there is need for more discussion at local level to enable more understanding of this issue and the concerns of those who may be grappling with/conflicted by their sexuality and their faith.

**APCM**

The AGM will take pace at 11 am on April 2nd directly after the 9.30 service.

We have 4 Deanery Synod representatives who have reached the end of their term and they may choose to be re- elected

On the PCC we have six members who have come to the end of their term of office. Four of these may choose to stand for re-election. However, Sue Wilson and Jonty Pilbeam may not stand for re-election as they have completed six consecutive years. Those wishing to stand should fill in the requisite paperwork. Forms are available from David Wilson.

Rob closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Meeting closed at 9.20 pm**

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Business Committee: Thursday March 2nd, 7pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley**

**PCC Monday: March 13th, 7.15pm, Rothley School**

**APCM: Sunday 2nd April in Church directly following the 9.30 service**

*Papers and requests for agenda items/time to Susan Pinkus by* ***Sunday February 26th*** *please.*

*SusanPinkus February 14th 2023*