

St Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council

Minutes

Monday 8th November 2021.

7.30pm in the Chancel

The meeting opened with a prayer by Robert

1. Attendance

Present Revd Amanda Barraclough, Revd Robert Heaton, Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Hilary Downs, Ray Ekins, Lyn Hopson, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Therese Paskell, Barbara Perry, Janet Scott, Anne Smith, Rachel Towers. 15

Apologies Alison Lumby, Roland Lumby, Heather Mears 3

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting 11th October 2021

Proposed by Robert, seconded by Janet. Approved by all present at the last meeting with 1 abstention

3. Matters Arising

a. Christmas Tree Festival

Andrea had produced a timetable for the Activities. She reported that more helpers are needed for stewarding and serving refreshments. Amanda said more help is needed for the craft activities on 11th December from 12 to 2pm a sign-up sheet will be placed at the back of church. **Amanda**

More donations are needed for the luxury hampers.

b. Re-Development Consultation

Roger Offord had written a report after the removal of the display from the library. He said the response was disappointing. PCC discussed the reasons:- the congregation thought the consultation was for the community not the congregation: some gave an oral reply. It was proposed that all PCC should fill in a questionnaire and the congregation should be encouraged to complete questionnaires available at in church. Questionnaires will also be emailed to those on the mailing list and should be returned by 1st December. **Amanda**

4. Correspondence

a. Response to Ken Smith. 67th Scout Company.

Amanda replied to the email and invited the Scouts to the Remembrance Day service; they replied that they will attend the service at the war memorial.

b. John Lyth Memorial Plaque

Doncaster Council has treated the loose gravel to stabilise it and St Mary's will organise renovation of the plaque. Amanda will notify Dave Glover. **Ray. Amanda**

5. Health and Safety Report

Ray reported that servicing of the fire extinguishers had revealed that the wrong type of extinguisher had been installed in the sanctuary area, which would have resulted in injury. Advice should be sought before any other changes are made. He asked for a volunteer (possibly from the Wednesday morning group) to help with the 3 monthly Health and Safety inspection. Amanda agreed that a fire evacuation of church would be done in spring. Risk assessment needs to be done for the Christmas Tree Festival.

6. Safeguarding

Janet reported that no incidents had been reported. DBS checks will be done 3 yearly from January. People will be notified when they are due.

7. Centenary Project Worker

Amanda said that she, Robert, Irene had met Dave Ludbrook and Helen Cockayne to discuss a future application. It was felt that St Mary's has a range of "warm contacts" who have positive experience of the church but connections to build on this are lacking. Contacts with young families need to be developed into new congregations and a Project Worker would have creative ways to develop these. A Centenary Project Worker would need to be recruited by the Diocese for St. Mary's, and their priority will not be growing the Sunday morning congregation. Amanda will produce an application form and advertising will start in the Diocese in spring for a post of 20 hours a week. The budget for 4 years may be in the region of £44,000. The worker will require a laptop, work mobile phone, and space in our office. A Support Group will be formed by extending the present group. Robert said he felt confident in the professionalism of the Centenary Project. The Project will be communicated to the congregation for their support and prayer. **Amanda**

8. Committee Reports

Church Hall and Stable Committee

The childminder has emptied the cupboard in the Stable and returned the keys. Money is still owed. Ray is exploring more efficient ways of handling deposits. Outside signage is to be replaced. Work on the Stable, including the roof, could add up to £100,000.

The offer of free use of CH&S facilities by Charities was discussed. It was suggested that registered charities in the community of Sprotbrough, raising funds for local and national charities should each be allowed 1 free session a year. The number of free sessions should not be more than 12 a year. Ray and Andrea will draft some guidelines. **Ray. Andrea**

It was suggested that 2 small wooden crosses could be mounted on the walls in Hall and Stable to identify them as Christian venues. **Derek**

Amanda asked when it would be viable to get Dusting Daisies back in the Stable. It was felt that while social distancing requirements limit the use of the Stable Heather will continue to do the cleaning.

Amanda thanked Andrea for organising all the CH&S business.

9. Treasurer's Report

Ray reported that following a review of the accounts by himself and the Rector he suggested that £8,000 be placed in the Designated Fund to support administration costs to the end of the administrator's contract.

Proposed by Amanda, seconded by Therese, agreed with 1 abstention **Ray**

More counters are needed as some have not returned to church yet. A request will be put in the newssheet. **Rachel**

The Tuesday Coffee Morning is doing very well and is a good source of income.

Ray's meeting with the Diocesan Generosity & Giving Officer identified the urgent need for a budget to meet our financial challenges and to identify ways to generate new income and giving.

The Treasurer asked for a meeting with Alison and Therese but Therese is not available this month. Amanda suggested that some of the money given to St Mary's in grants from DMBC to cover loss of income from letting the Hall and Stable, should be used to increase the pledge to the Diocese. The Treasurer argued that he did not want to make a commitment until the budget had been drawn up to assess future needs.

After discussion it was proposed that the pledge should be increased by £8,000.

Proposed by Barbara, seconded by Betty, agreed with 1 against.

10. Advent and Christmas Plan

Amanda produced a plan of activities. She said that she did not want a return to a run up to

Christmas which was exhausting for herself and the congregation. The Travelling Light Advent Course will give a space for refreshment during a busy time.

The Drive-in Carol Service at Morrisons will be on Sunday 5th December overseen by Keith Mears. The Carol Service will be at the Methodist Church this year on 12th December. Restrictions for the Crib Services will be displayed on a poster outside church.

Amanda had proposed producing a postcard of Christmas events with St Mary's on one side and Methodists on the other, but the Methodists preferred to produce their own. It was suggested that this is divisive and a letter should be sent to the Methodists.

11. Living in Love and Faith

The course completed by the Ministry Team will be offered at the Rectory by Amanda and Lawrie Jenkins, for 5 sessions starting on 18th January. This will explore Christian responses to issues of sexuality.

12. Christmas Lights

Permission has been given for an extension box to allow trees in the churchyard to be lit. The pear tree near the Stable may be lit next year.

13. Lone Working Policy

Amanda raised the issue of how to make people safe while doing home visits. Is a risk assessment necessary before a visit? An addition to the Policy will be considered for the next meeting.

Janet

The present Policy was reviewed and approved.

14. AOB

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.22pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th December 2021