Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting**

**Monday September 19th 2022 – 7.15 pm at Old School Rooms**

*As we were meeting on the day of the Queen’s funeral Margaret Rouse (chair) requested that we start the meeting with one minute’s silence and David Wilson offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the Queen’s service and her adherence to her Christian faith throughout her reign.*

**Present:**

Margaret Rouse (chair), Alison Godfrey, David Wilson, Sue Wilson, Wendy Lewis, Liz Barker, Susie Clark, Jonty Pilbeam, Linda Poole, Chris Garnett, Wendy Ferguson, Alison Parkinson, Ray Prince, Susan Pinkus (secretary)

1. **Opening Prayers/Reading**

Margaret read from 1 Peter 2 v 4-10 reminding us that it is a privilege to do the Lord’s work.

1. **Declarations of Interest:** None

**Apologies:** David Hodgson, Fred Sleath, Margaret Leverment, Rob Gladstone

**Minutes from July 4th 2022** agreed as an accurate record.

**Matters arising:**

We are still one Foundation Governor short at Rothley Academy.

**Action:** David Wilson to liaise with Rob Gladstone to attempt to resolve this matter.

1. **Finance**

# Organ repair

In August, some minor faults in the organ were repaired (£167), but further faults were found – mice have chewed some of the leather parts inside a part called the pedal chest – and this will cost around £1,600. Our designated Organ and Music Fund will cover this work, which will be done in 2023. However, earlier this year Margaret Offley made a special donation to the church in memory of her late mother, Bessie Grindrod, and she has asked whether this may be allocated towards the organ repair. The amount, including Gift Aid, is £1,250. Sue Wilson proposed that this be designated to the Organ and Music Fund to be used for the repair of the organ. Seconded by Susan Pinkus.

All agreed.

# Parish Contribution 2023

In Leicester Diocese every church contributes an annual amount towards the provision of ministry throughout the whole. This helps to fund clergy stipends and housing as well as the wide range of support and training provided for lay ministers, parish officers and congregations. Parish Contribution is not a levy but a donation, decided annually by each individual PCC. It is our largest item of expenditure each year and this year we will pay £96,430. It currently costs around £65,000 to provide one member of clergy and central support for a parish, hence, we are more than covering our share of diocesan expenses. However, the total given by all parishes continues to fall short of the amount needed to provide the current level of ministry in the Diocese. This is perhaps because the cost of ministry figure is not being clearly explained and shared; percentages are being used instead of actuals, so if a parish’s contribution is already low, a percentage increase may not necessarily bring their contribution up to cover the cost of ministry.

The Finance Group have produced our latest accounts, to 31st July, together with a forecast for the end of the year and a draft budget for 2023. Income to 31st July, when the legacy and special donation are removed, is around 6½% better than budget, and expenditure is 2% over budget, resulting in an expected deficit of £3,000 at the end of this year, rather than the budgeted £9,400.

However, the Finance Group expect General Fund income to fall overall by about £7,000 in 2023 as a result of the sharp rise in the cost of living and the appeal for the church building improvements. This would lead to a deficit of £8,700 at the end of 2023. However, the price of energy has become a greater concern since these figures were produced.

We currently have contracts for electricity and gas which keep constant the price per unit we pay. Our electricity contract runs to October 2024, but our gas contract will need to be renewed on 1st April 2023. Accurate predictions are not possible, but we have been advised that a new contract could cost us six or seven times as much as we are paying now. That would result in between £11,000 and £13,000 more in the 2023 expenditure budget, and a possible deficit of £20,000 to £22,000 at the end of next year, assuming that we retain our present Contribution to the Diocese of £96.430.

In deciding our Parish Contribution for 2023, we must balance the needs of the Diocese alongside our own financial position. The Diocese of Leicester asks us to act in the following ways as we make our decision:

* Generous (*This commitment will stretch us, is more than is strictly necessary or expected, and recognises the need of others in the diocese.*)
* Realistic (*This commitment is based on an honest appraisal of our financial situation and that of the diocese.*)
* Prayerful (*This commitment has been made after a time for prayerful reflection.*)

For 2023, even in the face of a possible large deficit Sue believed it would be possible for us to take a risk, in faith, to make the Parish Contribution a priority and offer the same, already generous pledge, as this year, £96,430.

Sue led us in a time of prayer.

After discussion, PCC members voted in a secret ballot.

Of the 14 members present, 9 voted to keep our contribution at £96,430 and 5 voted to increase it by amounts varying from £5,000 to £10,000

***The decision, therefore, was to keep our Parish Contribution at £96,430 for 2023.***

1. **Safeguarding**

Wendy Ferguson had submitted a report to PCC members prior to the meeting. She drew our attention to the Diocesan safeguarding dashboard for our church. This shows where people, including PCC members, still need to complete or update their safeguarding training. Wendy strongly urged people to do this as soon as possible.

It was suggested that people who run groups within the Church should be responsible for overseeing the safeguarding status of people who volunteer in those groups.

We noted the need to replace Steve Thomason who used to oversee our social media platforms and the church website.

**Action:** Wendy Ferguson to re-circulate our social media policy.

This item to be discussed again at our next PCC meeting.

Kate Croden is continuing in her safeguarding role at the present time.

The PCC would like to thank both Wendy and Kate for the many hours they have spent and their diligent attention to detail on this aspect of our work.

1. **Operations (including Health and Safety)**

Both Ray Prince and Linda Poole sent out reports prior to the meeting.

**Faculty for the clock:**

When the clockmaker from Time Assured came to carry out the annual service it was pointed out to him that we were having trouble adjusting the clock hands. As a result, we have to *‘repair the clock hands and dial motion works.’* Ray has been given an estimate of £4,100 plus VAT for this. It is proposed that the money will be taken out of the General Fund, but we need to obtain a Faculty to do the work as the clock has to be dismantled. It was proposed by Jonty Pilbeam, seconded by Alison Godfrey, that the repair be undertaken.

**All agreed.**

The Faculty application has to be completed by Thursday September 22nd in order to be considered at the DAC meeting on Thursday October 20th.

**Livestreaming :**

The team running this have completed 3 actions:

* + - 1. Taken out a 3 year maintenance plan at a cost of £ 1665 for 3 years from August 22nd.
      2. Ordered new microphones and handheld microphones, at a cost of £3000, arriving October 2022 (to be funded from legacies).
      3. Arranged for livestreaming to be fixed, hopefully on September 22nd.

The repairs and maintenance will be charged to the General Fund.

Mike Ferguson and Ray Prince wish to step down from overseeing the audio-visual system in church. We need someone to take over who is especially skilled in modern technology.

**Old School Rooms:**

Unfortunately, our insurance policy did not cover the cost of replacing and repairing the ceiling in the office which collapsed this summer.

**Church Building Improvements:**

Ray circulated the most recent drawings from the architect and Ray and Linda showed these on screen. The drawings show amendments to our original plans to incorporate disabled access through the installation of a Stannah rising platform to the first-floor meeting room. Alison Parkinson proposed and Sue Wilson seconded that the revised plans be accepted.

All agreed.

Linda Poole asked how and when the fundraising for the church improvements would happen. It has already been decided that half the proposed cost would come from one of our legacy payments and the other half would be raised through grants and donations.

Clive Jackson is currently researching possible grants.

**Action:** In consultation with Charles Poole, Susie Clark to design a fundraising leaflet for distribution in church.

1. **Discipleship**

The working group met on August 22nd and the minutes of that meeting were circulated prior to tonight’s meeting.

Alison Godfrey has designed a Discipleship poster which will be displayed on the Church noticeboard as well as being available in leaflet form.

Wendy Lewis will be joining this group.

1. **Send**

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated prior to tonight’s meeting

In Margaret Leverment’s absence, Sue Wilson reminded us that there are several visitors and activities in the next few weeks:

October 9th Paul and Kathy from Mercy Air will be talking at our morning services.

November 19th Tearfund Quiz

November 27th A speaker from Triangle will be visiting.

1. **Youth Work Update**

Liz Barker has re-joined the youth work team and brought us up to date.

We currently run 2 groups, Grid (11-14) and Breakthrough (14 plus). Numbers are holding steady with the younger youth group, but there are now only 2 members in the older group. The groups meet twice a month.

Grid (Sunday morning 11am) is run by Mark Baird, Rashaen Cummings, Simon Beals and Breakthrough is run by Liz Barker and Fred Sleath (Sunday Evening).

The leaders had a meeting to plan and pray this summer and propose that once a month there will be an all-together activity-based meeting to which members can invite friends. The first of these will be an outing to Meridian Bowling Alley on October 8th.

1. **Vicar’s Report**

**Times of Services when clocks change (effective from November 13th):**

Last year we trialled a 4pm Sunday Service to avoid the dark winter evenings. Following discussion, it was agreed to keep to this pattern in 2022/2023.

**Time of Christmas Day All together Service:**

It was agreed that this service would be at 10am.

The meeting closed with prayer.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Business Committee Wednesday November 9th, 7pm, 56 Grangefields Drive, Rothley**

**PCC Monday November 21st, 7.15pm, Rothley School**

*Papers and requests for agenda items/time to Susan Pinkus by Sunday November 6th please.*

*SusanPinkusSept 20th 2022*