



St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting

in the Church, 4:30 pm on Monday 17 June 2024

MINUTES

Present: Christopher Hume (CH) - Lay Chair, Rev Paul Mundy (PM), Patsy Bailey (PB), Tony Bailey (TB), Jeremy Burdett (JB), Linda Farmer (LF), Audrey Ford (AF), Kate Francis (KF), Sara Fuller (SF), Anthony Mallinson (AM), Pam Mundy (PamM), Ian Reekie (IR), Caroline Smith (CS), Rob Bellis (RB): Jackie Burdett, Guest

1. Opening Prayer:

Rev Paul Mundy opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 72 and a prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Pam Mundy, returning to the PCC and Rob Bellis, newly appointed Trustee and taking up the position of PCC Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from Geoff Clinton, Dan Cowley, Jonathan Fenton-Vince and Mandy Stockwell.

3. Minutes of Meeting held 18 March 2024.

Acceptance moved by IR, seconded by SF, passed unanimously.

4. Rector Issues and Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:

Rector Issues:

e) Types of Service: PM reflected on the current level of activity and the services being offered. In view of his pending sabbatical, he indicated he was not minded that any changes should be made to the existing service profile which would place a burden on others to maintain while he was away. He noted he was happy to review the situation on return from his sabbatical.

The Chair opened the topic for discussion. Various ideas were aired about services that might suit different audiences, particularly families. PM mentioned "Bubble Church", a half hour service. LF recalled that 40 years ago there was a service once a month for mothers and toddlers. JB noted the success of a 4 pm service for families at another church that was very well attended. It was agreed that working out what might suit Newick families was important and canvassing opinion on the subject seemed a good idea. It was agreed that a questionnaire should be issued. KF agreed that it be issued to those on the Electoral Roll as well as to the mothers of those who had been baptised and be available for completion by others who visit the church. PM recommended this been done over a fixed period – over 4 weeks, say in September. It was agreed that this was a suitable way forward.

The Chair led on **Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:**

- a) **Reordering Faculty:** CH reported that this was in progress.
- b) **Treasurer's Annual Report:** CH indicated that he, IR and SF were working on the TAR for the Charity Commission website.
- c) **Special Services:** CH mentioned the Memorial Services that had been discussed at the last meeting. PM indicated that Memorial Sunday would likely be the second (13th) or third (20th) Sunday in October. For the Blue Christmas service PM and SF will work on the details and date.
PM noted that on Saturday 16th November there would be a pre-Advent "Quiet Day" in Newick. This would be for anyone in the Parish or at St Peter's to attend.
PM also indicated he would be pleased to conduct a "Pet" service, possibly in the Autumn.
- d) **Supper for Magazine distributors:** CH suggested this had been popular and well received in the past. Discussion was positive about running this later in 2024. PM agreed to speak with the Verger to arrange a suitable date.
- g) **Outward giving:** JB reported he would be meet with PM and take the necessary actions.
- i) **Fold down tables for 10:00 service:** The general discussion concluded that having fold down tables for people to sit at for coffee would add too much time for an already busy small group of people. In addition, it would restrict access for the wheelchairs and prams/buggies and would make the space impractical. It was agreed that tables would not be put out on a regular basis but that for one-off occasions, e.g. Memorial Service, it could be appropriate.
- j) **Alpha/Youth Alpha:** Alpha: PM stated he was in discussion with a couple, Jonathan and Lorraine Campbell, who have run adult Alpha courses before; he hoped that something might be arranged for the Autumn. He asked for everyone's prayers for this.
Youth Alpha: PamM expressed her enthusiasm for and excitement about the youth work going on, particularly under the fantastic work being done by Lee. She noted that 38 of the youth group had attended May Camp this year (21 had attended in 2023 and 12 in 2022). She had received a proposal from Lee to work additional hours. PamM read out the proposal (attached for reference as Appendix 1). It was agreed this should be considered as a matter of urgency alongside the need to consider a children and families worker. CH recommended that the Steering Committee meet to discuss and cost this. Raising the necessary money to support this activity was agreed as important. JB proposed that the Steering Committee meet soon to consider this, PB seconded the proposal which was supported unanimously. PM said he would be arranging a meeting between Newick and Chailey CW's to investigate how much we can raise between us to support a children and families worker. He would like to see a five-year funding program in place before we advertise. The PCC thanked Pam for her work.
- k) **Celebration of Safeguarding at a service:** CS agreed she would work with PM and sort out a date for this.

PM stated that the work that Caroline is doing on safeguarding is exceptional as is the work she is doing at the school.

CS noted that the update service is working to ensure people are having their DBS registration kept up to date. She noted that Kim Nash at Church House who has been particularly helpful over the years is retiring on 31 July. CS sent a note of thanks to Kim who will be on the zoom meeting next week when CS will be introduced to the new administrator.

There was a round of applause from the PCC for Caroline for the work she has done and is doing.

- l) AV team:** CH indicated that there was a problem of the sound system for the choir. AF stated that the choir could not hear what is being said when the congregation is being addressed by those speaking from the lectern. PM said he would get this checked out.

The question of increasing the number of those on the AV team was raised. It was suggested that a notice be put in the Newsletter asking for volunteers to join the AV team. SF to arrange.

AF also asked whether it was possible for the choir to have notice of the hymns a week ahead. PM responded, saying that they were noted in the Newsletter and sometimes they would be available sooner.

- m) Mental Health:** CH noted that mental health work was an aspiration for which we currently lacked resources. PM advised that there will be a Blue Christmas service in December, and noted the work being done by the Pastoral Care team in assisting members of our congregation.

5. Families and Youth Work (PamM):

This had been taken under agenda item 4 j).

6. Safeguarding (CS):

This had been taken under agenda item 4 k).

7. Churchwarden Items (SF, CH):

There were no matters to report.

8. Electoral Roll (MS, PM):

There were no matters to report.

9. Finance (IR, CH):

CH suggested that his report, attached as Appendix 2, said enough and indicated a necessary course of action with fund raising commencing in October. IR indicated that our MFA accounting program was working well for us. It provides ready access to financial information and enabling the operation of a sensible budgeting and review program.

10. Pastoral Care (PB):

CH thanked PB for her report and invited her to highlight any matters. PB noted that the Pastoral team were working flat out. She also reported that transport to and from activities is an issue. There is a dependency upon Newick Good Neighbours to bring people to the activities. PM noted that he does not want

members of the congregation involved in driving, which should be done through Newick Good Neighbours. Patsy reported that at a recent Church House Mission Day, she was very pleased to realise how much is being done at St Mary's in terms of outreach.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of forming a Bereavement Group. It was accepted that this is a complex area but worth considering particularly if it helped relieve some of the pressure on other pastoral care activities. PM proposed that he work with the Pastoral Care team to look at the way in which Bereavement might be best addressed. LF seconded this proposal which was unanimously supported. CH thanked PB on behalf of the PCC.

11. Sexton's Report - Fabric, Barn Centre/Church paths (TB, CH):

CH thanked TB for his extensive report and invited him to highlight appropriate items.

TB stated he was particularly mindful of the Quinquennial Inspection due in 2027 and picked out the maintenance matters that required attention, noting the weathervane and the clockface. He hoped it would be possible to identify the priority items and provide a budget for them. There followed a brief discussion about ensuring there were sufficient funds available for maintenance work. PM referred to the previous practice of setting aside £5k each year to the Fabric Fund. IR had researched past annualised spending on church fabric as equating to £50k and recommended that this should be budgeted each year. It was noted that grants may be available for some areas of work.

TB recorded his frustration regarding the Footpaths. The promised dropped kerb has not yet materialised; awaiting ESCC to confirm the installation date and hoping it will not coincide with a church activity. Clive Stillman is pursuing those who might quote for and undertake the main footpath project but there seems a lack of interest. TB and Clive will continue to take matters forward recognising that the footpaths need attention before the Barn project can be undertaken.

CH thanked TB on behalf of the PCC.

Note: IR left the meeting, prior apologies had been given to CH

12. Churchyard (PM, CH):

CH noted that matters affecting the Churchyard were progressing as anticipated.

13. Newick Parish Magazine (PM, CH):

SF drew attention to the approval process for the proof copy of the Parish Magazine going to print which currently did not include the front cover. It was agreed the process should include the front cover. PM proposed that in future the approval of the proof of the Parish Magazine must include the front cover prior to it going to print. LF seconded this proposal which was unanimously approved.

SF will liaise with Alex Harrison and Jackie Potter to put this in place.

14. Declaration of Confidential Items:

There were no matters to note as confidential.

15. Any Other Business.

- a) **Cleanliness of the Barn:** AF noted the poor state of the Barn in terms of its lack of cleanliness. It was agreed that additional cleaning is required; TB agreed to come up with a suitable solution.
The cardboard visible and an eyesore in the window; TB will look at a way of resolving this.
It was also suggested and agreed that the hire charge should be raised to include a sum for cleaning.
- b) **Friends of St Mary's:** PM suggested that a separate charity called "The Friends of St Mary's" be formed to assist with fundraising. It was agreed this merited further discussion. PM congratulated CH in raising funds with the selling of Shell shares.
- c) **Children & Families Worker:** PamM encouraged consideration of a Children and Families Worker. It was agreed that CH, SF, PM, Bea Annis and Paul Corver should work in costing a proposal and working out what might be affordable and/or grants obtained.

16. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed at 6:30 pm with a prayer led by PM and the saying of the Grace.

For Note: The dates of the next two PPC meetings are:

Thursday 12 September 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Monday 25 November 2024 at 4:30 pm.



St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting 17-6-24

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- **Pastoral Care:** PM proposed that he work with the Pastoral Care team to look at the way in which Bereavement might be best addressed. LF seconded this proposal which was **agreed unanimously**
- **Newick Parish Magazine:** PM proposed that in future the approval of the proof of the Parish Magazine must include the front cover prior to it going to print. LF seconded this proposal which was **agreed unanimously**.

Proposal from Lee Buck re additional hours:

Newick & Chailey proposal

I am currently employed via Newick & Chailey for 8 hours a week. This covers our wonderful youth club, Risk assessments, Get Hyped sessions & May Camp. Planning sessions, sorting the team and shopping for groups. This year we have also offered a summer camp similar to Soul Survivor & a retreat in October. This is all part of those 8 hours.

I am currently invoicing Chailey 1 hour during term time for attending Chailey secondary school. We get a regular attendance of 25+ most weeks. This is only during term time.

I would like to look at the possibility of increasing the hours I work in Newick/Chailey. I would like the 9 hours to be all year round. As part of this those hours I'm not in Chailey secondary, will go towards the DofE program. This is normally several hours of walking & building rapport, 3 weekends away and teaching time in Chailey Church. This doesn't include planning their walks, teaching and other parts of DofE. I believe there should enough hours here to make my contract 9 hours all year round.

The reason why we run youth club is to engage with the young people in the community but also as an outreach project. Trying to reach them to show them who God can be in their lives. Over the last 3 years our number for May Camp has only gone up 12,21,32. Yet once we finish May Camp, we offer nothing for them to continue their journey to faith. I suggest on a Tuesday evening we run a regular group. That goes from one course to the next depending on what the young people want and the age range we are trying to reach.

For example, in Horsham I do this. We did a start to stir course for year 6+. This is like a pre alpha course. We are all spiritual and can feel connected through music, each other and nature. This then led us into an alpha course for year 6+. This then meant we had a group of year 6's joins us at May Camp and already questioning faith before they have started at youth club. I then did a young leaders course for year 9+ and did a bible study with them. We have also gone onto do 24/7 prayer course and more. Depending on the group and what we feel they may need.

For this I am asking for a further 2 hours a week. 1.5 hours would be running it and a further 1 planning. Although this adds up to 2.5 hours, I would over work 0.5 each week to then be offered the extra 2 hours all year round. By doing it this way each week I work 0.5 hours to make up for the school holidays.

In summary I would then be on a 11-hour contract. Delivering a weekly youth club that is engaging and brings in 40-50 young people each week. Offering them May camp, summer camp and a retreat. Running a DofE program, attending Chailey on a regular basis. Also offering the chance to question and grow in faith on a new Tuesday group.

Finance Report for PCC, Monday 17 June 2024.

Our financial outcome for Q1 2024 was broadly on budget. We shall do a full half year analysis when June figures are available and circulate that to PCC.

My key concern, the elephant in the room, is that we made significant deficits in 2022 and 2023 – we spent more than we raised and are making no discernible progress towards avoiding that fate in 2024. We cannot go on like this. John Sclater spoke on this subject at the APCM earlier this year and was right to do so.

We are challenged as a Church to define our aspirations, cost them and either rise to the funding challenge or cut back before we run ourselves into a cash flow crisis. Our reserves cannot take another deficit year. Cash flow crises emerge slowly until they gather speed and become unstoppable. A bit like the ground rush that parachute jumpers speak of. We must avoid that.

I propose to work with Paul and the finance team to come up with a presentation for the congregation to define that as simply and clearly as possible. Then we can use that as the basis for a fund-raising drive, probably in October.

Christopher Hume
June 2024.