

St Mary's Newick PCC

Thursday 30 March 2023

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM with the reading of Psalm 40 and a prayer led by Rev Paul Monday.

1. **Apologies:** Mandy Stockwell, Alan Young, Jeremy Burdett, Caroline Smith and Sara Fuller
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Motion for acceptance of the minutes was moved by Ian Reekie, seconded by Jonathan Fenton-Vince and carried unanimously.
3. **Rector Issues:** Rev Paul Mundy circulated a paper he had prepared for the PCC's consideration. He asked the PCC to refer to it periodically, preferably at least once a week and be ready to discuss it at our next PCC meeting. We should consider it prayerfully and discern what God has in mind for us.

Rev PM also mentioned his idea that, in the absence of a candidate coming forward to be Secretary of the PCC we should consider each member taking turns to carry out secretarial duties for a year at a time.

Rev PM noted with approbation the welcome progress on mental health and well-being continuing through the efforts of Alan Young and Sara Fuller. He directed that Mental Health and Well Being should be a separate agenda item at future meetings.

Rev PM asked for joint PCC meeting to be arranged with Chailey and with Andrew Smith to discuss giving.

Rev PM noted Church of England reports on ecology matters which we should consider. He noted that some churches have installed electric car charging points which can generate income.

4. **Families and Youth Work:** PCC recognises this as a vital part of St Mary's future. There was a wide-ranging discussion. PM's wife Pam and Ros X are now helping with the younger group at NYC. Two more ladies are expected to be in helping after Easter.

DoE work was discussed young people have to be in year 9 or above to take on the DoE program. this is a problem for NYC as year 9 is at the time that members move on from NYC. we are establishing contact with the Lewes

DoE hub and hope that some DoE candidates will assist with NYC in future as part of their DoE program.

CH advised the meeting that our youth work payroll is currently running at around £18,000 per year with additional running expenses on top. This is a real challenge for St Marys.

The meeting noted the good early start made by our Youth Choir which may be extended to two Sundays per month. Rev PM Noted the success of the Uckfield church youth choir - three children at Newick school who are members of this choir will be baptised this year. It costs the Uckfield church £10,000 to £15000 per year to run - but it works.

Holiday Club. we are planning a 3 day club on 22/23/24 August from 0900 to 1300 each day. the club will require 30 volunteers and will not happen unless those volunteers are found. the theme will be "Repair Shop". The club will be held at the school.

Linda farmer asked whether risk assessments and working agreements were in place. This is work in progress.

Rev PM mentioned that he plans to start a "Dads and Kids" meet from 0900 in the Barn Centre twice a month on Saturdays. Bacon sarnies and coffee for the Dads, snacks and a free run at the youth club equipment for the kids.

The meeting noted the welcome appearance of the "Danger Dads" at Men's Suppers and Garden Days - Hopefully they will be candidates for these "Dads and Kids" days.

The meeting noted the need to promote how youth work through the Newick Talk site, maybe asking MS to help with promotional material and wider media promotion. Noted the need to work the crowd at the school gate.

Godparents Sunday. Suggested as a useful promotional tool.

Noted the need to apply for outside grants and to work towards getting assistance from people in Newick outside our congregation.

**5.Safeguarding:** CH reported that Caroline Smith said that there are no current issues needing attention.

**6.Churchwarden issues:** CH noted the paper he had circulated. in addition to the successes mentioned he added the Christmas festival, and the good work done by church members in Solo Friends, Newick Distress Trust and the Lady Vernon Trust. Despite all this we are not growing. Church attendances in the first quarter of 2023 are very close to those in 2019. Our electoral roll has risen to 142 with full leavers and six joiners this year. We still have a major "Body Problem", And very few regular attenders between the ages of 25 and 65.

**7. Finance:** Ian Reekie presented a financial report. An extra PCC meeting will be needed to approve the 2022 accounts when they are finalised.

The headline news is that whereas in 2021 current expenditure exceeded our current income by just £7000, The 2022 excess of the current expenditure over current income was some £28,000. Thanks to legacies from previous years we have the reserves to cover this but we must increase our giving.

Rev PM Noted that he had decided that we must make an offertory, with circulation of baskets a regular part of our services. Giving is sacramental and must be fully recognised. PM is very pleased with the success of a hand “blessing” of the basket by regular givers, and those who chose not to donate.

**8. Pastoral Care:** Patsy Bailey reported that the team is very busy. They have a good relationship with Nightingales, where communion services are regularly held. Tea at three is going well. The Hub is very busy and well attended, with people turning up early and staying late. Wrap around prayers on Fridays are proving popular; Patsy invited any members of PCC interested to email her accordingly to go on the list.

Patsy reported that most of her work is chaplaincy with the village being her Church. She hopes that somebody with a vocation for pastoral work will take the ALM course so that she can concentrate on chaplaincy. A lot of her work is with people who are dying.

**9. Outward Giving:** Jeremy Burdett expects to run an appeal for Columbian Churches after Easter.

Rev PM noted that all monies promised as part of outward giving should be paid by the end of the first week of December.

**10. Fabric:** Tony Bailey's report was accepted with grateful thanks by the PCC which noted that his work for St Marys is exceptional and praiseworthy.

Tony Bailey reported that it is urgent that we proceed with pew reordering. We shall likely require a temporary removal order under section B, and he will liaise with the churchwardens to obtain this.

Rev PM noted that we should maintain the barn centre with its independent status.

Rev PM advised that he did not want a collection bowl at morning coffee. People who wish to donate should be directed to the collection box on the pew end near the door or the card giving terminals.

Tony Bailey advised that revised drawings are being prepared to take account of the constraints put forward by our consulting engineer George Pottinger.

Tony Bailey will work to obtain estimates of fee expenditure necessary before we can open a formal appeal.

Newick village hall management committee. The following motion was proposed by Jonathan Fenton-Vince, seconded by Kate Francis and agreed unanimously:- “PCC agrees to re-elect Anthony Bailey as the St Mary's Church representative and trustee on the Newick Village Hall Management Committee at their AGM on 3 April, the position to run until their next AGM in 2024. The result of this vote to be transmitted to the chairman of the PCC to the NVHMC secretary before the date of the NVHMC AGM.”

**11. Churchyard:** The next Garden Day is on Saturday 15 April from 0900.

**12. Newick Parish Magazine:** CH reported that advertising income received for 2023 was circa £14,500. This should result in break-even financially, depending on paper prices.

Rev PM advised that Ash Stockwell is working on a re-design of the cover to clearly show that it is a production of St Mary's Church distributed free as a service to the village.

Rev PM reminded that while we do not charge for it we had always thought that at some time after the first full year we might solicit donations in the magazine.

**13. List of Policies:** The PCC noted with grateful thanks and appreciation the amazing job that Linda Farmer has done with our policies and this list. St Mary's is exceptionally well served in having a full and proper set of up-to-date policies in place and documented. Linda reminded PM that she will have a set of policies to sign in due course.

**14. AOB:** CH advised the meeting that our prayer group is struggling. Rev PM urged us to continue, noting the importance of prayer to St Mary's and Audrey Ford's role as our prayer warrior. After discussion agreed to try other places to hold meetings, maybe in the upstairs room in the Barn Centre or in private houses. Other options discussed included a prayer day, prayer walks, prayer lunches and Patsy's Wraparound Prayers. J F-V asked us to hold the forthcoming Choir recital of “Lift High the Cross” in our prayers.

**Harvest Festival:** Will be on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> which is an Owls Sunday.

**Audio-Visual System:** We need to recruit replacement(s) for Josh Stockwell.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 22 June at 4.30pm in the Barn Centre.

**The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m with the saying of the Grace.**