

**St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Rachel.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton (Chair), Christine Herbert, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Carol Palmer, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (9)

Apologies: Amanda Barraclough, Derek Barraclough, Lyn Hopson, Therese Paskell and Robert Paskell (5)

**1. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. *Proposed by Betty Brockman and seconded by Christine Herbert. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Robert Heaton.

**2. Matters Arising**

- **Hall – Sound & Projector** – The projector from the hall has been gifted to Mr K Mears who can make use of it at a local Methodist group. The church projector will probably be advertised on eBay for parts, however, the bag that was being used to store this projector has been sold for £20.
- **Church Wi-Fi** – A List B application has been submitted to the DAC and once signed off, the installation can progress. An installation date of 28<sup>th</sup> April is being aimed for.
- **Cadeby Re-wilding Consultation** – The minutes from the meeting held at Cadeby Church on 17<sup>th</sup> March was tabled. A subsequent meeting of the Friends of Cadeby Church and Churches Conservation Trust provided positive feedback and it looks like an attempt can be made to re-wild certain areas of the churchyard. There will be a need to keep local residents and visitors apprised of the plan and what they can expect regards fauna and flora, notices will need to be displayed etc.
- **Hall – Rail Space Conversion** – The proposal to convert the open railed area in the reception area into a closed storage space, at a cost of £750, was discussed in light of the caretaker confirming that this would be acceptable. However, questions were raised on what this storage is actually required for before the Trustees agree to the proposal. Derek who initially proposed this conversion will be asked to provide more details at the next PCC meeting.
- **Sale of Pews** – The proposal to sell the pews (removed from the new open area in Church) on Facebook was discussed. The lack of interest from auction houses and local restoration businesses has been disappointing. It was felt that selling via Facebook may not achieve a reasonable financial return and Andrea offered to contact the Minster to see how/where they sold their pews, to see if this could provide a more profitable option for sale.

### **3. Correspondence**

Cherubim had contacted Janet via email regards the monitoring system in the Church and a lost connection. This will be checked.

### **4. Prayers of Love and Faith – Pastoral Principle 3**

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

### **5. Policy Review – Removal of Dignity at Work Paperwork**

The document, from 2014, is no longer supported by the Diocese and it was agreed it should be removed from the Policy Folder held in the Church as other policies now in place have superseded this document.

### **6. Vision Delivery**

The Deeper Faith group were able to confirm that they intend to meet in the Chapel to assess the practical issues of establishing the Prayer board.

The Value All group have met and are to undertake a visit to another Messy Church 'after school' group in the Diocese on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Andrea and Amanda).

The Community Engagement group are yet to meet to discuss ideas.

### **7. Fabric & Grounds Update**

The plan to relocate the pulpit and sound board into the Chancel is not favoured by the DAC and the Trustees were asked to consider the side-ways movement of the structures to the left-hand side of the pillar, nearer the Alpha & Omega door. The Trustees were concerned on the additional costs of architect plans and relocation. The Trustees were not happy to propose this request by the DAC be accepted until they could remind themselves of the space on site. It was therefore agreed that the decision on the pulpit/sound board would be held over until the next PCC meeting.

Discussion then turned to the west end of the Church and the new kitchen installation and works to that area including the access modifications for wheelchairs. Questions were raised on when the Trustees will be provided information on the choices of fixtures and fittings for the kitchen. Does the £26,411 costs reflect choices already made i.e. hot water boiler/dispenser rather than a kettle etc, no-one could recall being asked to make a choice etc. Trustees felt that they needed more information before they could give the go-ahead for the instruction to be provided to Bridgett's. Andrea suggested that SMITE would be asked to mark out on the floor area how far the kitchen until will protrude from the wall to give people an idea when it comes to seating. It was noted that the cost of the chairs and tables would not be able to be taken from the reserved monies as they are not part of the fabric of the Church.

Finally, Betty asked that a thank you from all the Trustees be made to the SMITE team for their wonderful contribution to maintaining the Church and grounds which is greatly appreciated. A note will be added to the newsletter.

## 8. Treasurers Report

In the absence of the Treasurer there were no points raised regards the monthly report tabled other than a request that the closing of the Black Rock Account is undertaken as soon as possible. Concern at the lack of progress with closing this account has been raised by the retired Treasurer.

Angela was able to report that the Forget me Not Café had received a generous grant from the Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council for £500 at the beginning of this month. Also, the family of the late Rose Robinson kindly donated a cash sum of approximately £300 to the Forget me Not from the collection taken at Rose's funeral in April. The cash will be counted by Angela and James before being paid into the bank account.

## 9. Safeguarding

Various DBS updating is being undertaken and Janet confirmed her decision to stand down as Safeguarding officer at the APCM.

## 10. AOB

- The APCM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We need two Church Wardens and eight new Trustees.
- Betty Brockman requested that her proposal to continue as a Lay Minister, for which she is licenced, be endorsed by the Trustees for the next two years. *Proposed by Andrea Offord and seconded by Janet Soctt. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*
- Betty tabled an invitation via the Mission Area Support Team Newsletter for Churches in the Diocese to take part in a 'Church Explorer's Week' which will be widely publicised. Churches are encouraged to open their doors between 25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June to encourage people to visit. It was noted that St Mary's is open daily anyway, and the events team already have a plan for a Fun Day on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Carol, Angela and Betty agreed to host a 'special' open day in the Church on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June providing refreshments between 10:00 am & 3:00 pm. Robert Heaton confirmed he would register St Mary's as taking part and offering refreshments on the Saturday so it would be included in the Dioceses promotional literature. A notice will go into the newsletter asking for volunteers for serving and providing refreshments.

**The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.10 pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.**