

St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable
Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.30 pm

The meeting opened with a prayer by Barbara and a warm welcome extended to the new Curate for St. Mary's, Christine Herbert.

1. Attendance:

Present: Amanda Barraclough (Chair), Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton (left meeting at 7.55pm), Christine Herbert, Angela Hudson, Alison Lumby, Roland Lumby, Robert Paskell, Therese Paskell, Barbara Perry, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (13)

Apologies: Lyn Hopson, James Inglis & Andrea Offord (3)

2. Approval of the Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 19th June 2022

It was noted that Robert & Therese Paskell had provided apologies in advance of the meeting and were not absent. *Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Robert Heaton.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held 13th June 2022

- a. **Health & Safety Officer** – It was agreed to re-advertise in the weekly Church newsletter for a volunteer.
- b. **Charity Fund Hire Terms** – A document was tabled that provides guidance for the Administrator to follow and was agreed to be acceptable.
- c. **Centenary Project Worker** – Currently being re-advertised widely on social media and locally, after no initial applications. Closing date 31st July. Amanda encouraged prayer for the right person to apply for this 20 hour paid position.
- d. **Church Wardens Admittance Service** – Janet and Roland took part in the service at Doncaster Minster in June and were both grateful for the support of those who attended the service with them.
- e. **Brown Plastic Chairs** – Disposed off after being unsuccessful in selling.

4. Correspondence

To be considered under the Common Cup.

5. Grant Update

The Administrator tabled a document that identifies outstanding information that is required for her to progress applications. A brief summary of information collated to date was provided but until a clear understanding of the costs can be ascertained the process is stymied. A schedule of works and costings undertaken by a chartered surveyor in 2016 is now out of date and it was proposed that Bridgett's be approached to provide an up to date document that will encompass the whole of the Stable building. It was discussed that thereafter, further consideration can be given to putting the contract out to tender if necessary once an initial inspection report is received. *Proposed by Janet Scott and seconded by Betty Brockman. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.*

In the meantime the Administrator will not work the extra hours agreed or be paid for this role, until it is deemed appropriate to do so.

6. Fabric Update

The following items were discussed briefly:

- **Cremated Remains** – Waiting for Faculty response.
- **Re-ordering of Church** – Temporary Faculty approval for the removal of the pews has not been received. The New Archdeacon has raised concerns regards the age of the pews which are to be removed and how the heating pipes, temporarily supported without damaging the walls/floor. Amanda has proposed that the Archdeacon visits the Church to familiarise himself with the proposal as it was submitted prior to his engagement with the Diocese.
The Architect is keen that the full Faculty is submitted as soon as possible and it may be wise to omit the inclusion of the Wi-Fi proposal as this is an item that is deemed necessary whatever the outcome of the re-ordering scheme.
Examples of chairs that are thought suitable and stackable for the new area are currently in the Chancel area. Members of the congregation are to be encouraged to indicate their preference but also be made aware of the cost implications of each chair which vary from £120 to £360 per chair.

7. Events Fundraising Team Update

Derek was able to report that the team's first meeting was encouraging and their focus is on the events themselves and not just the fundraising angle. The Christmas Tree festival will be repeated this year and there will also be a Christmas Fair but not on the scale as in previous years. It was suggested that the SMC's event calendar should be considered when events are being booked; also it could be an opportunity to work together on an event/s.

8. Christians Together Update

Amanda had attended the June AGM, however, she reported that Keith Mears – Chair and Heather Mears – Secretary both resigned and as their positions could not be filled the Committee has been disbanded. It was noted that the loss of the Methodist Church at the Goldsmiths meant the Churches Together group was basically just St. Mary's and SMC. It was hoped that a more Ministry led engagement with SMC would enable a stronger partnership in the future which would be good for both Churches and the wider community.

9. Focal Ministry Conversation

The Director for Focal Ministry, Sally Myers visited St Mary's in June and met with members of the Ministry and Vision teams. It was a positive meeting and it was agreed that the information provided needed further discussion by the Ministry team as there were questions on the Reader training and licensing which is currently suspended in the Diocese. The Ministry team would discuss the Focal plan in more detail before inviting Sally back to discuss and answer concerns, as well as a way forward.

10. Treasurer's Report

Robert was thanked for tabling a concise and clear financial summary document that was considered by the meeting.

It was noted that monies paid against an event organised for 2020 which had been subsequently cancelled, had had the monies finally reimbursed after the venue went into

receivership. Those who had paid deposits in 2019 and had requested their monies returned had already been compensated and others were happy for any monies reimbursed by the creditors to be gifted to the Church and the £250 received will be banked accordingly.

The current account held at Santander is still being managed by Roland, for which Robert is grateful. Despite his best endeavours Robert reported that Santander has now requested additional documentation. Forms are to be completed by all the Trustees which he will collate before providing them to the bank. Until Santander is satisfied with the paperwork the PCC provide, Robert cannot be added to the account as Treasurer nor our retired Treasurer removed.

Digital giving/contactless payments were discussed and Roland confirmed that our bid for the scheme in the Diocese had been approved. There are commitments to be adhered to, briefly outlined in the document provided by the Treasurer, but the minute of the detail is to yet be received as the approval had only just been given. It will however mean that a poor Wi-Fi signal will no longer hinder online giving in the Church building.

11. Buildings & Ground Committee

The Minutes of their last meeting had been deferred from the June meeting and tabled again. It was agreed most items had generally been covered; however, a quote for having the Hall floor re-polished remained outstanding. The company who had been invited to provide a quote have not done so to date. It was discussed that the actual cost of the works may be prohibitive at this time and consideration will be given to this item as and when it thought essential.

12. Safeguarding

Janet reported that she had completed the Leadership training provided by the Diocese online and Roland was close to completing it. She encouraged the PCC members to advise other people who are to take the course to do so as soon as possible as it is not as arduous as people are thinking.

There is an opportunity for Parishes to have an in-house Safeguarding Trainer and for basic/foundation courses and Janet would like to undertake this role when it goes live.

Finally, Janet hoped that the PCC would support a Safeguarding Sunday Service in Church on 20th November this year.

13. Stable Cleaning

To date the Caretaker has kindly undertaken cleaning duties in the Stable. However, as the Stable is used more and from September has been hired twice weekly by Harpham Theatre Co, the PCC were asked to consider the re-engagement of the cleaning company, Dusting Daisies for one hour a month at a cost of £17.70. It was considered this should begin in September. *Proposed by Roland Lumby and seconded by Janet Scott. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.*

14. Common Cup

An email received from James (who could not be present at the meeting) was tabled and discussed. After due consideration and Amanda's confirmation that as Celebrant she was comfortable with consuming the remains of the cup, it was agreed that the practicalities of offering a dipped wafer in wine to some and not others depending on peoples preference at the rail would be difficult to administer. Therefore it was agreed that people should be

continued to be offered the wafer and common cup but abstain from either of their own volition.

15. Lights for Christ

After an initial year has been successfully undertaken this hub has decided to continue by dovetailing into the Ministry and Vision teams.

16. Working Agreements

Robert Heaton has now taken retirement from his paid chaplaincy role in the Prison Service and going forward Amanda confirmed that Robert intended to provide Ministry cover at St. Mary's on the first and third Sunday's in any month (excluding holidays) to coincide with the T-time sessions. During the week he hoped to engage with Ministry roles on a Wednesday and Thursday but would be amenable when possible to cover funeral/weddings that fell outside of these days. However, Amanda stressed that Robert's retirement from was just that 'retirement' and he should embrace more time to do what he would like to.

Christine Herbert is joining us a Curate but also has a full-time job. Christine explained she was consolidating her working hours into a new working pattern which would hopefully allow her to spend alternate Wednesday's in the Parish. She will be attending most Sunday services and be available for evening meetings (hopefully two a week if necessary) but this would be subject to her 'day job' hours that may clash.

17. Policy Update – Recruitment of ex-offenders

The policy was tabled and agreed. *Proposed by Therese Paskell and seconded by Robert Paskell. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.*

18. War Memorial Cleaning

The Victoria Cross Trust had approached Amanda with an offer to undertake the specialist cleaning of our War Memorial at no cost to the PCC. Unfortunately it was agreed that the PCC would have to decline this generous offer due to the requirement of Faculty approval and it was considered another Faculty request was not practical at this time.

19. Any Other Business

- The imminent retirement of Carole Hall and June Spencer who run the community Jigsaw Club out of the Stable was discussed. It was hoped and to be encouraged that requests for someone to take over this Club are successful. A social media campaign has begun and the request for a volunteer/s will feature in the Church newsletter.
- There was a brief discussion on the length of the monthly PCC meeting. It was hoped consideration could be given to more prayer and a shorter agenda. Amanda felt that this could be discussed by the Ministry team but was not sure how easy or practical it would be to condense the agenda or the meeting.

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.10 pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th August 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.