

**St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Andrea.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Amanda Barraclough (Chair), Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton, Christine Herbert, Lyn Hopson, Angela Hudson, Andrea Offord, Robert Paskell, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (10)

Apologies: James Inglis, Carol Palmer and Therese Paskell (3)

**1. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. *Proposed by Janet Scott and seconded by Betty Brockman. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Amanda Barraclough.

**2. Matters Arising**

- **Hall – Sound & Projector** – Derek volunteered to attempt to dispose of the redundant projectors from the Church and Hall. Amanda was able to confirm receipt of the new portable projector for Ministry use and it will be utilised at the coming Lent course. The 'marking' of the new projectors against theft is to be undertaken by SMITE.
- **Church WI-Fi** – Virgin Media appear to be considering a withdrawal of their proposal to install cable broadband into the Church. This is disappointing and it may be that another provider will have to be identified.

**3. Correspondence**

Amanda was able to confirm that she had responded in writing to the Cadeby resident whom requested to reserve a burial plot at Cadeby was declined. There has been no further correspondence.

**4. APCM 2024**

The Annual Report for 2022 was tabled and Rachel reminded the PCC that a request for reports for the Annual Report for 2023 will be soon made as preparations are undertaken for the 2024 APCM.

Janet explained that unless a second Church Warden could be identified, she would be resigning this role. Janet will be resigning as Safeguarding Officer. Angela Hudson will be retiring from the PCC as it is the end of her three year term.

Amanda reminded Trustees that as she will be away from St Mary's for three months sabbatical, there is a need for strong governance and Trustees need to pray on new Trustees joining the PCC in April.

## **5. Vision Delivery**

The three points of the Mission Statement were considered and those present identified the one they most felt called to act on as follows:

**Be a Church where all ages are visible and valued –**

*Betty, Andrea, Robert P & Amanda*

**Deepen our faith through prayer, study and discipleship –**

*Rachel, Robert H, Lyn and Janet (Louise & Irene)*

**Bring the light of Jesus to others in the community –**

*Angela, Derek and Christine (Lawrie)*

Amanda reminded everyone that the Ministry Team (not members of PCC) have also identified a call – their names are in brackets.

The meeting then broke into three groups to discuss their choice and consider what 'good' would look like and what 'baby' step could be taken to deliver the vision at St Mary's.

Groups (incl ministry team members) were encouraged to meet before the March PCC meeting to feedback initial ideas/actions.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The January Report was tabled and Robert confirmed he was endeavouring to establish himself as a signatory with Black Rock. This would allow him and Andrea who is the second signatory to close this account. The only significant outgoing was payment of the invoice relating to the Quinquennial Report.

Rachel absented herself from the meeting as salary increases for 2024 were discussed. A 6% increase across all salaries paid was agreed. *Proposed by Amanda Barraclough and seconded by Janet Scott.*

## **7. Fabric & Buildings Committee & Quinquennial Summary**

Amanda was able to confirm that progress was being made regards Phase I of the re-development plans. The Notice to Parishioners of works to be undertaken i.e. kitchen and extended entrance to accommodate wheelchairs etc has been on display (East door and internal notice board) for two week and will remain for two more. The Chancellor will then be sent the Faculty for final approval. There has been some pushback from the Victorian Society regards the new cupboards and there wish to see them a darker colour (faux Victorian look). It was agreed that this was not necessary or desired; there is plenty of examples of the oak colour wood in the Church already. Even the old floor is oak colour after it was cleaned.

Discussion turned to Phase II, re-positioning of the old pulpit and tester without being able to adapt it as initially planned, a decision needed to be made where it could be moved to. It was agreed that the recommendation of moving it into the Prayer Chapel was unfeasible, moving it to the north/west corner establishing it as museum piece was also dismissed as St Mary's is not a museum! Dismantling the pulpit and raising the tester though a practical solution thought to be a little too radical. The option voted on was to re-position the pulpit and tester into the Chancel; it will be in the corner that is currently occupied by the sound system. *Proposed by Betty Brockman and seconded by Lyn Hopson. One abstention from voting and agreed unanimously by all others present at the meeting.*

The Quinquennial report summary was tabled and Amanda reminded everyone that some of the required works had already been instructed by the PCC and others would come under the remit of the re-development. There is five years to progress the recommendations.

Finally, discussion turned to the rising costs of maintaining Cadeby graveyard and a recommendation from the gardener we currently use to re-wild parts of currently mowed lawn. Consideration had been given to purchasing wildflower seeds and having areas rotovated and seed sown. However, Amanda had a meeting on site with representatives from the Diocese and Churches Conservation Trust last week. She was advised that there should be no need for invasive works to be undertaken or seed sown. Areas should be left to grow wild and this should encourage natural wildflowers to emerge and after 12 months a decision can be made on adding 'wildflower plugs' if necessary. Obviously mowed areas will still need to be identified and maintained to those areas regularly visited or being used currently for burial/ashes. Moving forward the next step is to arrange a consultation evening with the residents of Cadeby and other interested parties to explain the financial challenge of maintaining the churchyard as is and the environmental benefits of a less maintained area. It will have to be a partnership with local people as there will be issues of brambles and ivy that are invasive and will need to be controlled going forward, local help will be crucial. Amanda will arrange the meeting but the support of other Trustees at the meeting will be needed. Rachel volunteered to minute the meeting.

## **8. Prayers of Love & Faith – Pastoral Principle 2**

Held over until March PCC meeting.

## **9. Safeguarding**

Andrea is to approach the Bell Captain regards the Leadership training course that is outstanding.

## **10. Administration Role**

Rachel explained the longstanding problem around Sunday worship and unwelcome approaches on a Sunday regards issues that relate to her administration role. There is also a worry that this will increase when Amanda goes on Sabbatical. People are to be encouraged to contact Rachel during the week via phone or email.

## **11.AOB**

- The Events Team tabled the minutes of their February meeting and two events in the diary are:

12<sup>th</sup> April – Quiz evening

15<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Fete in Church grounds and hall (Daredevil teddy bears event to take place). Volunteers will be needed to help support this event!

- A reoccurring issue of the Hall entrance door not being left secure over the last several weeks has been identified. Users of the hall are asked to sign in but those who do are adamant that they are locking and checking the door before they leave. It is hard to identify any particular group or culprit. It was agreed that the situation will be monitored and the consideration of a installing some kind of camera at the door might be considered. Rachel confirmed that in the past week or so she has reminded all 'regular' hirers of the Hall of their responsibility to ensure the door is locked as they leave.

**The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.05 pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.**