



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday May 13th 2024 – 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

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

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob opened with a reading from Revelation Chapter 3 stressing the importance of an ethos of 'open door'. He then showed a video of how a new worshipping community was established at the new housing estate at Grange Park, Loughborough.

Declarations of Interest: None

Apologies: Chris Garnett, Alison Parkinson

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

Accuracy and approval of minutes from the Informal PCC meeting April 11th, 2024. Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

For personal reasons, Marie Palmer has decided to stand down from the PCC.

3. Evangelism

Members had been asked to read the material in the CPAS link below prior to the meeting.

Faith Sharing Culture Resources

<https://www.cpas.org.uk/sites/default/files/content/Practice%20-%20Tell%20Faith%20Stories.pdf>

The PCC were asked by Rob to split into pairs and follow a faith-sharing exercise: In 3 minutes tell your partner about the difference becoming a Christian has made to your life.

4. Finance

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

This government scheme gives grants to cover VAT on church repairs. Our annual application was made in April, and we received £6,760. This amount will be allocated to the various funds which originally paid the VAT. The PCC would like to record thanks to Clive Jackson who makes applications on our behalf.

Sue Wilson asked if there were any questions on the Finance Report. There were none.

5. Operations

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting. RP and LP outlined actions and activities which have taken place since our last PCC meeting.

Church:

Quinquennial Inspection Report Update

The work started on Monday 22nd January 2024 and was completed on Tuesday 12th March. The contract sum was £21,850. The actual cost was £21,490. This saved £360.

The next Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2025.

“Wild Flower Meadows” and Churchyard Maintenance

We now have started 3 “Wild Flower Meadow” areas in the churchyard. Sarah Gladstone has joined the team overseeing the development of this.

The PCC wish to thank Barbara Sutters for all the work she had done in the churchyard over the years. Barbara has now decided to step away from maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance, so we will need a volunteer to look after this area.

Ray also wanted to let the PCC know that it is his intention to stand down in 12 months’ time from the role he has played in assisting the churchwardens as Church Building Manager.

The churchwardens added to the PCC’s appreciation and thanked Ray for his diligence, hard work and commitment to this role.

Old School Rooms:

There is nothing further to add to the report circulated.

6. Health and safety

Fred Sleath and Ray Prince have met with Mark Davies and we need to carry out a fire risk assessment before the end of this year. The last time this risk assessment was carried out was 2015. At the moment Fred has a quote of £700 for both the church and the Old School Rooms but is currently seeking an additional two quotes to follow due diligence.

7. Church Building Improvements Update

We have received an e-mail from the Diocesan Advisory Committee outlining eight points which need to be answered before work on the vestry, toilets, glass door and outdoor area can go ahead. Ken Arkley is liaising with David Pendery to ensure this information is provided without delay so that the work can go ahead as soon as possible. The PCC wishes to thank Ray Prince for his hard work on this aspect of church life.

Charles Poole had provided an update on the financial and grants situation. So far £115,000 has been pledged which, in addition to the PCC commitment of £125,000, means, on current estimates, we have another £140,000 to find. Clive Jackson has made six grant applications; there are another six in progress and another five he can't submit until the faculty has been granted. The PCC wish to thank Clive for all his work on our behalf.

8. Safeguarding

Once again, Wendy reminded the group that up-to-date certificated safeguarding training is a legal requirement for all members of the PCC. A document detailing all training of our members and dates when training is due for renewal was circulated again prior to the meeting. All members are now aware of the current status of their certification. Everything else is up to date and in order with group leaders having to oversee DBS certification for their members.

9. Working Groups

- **Send**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting, and it was noted that the discretionary tithe was very marginally less than the provisional amount we approved. Some discussion followed about visiting speakers and suggestions for dates and this will be revisited at a later date.

- **Discipleship**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. New dads were invited to the Men's Breakfast and this received a positive response. Only two of the eight contacted attended due to the bank holiday but the rest have asked to be invited again. New members of the congregation have been approached personally and have been invited to welcome events at the Vicarage.

- **Evangelism**

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated prior to this meeting and included a list of events planned: MU strawberry tea in July, Party in the Park in August, Macmillan coffee morning in September and carols in December. Volunteers will be needed to help organise these.

The group would like to refresh the church website to make it more appealing to visitors. They would like to complete this by 1st September. During discussion, Church of the Martyrs Leicester website was commended as a good example and caution was expressed about the time that might be needed to complete this project.

The prayer meeting for evangelism at 6:00pm on a Sunday in church once a month has been consistently well attended.

Susie Clark then introduced the idea of engaging Salt Mine Theatre Company to present a family pantomime this Christmas as an evangelistic event, as well as for our existing congregation. The date suggested is Sunday, December 1st. One performance will would cost £960 and two performances, £1060. We would also need to hire a stage which could cost between £150 and £200. We discussed the possibility of making a nominal ticket charge. Following discussion, PCC members were supportive and agreed, suggesting that marketing should start in September.

10. Vicar's Report

This report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Minster Communities

A summary of parish responses to the proposals for our area had been received from the Diocese and circulated to PCC members. An email had also been received by Fred on the day of the meeting informing us that a Co-ordinating Group is to be formed to take forward the plans for our group, Group C. Anyone interested in being part of this Co-ordinating Group is asked to respond by June 3rd. There was also an invitation to a Zoom meeting on May 28th for anyone from Group C churches to hear more about the next part of the process. It was felt by all that we needed representation on the Co-ordinating Group.

Broadnook

Following a question, Rob explained that 55% of Broadnook falls in the Parish of Birstall & Wanlip, 35% in Rothley and 10% in Thurcaston. Rob understood that Birstall are focusing on Hallam Fields and the railway line separates Broadnook from Thurcaston village. A worshipping community in Broadnook requires a Bishop's Mission Order, which can take up to 18 months to arrange. However, it is important to start work on Broadnook as soon as residents move in. Rob had been contacted by Mark Pratchett from the national Community Stewardship organisation, which is

engaged by developers to help build community on new estates by working with existing stakeholders. Mark was encouraged by the evangelism that is already taking place on the estates in Rothley, so Rob has invited him to our next PCC meeting on July 1st. Rob's vision is not that Broadnook will be an 'add on' to but a new worshipping community. Rob has also invited Ben Gardner from St Barnabas Grange Park in Loughborough to attend our meeting on the 1st of July.

Meeting closed with prayer at 21.26 pm

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday June 19th: 7pm 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley

PCC Monday: Monday July 1st, 7.15pm: Rothley Primary School Academy

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for PCC meeting July 1st to Susan Pinkus by

Sunday June 16th please.

SusanPinkus May 14th 2024