

**Minutes of Morpeth Parochial Church Council (PCC)**  
**Date of Meeting: Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.00pm**  
**Location: Meeting held on zoom**

**In attendance:** Simon White (chair) (SW), Julia Tasker (JT), Val Pope (VP), Jeannette Waters (JW), Sally Keith (SK), Annie Newlands (AN), Debbie Bass-Pickin (DBP), Pauline Young (PY), Bob Young (BY), Andrew Cant (AC), Andrew Mowat (AM), Michael Daws (MD), Kathryn Irwin (KI), Sheila Short (SS), Richard Bishopp (RB) and Mary Steventon (secretary) (MES)

**Apologies received:** Carol Dixon, Rhona Dunn (RD), and Pauline Ferguson (PF).

**Absent:** Jeremy Cooper.

Item	Information	Actions
1	<b>Welcome and apologies for absence.</b> SW welcomed everyone to the meeting. SW reminded us that zoom etiquette means one must raise a hand to speak.	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest/Confidentiality</b> It was pointed out that members should declare an interest as items come up, if appropriate. Members were also asked to say if details are confidential, so that minutes can be appropriate.	
3	<b>Adoption of Minutes</b> Minutes from the last meeting, 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023, had been circulated to all members of the PCC and were accepted unanimously without alteration as a true record of the meeting.	
4	<b>Matters Arising from the minutes:</b> <b>Accessibility and Inclusion Task Group</b> SW reported that he had spoken with Fiona Boyd, and the task group has not yet met, but will be meeting before the next PCC. <b>Tender Process and faculty for works at St Mary's.</b> SW and MS brought to the attention of the PCC that we passed the resolution to apply for a faculty to carry out the works at St Mary's by email (in accordance with Church Representation rules 2020, M29, on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023. The resolution being: 'The PCC resolves to apply for Faculty Approval for permission to carry out internal repairs and renewals as: LED light fittings with associated new wiring to reduce energy costs and enhance light "spread" for worship and other uses; and to increase the length of use of light fittings and reduce the need for frequent replacements. New electric cable routes to light fittings to replace the unsightly conduits to the rear of the Nave. Electrical power circuits to the Nave and Chancel.	

	<p>Plaster repairs and re-decoration to the Nave and Baptistery.</p> <p>Provide tables (foldable) and chairs to the North Aisle to facilitate social engagement after church services and on other occasions.</p> <p>Provide chairs to the rear of the Nave to create a more flexible space and facilitate an increase in its use from a wider range of users including, for example, discussion groups, friendship support groups, and committee meetings, etc.'</p> <p>We had 12 replies, all positive out of a possible 19. There were no negative responses.</p>	
5	<b>Fabric Report: there was no fabric report</b>	
6	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <p><b>P1: a definition of the magazine restricted fund</b></p> <p>To be used exclusively for the production and printing of the Parish magazine. Proposed JW, seconded AM carried with one abstention.</p> <p>Background and additional actions</p> <p>Previous PCC JW reported – Simon advises he has “just received confirmation of a grant of £2500 for production and printing of the magazine which should last for at least 2 years with all income generated for general funds” 21.11.23</p> <p>Grant has been made by William Leech Charity on condition that they receive reports that the money has been spent as requested, and how it has been of benefit. This will need to be provided to the William Leech Charity by the Magazine Team.</p> <p>Income from Sales and Advertising will be included in the general fund accounts and budget going forward.</p> <p><b>U1: Budget update Nov 2023</b>, figures already distributed. The figures are promising, Income above budget which shows benefits from ‘Generous June’, expenditure is down, but this is the period when invoices held over surface as everyone completes the end of year. There are some large bills which arrive in December. Thus far expenditure on energy is down, but we have had mild weather and increasing stewardship of our energy usage.</p> <p><b>U2: Parish Share</b> by the end of Nov. we paid £50k. We paid a further £10k in December. We paid a total of £60k and underpaid by £10k. After review we might make a further payment which could be thrown back to 2023.</p> <p><b>U3: 2024 Budget</b></p> <p>The finance team are currently working on this.</p> <p><b>U4: 2023 End of year accounts.</b></p> <p>Work is underway and the accounts will be presented to the PCC for signoff in prep for the APCM. <b>Request:</b> Any invoices for payment or income relating to 2023 to be provided to the office asap.</p> <p><b>U5: Money Laundering KYC with Barclays bank.</b> We are working to resolve this by moving away from Barclays asap.</p> <p><b>U6: Churchwardens and fabric Committee to review the CofE Grant 9 million proposed.</b> This grant was shared between a number of dioceses, of which Newcastle was one, making it about £30k each, but the money is to employ church buildings advisers, and not to give grants for work on buildings.</p>	

	<p><b>U7: Botswana fund</b> – closing fund £3405.54 and sending remaining funds via Diocese to Botswana: SW is liaising with the bishop re the details. Once concluded funds will be sent via the Diocese, including cost of sending the funds to the max £3405.54. Will be progressed in 2024.</p> <p><b>U8: Contactless Income – 3 Payaz Machines</b> This is going well and will be reviewed in the next finance meeting. Please provide feedback, especially if anything needs to be tweaked and the Finance Team will take it into consideration.</p> <p><b>U9: Organ at St Mary's</b> The late Colin Davidson and JW were working on the organ at St Mary's. We had a quote for the necessary work on the trumpet stop of around £3K.</p> <p><b>SW: Well done with Parish Share! Many thanks to the Finance Committee.</b></p>	
7	<p><b>Safeguarding</b> DBP has circulated the Social Media Policy, which might need to be updated to include people who are part of the editing team. The policy was adopted unanimously.</p> <p><b>Youth problems at St Aidan's</b> We have a small on-going problem with youth at St Aidan's. It's best to ignore them, as if you try to engage, they think it's a good game! Just be aware. We can report antisocial behaviour to the police (notices in St Aidan's tell you how).</p>	
8	<p><b>Fundraising Strategy</b> <b>Church use policy</b> The reasons for this policy are to help us when hiring out to charities, not to police but to guide. We do have costs, which we must meet. AM declared an interest, and is not happy to take money away from our fundraising. There was a short discussion about what is a service (no charge for entry) and what is a concert (charged for entry). The advantage of holding non-service events in our churches is that we can use this when applying for grants (it's a plus). Some members had not received the policy, and it was agreed that it should come back to the PCC next time.</p> <p>JW pointed out that the PCC could decide to cover costs of fundraising for charities if they wished this to be taken from the mission/outward giving.</p> <p><b>Lamplight project.</b> AM: We are getting close to £50k raised with one grant still to apply for. Costs are going to be more than first estimated. DAC faculty application has gone in, feedback from Lucy Burfield is that we should ask for a faculty for the light and power work and do the plaster repair under de minimus regs. She suggests that the removal of pews and replacement with chairs should be put aside until we have done more research. Costs have changed because some were based on a rough estimate (from Tony), and the consultants have given pretender estimates (not sure about which cable to use: Pyro more expensive, but better lasting qualities.) We still do not have tender costs.</p> <p><b>Grant funding advisory group.</b> JW has offered to chair this group which will identify grant providers and control applications but will not complete applications. Members might be DBP, SS, AM?</p>	SW to meet with MS, JW, AM
9	<b>Manchester Street</b>	

	AC reported That the team is still in on-going discussions with the Lighthouse project. SW: Many thanks to the team, this has been very time-consuming.	
10	<b>Deanery Synod Report</b> SK: Last synod had a very useful talk from Dennis Fancett from the Generous Giving Team. VP: we are also making slow progress with the deanery Plan.	
11	<b>Any Other Business</b> <b>1.Vergers:</b> are paid £40 in Stannington, and £27 in Morpeth, PCC agreed we could regularize this in 2025 to £40 in both places. We need to recruit vergers who are willing to attend at services when they aren't being paid too. It was suggested that SW might preach and teach on this from the pulpit. <b>2. GDPR:</b> This work is on-going. <b>3. Parish publication.</b> We have some advertisers. After our first print run of 500 we only have a few copies left in each church. <b>4. Prayers of Love and Faith.</b> SW spoke about this, saying that we have the go-ahead to use these. His view is that we need to be there for everybody, and that means being prepared to bless same-sex relationships. If he, as Rector, feels he can't perform same-sex marriages (when that comes along) that doesn't mean that somebody else can't do so in our churches. Other members spoke about wanting to promote tolerance and not be judgmental. <b>5. Gareth Anderson</b> who has been foundation governor for All Saints School is willing to stand for another term and was unanimously re-appointed. (His term of office ends before the next PCC) <b>6.Website development</b> SW explained that our website was developed by DP, and that RS and SS are willing to be involved with DP in looking at how it can be redeveloped. This to go at a pace acceptable to DP, as a collaborative group. JW: PCC is very grateful for all the work which DP does in many spheres, and we need to thank him, and be aware that we must not overload him. <b>7.Colin Davidson's death</b> CD was important and active. SW thanked all who had helped with the funeral to make it a good event. We are now looking for a new organist. This could be a missional opportunity, and it's important that we find the right person. There was a discussion about what such a person might be involved in. AM and AC both spoke about not waiting too long which might affect the choir at St Mary's badly. Do we need a replacement who will play at service/an innovator who will develop music in the church and in other people perhaps bringing in partners from the community (like KEVI)/director of music? However, it was agreed that we could not appoint somebody until we had settled the matter of remuneration. SW looking for funding. (There was a discussion about how much CD had been paid, and what we could afford.) JW broadened this to the other churches, saying we need to pay fairly across our churches. After a wide-ranging discussion, the PCC approves the development of the process to recruit a director of music for the parish. Proposed by AM, seconded by AN. All in favour.	SW to preach/teach  MS to progress GDPR   MS to write to All Saints to let them know.
12	<b>Final Prayer</b> Meeting finished with Compline, at 9.05pm <b>Next meeting is 19th March 2024.</b>	

