

St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable
Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30 pm

The meeting opened with a prayer by Robert.

Attendance:

Present: Amanda Barraclough (Chair), Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton, Christine Herbert, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Carol Palmer, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (11)

Apologies: Lyn Hopson, Robert Paskell and Therese Paskell (3)

1. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 12th December 2023

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 12th December 2023. *Proposed by Andrea Offord and seconded by Angela Hudson. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Amanda Barraclough.

2. Matters Arising

- **Hall – Sound & Projector** – Robert H had undertaken to check the old projector from the Church but found it to be incompatible with HDMI and therefore not practical to use. The order has been placed for a new mobile projector as agreed at the 11th December meeting. It was suggested that an attempt be made to sell the old projector or for it to be donated to a charity.
- **Church Wi-Fi** – Virgin Media have confirmed that the cost of installing the cable into the Church will exceed their £3,000 allowance toward costs and there will be an additional cost to the PCC for the shortfall in the region of around £3,000, the amount will be confirmed after Virgin's site survey has been undertaken. After a brief discussion it was agreed that with no other options that any shortfall would be paid. *Proposed by Betty Brockman and seconded by Carol Palmer. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*
- **Quinquennial Update** – The Report has been received and identifies works to the fabric of the building to be undertaken and these now need to be considered in depth. These works do include the items discussed at the 12th December meeting. It is considered that these works need to be a priority in the next year. Amanda was able to confirm that the DAC had signed off the new kitchen area but subject to the plans not raising concerns with other Amenities bodies. The deadline for responses to be returned is before the end of January. Thereafter we should be able to display the Faculty paperwork in Church for the wider congregation and community to have an opportunity to comment.

3. Correspondence

- An email letter had been received from a Cadeby resident who was concerned that the graveyard in Cadeby would be soon closed to burials. He understood that the PCC had taken a decision 8 years ago to not allow people to reserve plots but asked that they reconsider this, allowing him to reserve a plot. There was a discussion on the consequences of reversing the previous decision. Amanda was able to confirm that there would be spaces for cremated remains though maybe not burials in the years to come. It was agreed that original decisions for not allowing plots to be reserved were still valid and policy remain unchanged. *Proposed by Janet Scott and seconded by Andrea Offord. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.* Amanda will go back to the correspondent to explain the position.
- An invitation from Cheribim, who have provided the monitors in St Marys that are monitoring the effectiveness of the heating and our carbon footprint, for someone to represent St Mary's at an event held locally at the end of the month to take a more in-depth look at how a Church can move forward to make changes etc. The invitation has been shared with the wider congregation over the last few weeks via the newsletter but to date no one has volunteered to attend on the Church's behalf.

4. Policy Review – Health & Safety Document

The standard template document was tabled and with Janet Scott agreeing to be the named H&S Officer after a year of having no one assigned to the role, only two minor changes were noted, the removal of R Lumby as Warden and identifying Angela taking on the role of checking the First Aid boxes in the Church, Hall & Stable periodically that they are stocked and items within their use by date. Amanda signed the document on behalf of the PCC. Janet will ensure the document is available in Church. There was a brief discussion on Church Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Officers training to be undertaken later in the year - volunteers to be requested.

5. Treasurer's Report

The monthly report was tabled. Discussion centred on the forecast costs of the utilities bills when the current contract ends in March. Amanda was able to confirm that the decision to use the Energy Basket group buying scheme appeared to have helped secure a lower tariff for gas from our current supplier than they had proposed to us direct a saving of 22%. However, the costs are still much higher than our current charges and we are facing an increase of 246% on gas alone. We still await the information on the new electric tariff.

Amanda was able to confirm that the Christmas Eve Crib services netted donations that totalled £747.93, half of this plus the £155 donated through Church family Christmas cards will be donated to 'Embrace' the Middle East Charity.

6. Hall & Stable Hire Rates and Church Fees Increases for 2024

The increase for the Hall hire rates per hour from 1st April 2024 were agreed as follows – bracketed figures are 2023 charge, where two charges apply this is before and after 6pm rates:
Community bodies/Charity functions - £18.50 (£17.25) & £22.00 (£20.50).

Regular users for classes/clubs etc - £18.50 (£17.25).
Private hires for social events - £26.00 (£24.50) & £30.00 (£27.50).
Commercial Hire - £32.00 (£30.50).
The hire of the projector will remain at £25.00.

The increase for the Stable hire rate per hour from 1st April 2024 was agreed at a fixed amount of £18.50 (£17.00).

Proposed by Derek Barraclough and seconded by Andrea Offord. Rachel Towers abstained as she felt there was a conflict of interest as her employed role as the Parish Administrator. Agreed unanimously by all others present at the meeting.

7. Prayers of Love & Faith – Pastoral Principle 1

An open discussion was had on the proposals endorsed by the Church of England and the documents tabled.

8. Ministry Team & Vision Delivery

Amanda reminded the PCC of the Vision Day and the subsequent notes from that tabled at the November 13th November. Sunday 7th January the Mission Statement was shared with the wider congregation:

As a community of Christians called by God to be a lighthouse of Christ's hope and a refuge for the troubled, we aim to:

- **Be a church where all ages are visible and valued.**
- **Deepen our faith through prayer, study and discipleship.**
- **Bring the light of Jesus to others in the community.**

Amanda stressed the importance that these core statements are organic and implementation should remain to the forefront of our ongoing roles as Trustees of St Marys. Ideally before the next PCC in February, Amanda would like everyone to focus on the three points and be able to identify one that appeals mostly to them; this will help break us down in to three groups to consider how we can move forward. Amanda cannot carry the focus of this Mission Statement on her own.

In addition, Amanda provided a document that identified 'The Hopes and Fears for all the years...2024? Ministry Team reflections. She encouraged that all Trustees considered these and at the February meeting these will be discussed.

9. Review – Advent & Christmas 2023

It was agreed that Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday made for a full day of Church services but that all the Crib Services were well attended and received. The prayer station was complemented and considered to be valued. The actual 'physical' efforts of installation and take down of the stage and lighting etc was discussed briefly as more volunteers for the heavy lifting is something that needs more consideration.

10. Safeguarding

A brief conversation on the bell ringing team and the relevant safeguarding certification was discussed and progress has been made with the identification of another person willing to under the relevant DBS checks. Progressing the paperwork needed to be provided by the Team Capt, who is currently away, is to continued on his return.

11.AOB

- Rachel confirmed that in this election year the DMBC would like to book the Hall in May for the local Mayoral election and there is the potential for a second booking later in the year if a General election is called. The DMBC have for in the last few years used the Stable at a fixed rate of £264 (2021) and £277 (2022). The disability access issues in the Stable are considered no longer adequate and they will be using the Hall this year. It was agreed that they would be asked to pay a fixed fee of £400 (6.30am-10pm). This is a heavily discounted commercial hire rent.
- Derek asked that the two Christmas trees used this year (Church and Hall) be replaced in 2024 with smaller and more manageable alternatives. It was noted that a local Funeral firm have offered to sponsor the Church – memory tree in 2024 and this will be a freshly cut tree. This offer will hopefully be developed and therefore just the purchase of a tree for the Hall will be necessary.
- The Memorial Book in Church will need its pages updated later in the year and Andrea agreed to take custody of this process.

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.20 pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.