



# St. Mark's Church Parochial Church Council

## Minutes of PCC Meeting - 4 June 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 9.30am service of Holy Communion.

34 people attended the meeting

### Apologies

Morag Stewart, Barry Southam, Janet Warren, Mike Warren, Wendy Waters

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the 16 April 2023 meeting were agreed with no matters arising.

### Leadership Report

- Laura gave details of recent activities.
- Work is ongoing to look for suppliers of chairs with arms to fit in with our existing furniture.
- The 50/50 Fundraiser is now in its third month. It is hoped to open the scheme to regular hirers later in the year.
- The new dishwasher has now been installed.
- Sam had recently updated the Mission Action Plan. A note had been received from Bishop Richard thanking us for our efforts in furthering our mission in Brickhill and the surrounding area.
- The dedication service for our youngest member of the congregation, Timothy Humphries, took place on 7 May. The lovely service was enjoyed by Timothy's family and the congregation, with cake afterwards.
- The Brownies and Guides joined our 7 May service to share in the celebration of the Kings Coronation. Included was a new inside flagpole. Thanks to Marion, Wendy and Ian who had constructed this professionally, at a fraction of the commercial cost.
- Social Events; the Race Night has now be rearranged for 21 October. The Mission Weekend, 10 September with a Hog Roast.
- The next Leadership Team meetings will be held on 10 August.

### Finance

- Ian gave details of the Church finances for the period 1 Sep 2022 – 31 May 2023. On the Main Account, income totalled £149 928 and Expenditure £136 417. The Redundancy Reserves Policy is being met.
- Income included a payment of £10 000 from Preschool, which had been made to ensure our redundancy reserves policy was being met. Also, grants of £6 480 had been received. Expenditure included the replacement cost of £6 006 for a new dishwasher.
- There is an ongoing issue with our gas supplier OSSO Energy.
- Future expenditure to cover replacement of some blown windows, additional chairs with arms and upgrading of the Preschool play area. This will be as funds allow and grant applications will be made.
- The second Gift Aid claim of the financial year had been received of £10 159. The generosity of church members through Sunday offerings continues to be a vital part of meeting our commitments, with most gifts being Gift Aided.
- The Preschool Account was showing a surplus of £29 210 for the period. Numbers are full and all rental payments are up to date, highlighting the important financial contribution Preschool provides.
- The Garden of Remembrance Account was showing a deficit for the period of £2 218. This was due to payments made for the additional kerbs and stone plaques. All was running well.
- Ian was again thanked for all the hard work involved in maintaining the church finances.

### **Centre Management**

- Wendy reported that hire bookings remain stable each month.
- We continue to contain energy costs at all times.
- Several windows need repair or maintenance and the work will be carried out by ASG in the near future.
- The new dishwasher had now been installed, which had improved greatly improved the situation for hirers and Preschool.
- Wendy thanked all the volunteers for their hard work in running the church centre so well.

### **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, with varied numbers attending.
- Telecare is operating well and continues to play a very important part in keeping in touch with church members who are not able to attend regular services

### **Garden of Remembrance**

- Avril reported that there had been 9 interments this year with two more arranged by July. There is only 1 plot remaining in Willow and 3 in Oak.
- 30 new granite plaques delivered and installed to make further area to the right of the seated Arbour. We are going to call the area Yew as it is by the Yew hedge. When we get more granite plots they will be put left of the Arbour and that area will be called Birch.
- 12 Red granite kerbs have also been delivered and will be placed under near to the Magnolia tree where the circular bench is. The area has been cleared.
- John the gardener is doing a really good job and is very committed.
- Thanks were recorded to Alan for all his help with the grave preparation. It is really appreciated. Thanks also to Edward who maintains and keeps an eye on the fountain in Willow.
- We receive lots of compliments about the Garden and people are really appreciate being able to use it.
- Prices will be reviewed shortly as costs have increased from our stonemasons.

### **Safeguarding Update**

- Mike confirmed that there had been no Serious Incidents or Safeguarding issues.
- Mike restated the process required to give him access, as Safeguarding Officer, to PCC members training records through the Diocesan Portal. This was needed to ensure all trustees were up to date with their training. A step by step guide was available at the meeting. The majority of PCC members had now given access. 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 confirmed the date of the Mission weekend, 10 September, with BBQ.
- Contact had been made with Emmaus as part of the mission project for this year and was waiting to hear back.
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### **Deanery Matters**

All is running well. Sam advised that Mike Stewart had recently been appointed Team Vicar in the Elstow group of 5 churches, joining the existing team. A further curacy appointment is also to be made.

At the last synod meeting the speaker was Malcolm Grant, chair of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. It was noted that he indicated that grants were not restricted to older churches in the area.

### **Dates of next meetings**

After discussion, it was agreed that we should continue future meetings on Sundays, after the 9.30 service. The date for the October PCC Meeting will be confirmed at the Leadership Meeting on 10 August.

\* Now confirmed as 22 October

With no further business the meeting closed with prayer.