

DRAFT MINUTES

NEWICK PCC MEETING

Thursday 30th November 2023 at 7pm

Present:- Christopher Hume (CH, Lay Chair) Tony Bailey (TB) Sara Fuller (SF) Rev Paul Mundy (PM) Kate Francis (KF) Dan Cowley (DC) Audrey Ford (AF) Patsy Bailey (PB) Mandy Stockwell (MS) Linda Farmer (LF) Geoff Clinton (GC) Ian Reekie (IR) Anthony Mallinson (AM)

Apologies: Jonathan Fenton Vince (JFV) Caroline Smith (CS) Jeremy Burdett (JB)

Sabbatical: Alan Young (AY)

Key: Private comments to be deleted from wider circulation
Action items – shown in red

1: The meeting opened at 7pm with a reading From Isaiah (52) and a prayer from Rev Paul Mundy

2: Apologies As above. Rob Bellis, invited as a guest, was also unable to attend.

3: Minutes of PCC Meeting September 28 2023. The Minutes had been circulated for comment and were presented for discussion. No points were raised. Acceptance of the Minutes as presented was proposed by SF, seconded by KF and passed unanimously.

4: Rector issues

St Mary's – Newick's Church Logo:

Ash Stockwell presented drafts for a new visual identity and logo for St Mary's Church.

PCC noted the potential for merchandise like a bag, cards, t-shirts, hoodies for NYC to enable our congregation and friends to demonstrate their support. The logo and visual identity will be used in all our letters and publications.

PCC voted unanimously to adopt the logo. New templates, a revamped website (including a new URL) and logo will be launched in January 2024. These could be presented to the congregation at the New Year's Eve service if they are ready.

PCC noted with gratitude the generous work Ash Stockwell had done. DC commented that we couldn't possibly have afforded to have the work done commercially. PCC agreed that this new logo and visual identity will be a great asset for St Mary's.

KF noted, for the minutes, that we wouldn't be half the Church we are without the Stockwells' kindness, generosity, expertise and hard work.

Families & Youthwork:

PM: Will be talking to a potential Children's family worker but any discussions will be dependent on budget.

We are running a Christmas Youth Work Appeal. We are looking to raise a minimum of £15,000 between the two Parishes of St Mary's Newick and St Peter's Chailey which cooperate on their Youth Work.

Last quarter we had a youth mission grant from Barcombe and Fletching. Chailey's Diocesan Youth Work grant is in its final year. Our Youth Work budget will be tighter in 2024.

First Sundays

There was substantial discussion on how we might develop our first Sunday services to attract and work for our target audience of younger members and children.

PM reported that he had talked to Lee Buck to find out how the Children's services work at his church in Horsham. It was clear that when Children's services had relevance to the young people around 20-30 would attend but few would attend a more traditional service with a Choir and communion.

PM noted that if we wish to increase numbers of Children in church we could potentially use the first Sunday of the Month for a Children's service. The overall view is 3rd Sunday with Owls works well, so no need to change this at present and the First Sunday Children's service would be an addition to our offering to children and their parents.

There may be some objection from those who prefer the traditional service. PCC noted that communion is available weekly at the 8am service, on occasion at Evensong and on at least two other Sundays each month. We must provide services that attract and serve the younger people in Newick and their children. Currently this is a major shortcoming in our service to Newick.

LF noted that we used to have a Children's service on first Sundays and is so not sure how we reached a situation where we have the Eucharist at most 10.00am services.

MS noted that our Youth Choir meets on first Sundays and currently doesn't come into Church. We may need to reorganise.

TB suggested we could make the first Sunday service similar to Worship 2, no communion, with a testimony of no more than 10 minutes, which might make the service more appealing

PB suggested we could use similar songs to those the children are singing in school and potentially some of the older children could perform for us.

TB noted we need to move forward as a Church and not stagnate.

GC suggested that “the oldies” can’t work out on their own what the youngsters want – we need to get a committee together to research what they want and what would work in attracting our target audience.

AM that in years gone by we have had music groups who help attendance. We could look at this but we do need to find out what the kids want

IR: Our commission is to go out into the world and we need to think about what the meeting points are and find where these potential people are – not just assume they will come to us

TB suggested that Chris Wagstaff on keyboard, rather than the big organ could give the service a different feel. Maybe have no choir on those days. He agreed that we must find out what will attract younger people and their children.

MS: Not so much about changing an existing service, maybe it’s something new, not on a Sunday, etc, – not sure we are doing it the right way around

LF suggested we could run the service it at the school on a Sunday afternoon

SF welcomed the interesting ideas coming forward and noted that we just focus on tweaking what we have. We must consider more fundamental changes. Potentially changing the time and revamping the format could help the transition process, rather than keeping to the 10am traditional slot.

CH from the Chair sought a consensus on when we should aim to start. There was a clear consensus that we should get going in March 2024. Three months is enough time to prepare a start.

PM noted that we Could align with Mothering Sunday and perhaps divide the children based on where they live between Chailey and Newick as the Chailey & Newick Rangers are growing plants to bring for Mothering Sunday. Could also use an Easter Egg hunt at the school. But we also need people to help spread the message at the school like Mandy Stockwell and Issy Baty used to do.

IR suggested we must share our vision out in the community so that we get the widest possible range of people involved.

---***ACTION***---

PCC to pray for understanding and guidance – and share thoughts and ideas.

PM to do some planning with a view to making a start in March 2024.

PM/DC to liaise with the School PTFA about Easter Egg hunt

PCC also to look at ways to work with School PTFA more closely in the future

5: Churchwardens

SF: The Christmas Tree Festival starts on Sunday (3rd) with the trees being brought in and decorated Saturday 2nd. Trees are in situ all week and then there is the Festive Market on Saturday 10th and a musical event in the afternoon lead by Andy Rees. A busy time but all good and organisation is ongoing.

CH: Thanks for helping set up for festival to TB and SF

6: Barn Centre/Church paths

TB said we have asked when we can go out to tender re the paths. Clive suggests it can do that early in January 2024, for prices back in late January/early Feb. Have also requested help from County Council to drop the kerb on Church Lane but it may take some months before we get a response.

The driveway of Tudor Barn through which we have right of way to our carpark and Barn Centre has big pot holes and needs MOT and two bags of 20mm gravel to be put down asap to prevent major issues.

CH to ask Andrew Rowell, the new owner of Tudor Barn, for permission to do this work. (This agreement is in place). PM to arrange for MOT and gravel to be purchased and the work to be done.

7: Newick Parish Magazine

PM said he is happy with how the magazine is progressing. He is getting positive feedback. The January cover will include the new logo.

MS said we need to ensure the magazine presents as a Church Magazine

IR noted that when interviewing to hire an Advertising manager, Alex was clear that she wanted it to be a community rather than just a Church Magazine.

IR also queried whether the December cover is suitable. PM replied that in his view, when we moved away from the payment structure it became viewed more as a Church than a Community magazine. He had approved the image having discussed it with Sara Fuller, and they felt the tree reflected the Church's message of being part of the community. The picture was taken in our Church last year. It was the pre-School entry in the Christmas Tree Festival so does reflect a community spirit.

8: PCC updates

Churchyard

CH: Steady as she goes. Connick Tree Care will carry out their annual work on 15th February. 2024 Gardening days for 2024 are Saturday 13th April & Saturday 12th October

PM note that Mick Coleman has found the grave of his mother. The grave had sunk. Next gardening day we will raise it up.

Electoral Roll:

MS: Lucy Fisher added as per last meeting notes

Fabric:

CH noted that TB's paper was clear and comprehensive as always, and thanked him for it on behalf of the PCC. There were no comments or questions arising from TB's paper.

PM advised that If the Choir are practicing during the winter, it would be best to do so on a Monday or Friday using the residual heating from the weekends. This would save money as opposed to asking for the heating to go on for other days, as the heating needs to be on well in advance to make a difference to temperature.

Finance:

PM Proposed that following our standard committee meeting he wished it to be minuted that Ian Reekie continues to do wonderful work on budgets, gift aid and other matters pertaining to Finance.

PM reported that, in accordance with a Steering Committee recommendation at its last meeting, he proposes that Ian Reekie's responsibility to the Treasury function should be:-

1. Gift Aid
2. The operation, management, and use of the My Fund Accounting program.
3. Running a Budget Function for St Mary's
4. Insurance.

PM proposed the resolution that Ian Reekie's remit should be as presented. Seconded GC. The resolution was unanimously agreed by PCC.

PM: Again thanked IR for all his continued help

IR commented that the Financial report circulated has added cost centres to allow easier comparison of different cost centres and incomes i.e. Youth work this year vs last. The idea is to take the figures we have and compare that with what is required to start looking at budgets for next year to get meaningful figures and help with any applications for assistance. The best way to do this is to identify the experts that can help us and the grid showcases those suggestions.

CH: This is the start of the budget planning. In 2024 we shall look at quarterly reports so we can manage income and expenditure more closely and be a better informed and managed Church in the years to come.

SF asked, asked on the sheet IR had circulated,, what is the final column (Admin) IR replied that it relates to general administration matters like payroll, acts as a catch all for matters not covered by the other headings.

CH raised the issue of Parish share for 2024. He reported that he had discussed this issue with SF and PM. The Diocese has asked for an increase aligned to inflation. Not an easy decision given that all our costs are increasing. However we felt we should strive to increase our contribution but not go beyond £70,000. The PCC will be consulted on that once the yearend figures are considered.

KF noted that the Diocese had requested a response by early January

After discussion PM proposed that we should advise the Diocese that we propose our 2024 parish Share should be £70,000, but that final adoption of this figure will depend on our review of our financial situation once our 2023 accounts are completed.

This resolution we proposed by PM, seconded by JC and agreed unanimously by PCC.

Pastoral care:

PB: What we do is outreach to anyone and the following:

Children's choir singing at Christmas barn next Tuesday if you are available to join us.

Dance group is still full and maybe we can arrange for them to showcase/perform to the congregation and encourage those that use the Barn Centre to come and visit the Church

Patsy proposed that we should produce a leaflet to outline everything we do in the community (Solo friends, The hub, Lunch club, Tea at Three etc) with easy colour coding. PCC agreed to this. The question of how to distribute this document was discussed and PCC agreed to use the Parish Magazine in the first instance.

PB noted that our Pastoral Care is limited by numbers as only have two working members, with others doing what they can, when they can due to illness. So the events are key to providing social experiences. 22 people have wrap around prayers given out via email each week.

Safeguarding:

CS had submitted her report. There were no comments or questions arising from Caroline's report, but PCC agreed that we are fortunate to be so well served by Caroline in this important area.

9: Confidential items

Nil

10. Dates of future meetings.

4 meeting dates suggested:

Monday March 18th – 7pm

Thursday June 13th – 7pm

Thursday September 12th – 7pm

Thursday November 28th – 7pm

PM suggested we should consider different times and asked for a survey as to members' preferences. **SF to set up a survey on this.**

11: AOB

Men's Supper suggestions for 2024:

15th March

28th June

27th September

22nd November

KF asked can we organise a Women's supper? PM replied that we are waiting for one of our ladies to step up and organise it. The men are ready willing and able to cook and serve.

SF asked could we do a mixed supper? PM not against mixed suppers, but wishes to keep Men's suppers as they are, commenting that they play an important role in helping men's mental health.

DC: Contacted the Brownie's about returning to the village but it was not met positively

GC raised the question of when we need to make decisions regarding the pews. CH replied that this issue will come up at the first two PCC's in 2024

GC asked could we purchase small tables to make after Church coffee more like a pop-up café? Enquiries will be made.

PM raised the question of the fireplace at the Rectory. There had been a gas fire but that was condemned at the last Diocesan inspection. The diocese no longer installs gas fires. The Diocese will not install a wood burner but will allow PM to install his own wood burner. PM will get a quote for a new wood burner. Financing will be discussed when the quote is to hand.

The meeting finished with a prayer and the saying of the Grace at 9.15pm.
Prayer

12. Date of next meeting 18th March 2024 at 7pm.