

The Parish Church of St Mary, Arnold
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 7th November 2023
Via Zoom

1. Apologies

Andrew Sands Peter Spencer

2. Minutes of last meeting (September) & Matters Arising

Ian confirmed that the plumber had fitted the thermostatics to the radiators in the small hall. There had been new stage flooring – Thanks to Andrea for using the remaining funds from APC.

Andrea Sands proposed and Jake Chaplin seconded, that we accept the Minutes from 5th September as a correct record.

Approved

3. Vacancy Update

Angela was awaiting a response from the Arch Deacon. The Advert has been withdrawn. (There has been an appointment at St Martins).

4. Churchwarden Report

Family Centre: The temporary repair has been done. We've not had the bill for this as they are still waiting for the cost of the asbestos testing. It did take more days than originally thought. We are still waiting to hear from Mark Goodwill-Hodgson (Diocese) about a quote for a full replacement (guesstimate is over £20K). We understand any work would take around 3 weeks, though we wouldn't now need to wait for the school holidays. Angela tried the National Churches Trust, but they only deal with Churches not associated buildings. However, they have sent her details of other charities. They should also be able to help with TV monitors and North Aisle lighting repair. Michael Bolton will speak with Martin Cooper from the Diocese (also Trustee of other charities).

Councillor Michael Payne & APC may also be other avenues for funds.

A last resort is a loan from the Diocese, we would have to pay interest though.

The Wardens and the Finance/Fabric committee will look at grant options.

Some new strip lights have been installed in the Family Centre.

Gas Leak: This happened on 15th October. Ian met with Cadent who deal with gas emergencies, and they found several leaks including in the Vicarage kitchen (which isn't finished yet).

2 workers from Cadent said they had previously been part of the monitoring team and were surprised that nothing had been done before. Angela wrote to Cadent, but they are not taking any responsibility saying it's not their fault! However, they have sent us £100 as a 'goodwill gesture'. Angela will ask Amanda Redgate (Diocese) if there's any mileage in pursuing compensation with Cadent.

A Big THANKS to Ron and Karen Price for all their work with the Family Centre whilst Angela and Ian were on holiday.

Pre-School: They have now finished. This was not directly caused by the closure of the Family Centre but, unfortunately, probably speeded it up. They weren't able to have their final meeting in the Family Centre due to the gas leak. They are clearing out their equipment in the next week and then we will look at our storage. We will have more space (including an extra shed) but less money.

We will also need to look at reducing the hours of Joan our Cleaner. Brian also said that we pay for additional waste bins and these can be reduced in the New Year.

Michael suggested that perhaps in the New Year we look at doing an event/service for all those involved in the Pre-school over the years. Good suggestion.

We need to focus on the positives; This could open-up new opportunities for St Mary's.

Church: The electrician should be coming this month to fix the lighting in the North Aisle.

There will be an Energy Audit on 22nd November as part of the Eco Church process.

Trees: There have been discussions around boundaries and a dead sycamore tree that is near Calverton Road. Ian Greaves (Diocese) has contacted the tree surgeon and he will be coming later this week. Hopefully we can get his advice on other trees too.

Jake said that we need a new strongbox as the key seems to have snapped in the lock. It was suggested that we ask 1st Access on Mapperley Top – they have been great with the Family Centre door.

Safeguarding: We have 3 policies that we need to approve annually; Safeguarding, Social Media & Photography. They have already been circulated to PCC. There are no changes to the policies, though Kirsty & Ian will check with anything changes within the Diocese.

Mary Norris proposed, and Jake Chaplin seconded, that we approve these policies. Approved

5. Groups

Finance & Fabric: Michael said there are still some outstanding data cards (Yellow Cards). We need to push again with the congregation to get them all completed so we have an up to date record of everyone's contact information. The committee will look at the funding options for the screens and flooring.

C&YP:

As you can imagine most of the children and youth work has been cancelled this term. R2 continued to run in the Coach house, After a great start to Rock Solid in early September with lots of new young people joining us we then have sadly only been able to meet once again. Hopefully when we are back on Sunday night we will have a clear run until Christmas.

The story is the same with our Tots group but we met today for the first time since September. Messy Church fared better as we had our Sept one two days before the floor caused the hall to be closed. The October Messy Church could take place as it hit the one weekend after reopening and before the gas leak. November Messy church is this Saturday. The December 9th Messy Church on will be the Christingle service.

6. Finance

Brian said that the Gift Day had raised £6.5K and then we would get tax back. There were a few issues with giving on the contactless machine.

We currently have £6.5K, however, we have missed 1 months Parish Share and it's not likely we can make up the shortfall given all the current issues that we need to fund.

There will be no Christmas Fair which will make a dent in our finances as that is usually a big fundraiser. Larrie suggested that we ask the congregation to consider donating what they would have spent at the fair. Syliva said there would possibly be a Burns Night Supper - she would double check with Karen and Ron.

7. Synods

Deanery Synod is on 16th November.

Diocesan Synod – the notes from this and Bishop Paul's talk have been circulated.

8. AOB

Andrea asked if candles had been ordered for Christingle & Christmas. Angela confirmed that they had and there were plenty.

Michael said that 150kg of candles had been collected for Ukraine.

Kate asked if Christmas services had been confirmed.

Extract from Standing Committee (18th Aug) emailed to PCC (22nd August):

“Carol Service: Sunday 17th December 6pm

Christmas Eve: Sunday 24th December 9am Communion Service, 4pm Crib Service (or similar) 11pm Midnight Communion.

Christmas Day: Monday 25th December 1030 Service of the Word (with reserved sacrament communion)

New Year Eve: Sunday 31st December 1030 Communion Service

Advent Lunch: Angela & Sylvia will arrange again on Wednesday 6th December.

Church will be open on Tuesday 19th December from 10 – 12 for people to come and remember loved ones at Christmas.

Action: Angela to speak to Andrea regarding Messy Christingle – i.e will Andrea do that again?”

The Next Meeting will be Tuesday 30th January 2024 7.30 Via Zoom