



# St. Mark's Church Parochial Church Council

## Minutes of PCC Meeting - 16 April 2023



The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mark, Bedford Charity Number 1164416.  
All minutes are available on our website [www.stmarkschurch.com](http://www.stmarkschurch.com)

The meeting was held following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Sunday Worship  
46 people attended the meeting

**Apologies** Marion Prior

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the 29 January 2023 meeting were agreed with no matters arising.

### Leadership Report

- Laura gave details of recent activities. The Lent Course and Easter services had been well attended. A Quiz Night on 25 February, the Easter Craft Stall and the Easter Raffle had been very successful in raising funds for the church.
- Future social events planned are, a Race Night on 10 June and a Hog Roast on 10 September. Dates for our Christmas Services will be as follows: Carols in the Car Park 16 December, Crib Service 23 December, Carols by Candlelight and Midnight Mass, both on 24 December.
- Laura thanked everyone involved in helping to maintain the worship and mission of St Marks.

### Finance

- Ian gave details of the Church finances for the period 1 Sep 2022 – 31 Mar 2023. On the Main Account, income totalled £116 855 and Expenditure £108 842. Income for the period included a number of successful grant applications and a repayment of £10 000 from Preschool. The Redundancy Reserves Policy is being met.
- Expenditure included replacement of the Velux windows and roof repairs in the flat and the purchase of a new catering level dishwasher.
- Utility costs continue to cause concern and all was being done to contain costs. It was planned to review our hire charges but, at the same time, ensure we remain competitive.
- The continuing generosity of church members through Sunday offerings was a vital part of meeting our commitments, with most gifts being Gift Aided. The next Gift Aid claim will be made at the end of April.
- Our fund raising activities have also been a great success, with the Christmas and Easter craft sales and raffles plus the recently introduced 50/50 Fund Raiser Club generating over £6 500 of income.
- The Preschool Account was showing a surplus of £22 461 for the period. Numbers are full, which is excellent, and will be full for the new intake in September. All rental payments are up to date, highlighting the important financial contribution Preschool provides.
- The Garden of Remembrance Account had a current surplus of £6 499. Addition kerbs have now been received and arrangements are in hand to have them installed.
- Ian was again thanked for the hard work involved in maintaining the church finances.

### Centre Management

- Wendy reported that all was working well with hire bookings. There were now 50 groups hiring the church premises each month.
- As reported earlier, every effort is being made to contain energy costs.
- Wendy thanked all the volunteers for their hard work in running the church centre.

### **Preschool**

- As previously advised, all places are currently taken. All was running well

### **Junior Church and Chat and Play**

- All was going well nothing to report

### **Worship Arrangements**

- Current arrangements were working well with increased church attendances

### **Pastoral Support**

- The Bereavement Group has restarted on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am.
- Telecare is operating well

### **Garden of Remembrance**

- Avril reported that there had been 8 interments this year to date, with two more between now and June.
- Only 1 plot remains in Willow and 3 in Oak.
- 30 new granite plaques have been purchased to make a new area to the right of the seated Arbour. This new area is to be called Yew as it is by the Yew hedge.
- Plans are in progress for a further new area to the left of the Arbour and that area will be called Birch.
- John the new gardener is doing a really good job and is very committed.
- The kerbs have delivered and plans have been made to have these installed in the half circle by the Magnolia tree.
- Thanks were recorded to Alan for all his help with the interments and preparation. Thanks also to Edward who maintains the fountain in Willow.
- Unfortunately our prices have had to go up recently, due to increased costs from our stonemasons.

### **Safeguarding Update**

- Mike confirmed that there had been no Serious Incidents or Safeguarding issues.
- Most PCC members had now given access to Mike to monitor their online training record through the Diocesan Portal. This is in order to ensure that each member's Safeguarding training continues to be up to date. Anyone having difficulties should contact Mike directly.
- All PCC members' DBS records were up to date.
- Members thanked Mike and Janet for making sure all safeguarding matters are covered.

### **Mission Matters**

- Sam advised that the Mission Action Plan had been updated and advised to the Diocese.

### **Deanery Matters**

- All was running well. Appointments would be made soon to cover current vacancies.

### **Dates of next meetings**

- 4 June 2023, after the 9.30 Service. Further dates to be agreed at this meeting.

With no further business the meeting closed with The Grace.