

**St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Christine.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Amanda Barraclough (Chair), Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton, Christine Herbert, Lyn Hopson, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Carol Palmer, Robert Paskell, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (12)

Apologies: Therese Paskell and Robert Paskell (2)

**1. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. *Proposed by Janet Scott and seconded by Derek Barraclough. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Amanda Barraclough.

**2. Matters Arising**

- **Hall – Sound & Projector** – Derek is progressing the sale of the static projector from the church and the old hall projector is going to be offered to a friend of St Mary's.
- **Church Wi-Fi** – BT Openreach have now confirmed they can install an overhead cable which will be less invasive than a underground cable originally proposed. However, the DAC have concerns how the cable will be fed into the building without going through the stonework. It was agreed that the engineer would probably drill through the mortar and once this is addressed it is hoped the Wi-Fi installation will be undertaken before the end of March.
- **Cadeby Re-wilding Consultation** - Amanda reminded Trustees that the consultation meeting at Cadeby Church will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. Trustees were encouraged to attend if possible to hear the issues raised by residents and there will also be representatives from the Diocese who have experience of how re-wilding works to help answer questions. The first mow of the year has already been done but only in identified areas where access is needed, the cost of this one mow was £122 which is less than a full cut but the quote for doing the entire churchyard for 2024 will be considerably higher than 2023 if there is to be no re-wilding. The future costs have to be considered in discussions; however, there is also the long-term management of the re-wilding areas that may prove to be a challenge without support from local residents.

**3. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

#### **4. Prayers of Love and Faith – Pastoral Principle 2**

The Trustees broke into discussion groups and free flowing conversation was had.

#### **5. Policy Review – Lone Working & Visiting**

The document was considered to be in order and did not require any updating or alteration.

#### **6. Vision Delivery**

The two Trustees absent from last month's meeting identified the Mission point they feel drawn to, Carol – Visible & Valued and James – Community, they were encouraged to engage with the groups already established.

The Minutes for the Vision Committee held in February in addition to the notes from two of the three Mission group meetings were tabled. Discussion turned to the ideas and thoughts raised from the Mission notes, the Visible & Valued group identified the challenges of engaging positively with families during the week, not just the children but parents too. They are going to research other local Churches that are successfully providing provision. The Deeper Faith group are looking to re-establish the prayer triplet pattern which has slightly faltered. The current fellowship groups are growing and the Sprotbrough group may have to be split as they outgrow the space they currently meet. A practical application to be undertaken was proposed with the installation of a Prayer Board in the Prayer Chapel. It was suggested that the current notice board in the Chapel could be utilised and this is to be implemented as soon as possible and signposted as to the wider congregation as a resource to use to request prayer but also respond to prayer requests.

Amanda was able to identify a dozen people who have begun to attend our Church have accepted an invitation to the Wine & Cheese evening at the Rectory later this month, this is very encouraging.

It was noted that taking on new initiatives we have to share the delivery considering the reality of having the ability to do so and not expecting Amanda to carry everything.

#### **7. Disability Access Report**

The Report was tabled and Christine talked the Trustees through the points. It was agreed that some of the recommendations could be referred to our Architect to be considered under the purview of the Quinquennial repairs or re-ordering scheme. Including consideration being given to a couple of the chairs that are to be purchased for the new cafe area to have arms.

The parking and building access information has been uploaded onto the Church website and this was agreed to be sufficient. The lighting in the Church building during services was discussed and it was agreed that the Church should always be well lit and if necessary all lights on. Derek had kindly checked the toys currently available in the cafe area for children and identified those no longer suitable and removed. He has given those in order a good clean. The purchase of new and some sensory toys will be

considered but donations of good quality toys may be requested. Rachel confirmed that there is a consistent attempt to provide large print service sheets when possible and though the newsletter is not in large print, it can be accessed via the website or in larger print on the notice board in the cafe area. Consideration will be given to producing a large printed newsletter if there is an appetite from the congregation for one.

Thank you to the working group for their hard work with this report.

## **8. Treasurers Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer there were no points raised regards the monthly report tabled.

Discussion turned to the question of this year's planned fundraising events being dedicated to support the renovation of the Stable. However, the budget which is already showing a deficit identifies the target for fundraising for the general fund and to change this would only exacerbate the deficit issue. However, should we raise in excess of the £4,000 budgeted this could be put toward the Stable renovations. Also, should any of the Events team who want to undertake an additional event like the abseil (which raised £950 plus the gift aid) to raise monies specifically for the Stable then this should be supported.

## **9. Safeguarding**

As the Diocese sees a change in Safeguarding Officer the training provisions for leadership courses are currently limited. Andrea was able to confirm that a discussion with the bell-ring team regarding leadership training was progressing.

## **10. Holy Week**

The calendar for Holy week was tabled and is to be published on the website, Churches near You portal, newsletter and posters etc.

## **11.AOB**

- The APCM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Two of the Trustees whose term expires this year have agreed to stand again for another three year term. However, Janet will only stand again as Church Warden if another Warden can be identified. Amanda encouraged Trustees to consider engaging with other members of the congregation and encouraging them to consider joining the PCC. This year we are hoping to have 8 new Trustees and 2 Church Wardens.
- The sale of the pews removed from the Church last year has been agreed by the DAC but there is not a lot of interest from local auction houses as they are too plain and of no age. Avenues of sale are being considered and this may be attempted locally through social media.
- Derek had suggested that the hanging rails area in the Hall is underutilised and would be better used as storage. A local firm has provided a quote for doing so

at a cost of £750 (fully fitted etc). The caretaker is to be approached for her opinion before the PCC are asked to make a decision.

- Church Hall – Hirers can currently book the hall until midnight on proviso they are ready to actually leave at that time and the hall is left clean and tidy. Over the last two years or so, the inability for hirers to respect this and reduce the noise associated from the event usually loud music etc has become increasingly problematic. It was noted that a lot of hirers of evening events are often not local families. Also, asking a volunteer to cover in the caretaker's absence for such a late finish which may result in having to continue a cleanup process is unfair. It was therefore proposed that hall booking availability for hirers is reduced from midnight to 11pm. This was agreed. *Proposed by Andrea Offord and seconded by Derek Barraclough. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.*

As the administrator, Rachel confirmed she would update the relevant hire information and booking form with immediate effect. This is on the Sprotbrough Venues website and on both venues notice boards. There is one forthcoming booking when the hall is booked until midnight and this will be honoured.

**The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15 pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.**