

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 11th September 2023

1 Present: Allan Boddy, Rosemary Ellen, Tom Raper, Tony Pike, Kevin Keefe, John Simkin, Rev Aaron Kennedy, Rev Stewart Hartley, Jackie Hird

Apologies: Martin Hird, Maggie Lolashvili, Norman Barr, Amie Smith, Jenny Liston, Ken Dale, Eric Cairns, Barry Milner and Glynis Milner

Opening prayers by John

2. Safeguarding

Explorations

Leading Your Church into Growth – This was moved to when more members are present.

Vision – Aaron explained that in the advert and brochure for the post of vicar the congregation had requested 3 main focus points. These are the points which he particularly wants to focus on.

1. Children and youth work – Maria is leading youth work with a group now started on Sunday morning. Mary has taken overall charge of Sunday Club assisted by volunteers.
2. Mission and Community – the hope is to strengthen relationships within the community, although to continue to hold external events more volunteers are needed. A major event is the Christmas Tree Festival, Church was also a visible presence at the Carnival. A future hope is to re-plant an evangelical outreach on the Weston estate where the Weston Estate Family Church used to be. This will be a conversation over the next 6 months.

3. Discipleship – this happens in a light touch way through the general activities we support – coming to church, attending house group, serving in church and community. Aaron will be undertaking training to lead a discipleship group in the new year as a pilot with a view to running more groups in 2025. Tom, Kevin and Jacqui will continue to discuss this.

It is hoped that our vision for the future can be discussed at the Away Day in January and possibly at the weekend away.

3. Local to Global – Georgina (notes later in the Minutes)

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th July

These were approved, proposed by Tony, seconded by Aaron

5. Matters arising

SongPro to Propresenter – Ken has written instructions and provided a training session for Aaron, Kevin, Rick and Tom Pettinger. Further training on set up is still required. Ken has also written up a set of notes for those operating the software and a training session needs to be arranged.

6. Future events

6.1 Church Weekend Away – A bursary has been set up, through donations from members of our church, to help those who may need financial assistance in order to go on the weekend. A few generous donations totalling £4,500 have already been received. A brochure and booking form are being prepared and will be available in the next couple of weeks.

6.2 Alpha Course – Stewart reported that there are 12 people, all new to church which is very positive.

7. Financial report

7.1 See Tony's detailed report. Alan gave huge thanks to Tony for this detailed report. Tony said that things are generally good at the moment but that we are running at a deficit because of higher energy costs and generally higher inflation. The general level of giving needs to increase by 10%. It is encouraging that some new members have signed up to standing orders. The theme for the next 2 Sundays is Generosity and Giving.

7.2 Insurance cover for cyber fraud – work in progress on assessing our current level of data security.

7.3 The Charity Commission and the disclosure of aggregate Trustee donations
Tony is seeking a relevant contact at the central Anglican finance department.

7.4 Gift Aid Envelopes for occasional donations – Tony said that there was little indication of significant demand for these. However, he will investigate providing a 'home produced' envelope with gift aid declaration attached to be available at the back of the church near the wall safe.

7.5 Renewal of gas and electricity contracts – the Standing Committee have agreed the new 12 month contracts with our current suppliers. Crown (gas) and PoZitive (electricity). These are at rates about of last year's level.

7.6 Photocopier contract – there are still 6 months to run, the Standing Committee will discuss in due course.

7.7 Insurance renewal for Church and Chestnuts – Insurance policies for the Church and The Chestnuts were due for renewal on October 1. Tony gave details of the renewal terms. John proposed accepting the renewal, seconded Kevin and all agreed.

8. Properties

8.1 Health and Safety – step from Burras Lane to path – no update

8.2 Church building improvements – the automatic glass doors need repair at a cost of about £2,000. Total repair costs in the last two years total almost £4,500. Tony proposed going ahead but discussing with GEZE alternatives, seconded by Tom and all agreed.

Local to Global (no 3 on the agenda)

Georgina presented her thoughts on Local to Global as to how it has been run and that during Covid little could be done. At present the charities supported are Caring for Life and Kisiizi. Due to work commitments Georgina feel unable to continue in her role. After discussion Stewart volunteered to get a group together of those willing to help relaunch it. Suggestions could be put forward as to a different charity from Caring for Life.

8.3 Meeting with the architect – this had highlighted the need for a closer inspection of the roof to see what needs to be done.

8.4 Energy usage – support was expressed for all that the Net Zero group are doing and of what they would like to do. It was decided that a full inspection of the roof is required and an estimate of possible costs be obtained.

8.5 Extension Wall Plate for Otley Parish Church Vicars – by email option 2 had been chosen. This will be progressed.

9 Heritage

9.1 Allan reported on Heritage Open Day. This had been quite well attended and with much interest. One visitor is producing a folk play about Bettie Beecroft who was married

to a local farmer and is buried in the churchyard. The play is entitled Mother of the Revolution.

10 Youth and Children's Ministry

10.1 already discussed earlier

10.2

10.3 Foundation Governors of All Saints School

10.3.1 Head teacher retirement – there has been a lot of interest with 11-12 applicants from which 8 have been shown round. September 20th shortlist and interviews 27 & 28 September.

10.3.2 Ofsted report good with positive comments

11. Reports and Correspondence

11.1 Pastoral Team meeting – guidelines have been passed to Jenny for the next PCC

11.2 Welcome and Hospitality group are planning 2 events – October 15th a soup and pudding meal and November 19th a Sunday afternoon tea to welcome newer members with a chance to see how church and groups work.

12 Community/Churches Together in Otley

Churches Together AGM October 17th

Prayer breakfasts continue

Father Hird has been appointed to the Catholic church

13 Any other business

Rosemary asked whether the candle stand could be accessible as a visitor had asked if they could light a candle when they visited on Heritage day. As it has been available at other times this was agreed.

14 14.1 Prayers at next meeting MH/JH

14.2 Date of next meeting October 16th 2023

Closing prayers John