

**St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Janet.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Amanda Barraclough, Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton, Christine Herbert (Chair), Lyn Hopson, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Roger Offord, Carol Palmer, Marilyn Shersby, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (14)

Apologies: Robert Paskell (1)

**1. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. *Proposed by Janet and seconded by Marilyn. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Amanda Barraclough.

**2. Matters Arising**

- **Sale of Pews** – Five of the six pews have been sold at £30 per pew. The final pew (12ft) has been retained as it is currently being used in the cafe area and a decision on its sale will be taken once the new kitchen is in situ. A buyer is lined up.
- **Office Printer** – New printer purchased and being used. The cost was slightly more than £100 but included delivery and a deal on ink cartridges (circa £124).
- **Safeguarding Officer** – S Lennox, a member of our congregation, has agreed to undertake the Safeguarding Officer role for which we are grateful. A handover will be undertaken and ongoing support given to Sue.
- **Church Hall Storage** – Mr Bembridge (joiner) has been provided with photographic images of the area in the Hall and a request to ensure it is up to regulations re fire. He has been asked to submit a further quote.
- **Tree Survey** – The surveyor instructed to undertake the tree survey at Cadeby has indicated that they can undertake a survey at St Mary's churchyard/hall area at a cost of £400 plus VAT. It was agreed that an instruction should be given and Amanda undertook to do this before the end of June. *Proposed by Robert H and seconded by Angela. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting*
- **Church Fabric & Grounds Update** – Amanda explained that the current plans for the redevelopment are currently on display in the Church including the pulpit re-location. The East end proposals agreed by the DAC are now with the relevant Amenity Bodies before the Faculty can be displayed in Church and thereafter be signed off and work start. An Autumn approval date is hoped for.

**3. Correspondence**

Two pieces of correspondence received were tabled and a third held over until the Treasurer's agenda item.

1. An email had been received from Jo Edwards (Church Buildings Officer – Sheffield Diocese). Jo had offered to meet with Trustees from St Mary's at Cadeby churchyard

in June to discuss future mowing in the churchyard. Marilyn and Roger agreed to meet with Jo. They will then be in a position hopefully to instruct the company who mow on the Trustees behalf to undertake necessary extra mowing toward end of summer. Their current mowing regime was briefly discussed as not all cuttings are removed. A big cut would need to be cleared.

Amanda mentioned that she had received a direct complaint regards the Cadeby churchyard but was able to explain the re-wilding initiative.

2. Mr Ted Rimington provided a courtesy copy of a letter sent to the Diocese (dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024) outlining his objections to the re-development plans being undertaken in the Church. Trustees were given an opportunity to read the letter in full should they choose.

#### **4. Prayers of Love and Faith – Pastoral Principle 5**

The Trustees did not break out into individual groups as this principle addressing hypocrisy was considered to be repetitive of discussions already undertaken. However, Christine did encourage all Trustees to re-read this principle.

#### **5. Policy Review – Domestic Abuse**

No amendments were required, however it was noted that identification of our Safeguarding Officer required amending to S Lennox. It was further noted that this process will need to be also undertaken across paperwork on display and held by the Trustees.

#### **6. Vision Delivery & Vision Committee Meeting**

The minutes from the Vision meeting held in May were tabled. The following updates were provided on the groups hoping to progress the three mission statement policies:

- **All Ages Visible & Valued** – Amanda and Andrea to meet before end of the month to discuss progressing an initiative to engage with local families.
- **Prayer & Discipleship** – The prayer board idea is being considered and Robert is re-organising Prayer Triplets to be more effective. Robert felt extending personal invitations to members of the congregation to join a fellowship group is probably more effective than a general invitation made on a Sunday from the front or newsletter.
- **Lights in the Community** – This group has had a productive first meeting and Derek is keen to progress a monthly mums & tots group but this would need support from others and play equipment to help deliver this onsite. Other ideas included a prayer walk in the community as well as discussion on how to be more visible at Sprotbrough Road end of the Parish. The relationship with local schools that includes Open the Book was considered and the need for more volunteers to help deliver Open the Book was identified.

Additionally Amanda was able to table the fridge magnet (designed by Sam, a member of our congregation) welcoming new homeowners on Melton Road to the Sprotbrough from the 'Churches of Sprotbrough'. A two sided business card that identifies St Mary's and SMC was also tabled. Both these along with a welcome envelope full of sunflower seeds are to be delivered to the new homes and this is to

be in partnership with SMC who have also contributed to the cost through Churches Together funds (Sam and Sophie are currently putting the seeds in the envelopes). It is hoped that they will be presented to occupants rather than just posted through doors by SMC and St Mary members.

## **7. Ecumenical Update**

After a meeting with Tom Read and Carol from SMC at their request, it was agreed that the shared services such as Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday and carol service at Christmas (usually alternated yearly) are often under supported by the SMC congregation and therefore to be discontinued. Going forward St Mary's will undertake to deliver the services themselves annually. The carol service in particular seems to work better in St Mary's as the local community value the traditional setting and carols. However, the ongoing joint outreach of both Churches in the community continues to be valued and shall be encouraged wherever possible.

## **8. Treasurer's Update**

Robert P was unable to attend this meeting but the monthly report was tabled.

An email from Mr R Ekins (received prior to the meeting) was considered regarding the utility bills that continue to be received at this address. The request to have this stopped will be made again. The second issue was in regard to a confusion re the contract date with Totalenergies identified on correspondence. The same utility company is providing our utilities but on a new contract sourced via the Parish Basket. Robert had already highlighted this issue on his report and this explanation will be provided to Mr Ekins. Finally, Mr Ekins request that the closure of Black Rock be progressed was again discussed. This has been under consideration for a while and Andrea, who is the second signature on the account, agreed to endeavour to liaise with Robert P to provide necessary documentation to Mr Ekins (confirming his confirmation that he is no longer a Trustee) to sign so that the account can be closed.

Roger asked if in future the treasurer could provide a breakdown of costs/expenditure of the Hall and Stable against the income.

Finally, Rachel tabled an email advising the Trustees of a grant opportunity for the renovation of a village hall/space from ACRE. The provisions of the grant identified that any successful grant would be awarded on confirmation that the renovations undertaken with the monies will be completed by March 2025. This was considered in respect of the Stable roof. A discussion was had on the practicality/cost of employing a project manager to be able to deliver the successful project if a local builder was engaged rather than a construction company such as Bridgetts (local builder has been asked to provide a quote). It was agreed that Rachel would forward the email to Roger and look at the information required initially and what is already held after grant initiatives undertaken in 2022/3 that may be helpful to progress an application to ACRE.

## **9. Safeguarding**

DBS's renewals are in progress. The courses that the new Safeguarding Officer would need to undertake were briefly considered and this information will be provided to Sue when a meeting is arranged.

## **10. Sabbatical**

Amanda confirmed that the Ministry Team are all well prepared and that Bishop Pete is to take a service in September too. Robert H will circulate the calendar of services to the Wardens and administrator. Consideration has been given as much as possible to the day to day issues; however it is inevitable requests for funerals being something that can only be handled as they come in.

## **11. Health & Safety**

Rachel identified a risk issue experienced with the coffee filter machine in Church during May. It was agreed that people who are regularly using the appliances in the kitchen should be reminded on how to use equipment safely and an easy to use guide provided for reference. The Wardens are to action this.

## **12. AOB**

- **Scarecrow Festival 7/8<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Mrs V Jenkinson had made a request to the Church to identify volunteers to provide refreshments in the Church Hall over the weekend. Betty agreed to liaise with Mrs Jenkinson and the administrator is to request volunteers and baked goods in the newsletter asap. If this cannot be delivered then the hall can be available for alternative bookings. It was also noted that Christine and Irene had agreed to facilitate a craft activity in the Church itself over the weekend but again volunteers to help deliver this will be requested.

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

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