



Summary of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council at St Mary's Parish Centre on Thursday 30th November 2023 at 19:30

Present: Rev'd Stuart Silk (Chair), Mary Bacon, Roger Burns (Secretary), Lee Castle, Maureen Dale, Malcolm Eacott, Sue Eacott, Jonathan Elvy, David Hollis, Keith Newby, Ged Pugh, Monica Pugh, Rhona Teale, Arthur Watts **Apologies:** Brenda Hill, Janet Western

Stuart opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 18 reminding everyone God is our rock, our refuge and our rescuer. He followed with an opening prayer. As our September meeting focused on St Mary's Vision PCC approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July.

Stuart said it's good we are continuing to look at the agenda through the lenses of 'trellis' (church structures, groups etc) and 'fruit' (what we hope these will produce). He said whilst we aren't a perfect church, we want to be a place where people feel welcome and can we can admit our need for help from God and each other. He compared a waiting room for a job interview to a waiting room for the doctors – the former is a place where people put on a show of strength; the latter where people readily admit weakness.

Stuart said our September meeting to discuss St Mary's Vision was very positive in looking at why we are here in an honest way. We must think "why do we do what we do?". Values are set by God's word and shape what we do and our Mission is also set by God. PCC discussed and agreed the Vision wording which will be fully presented in a Sunday service in January.

Stuart asked PCC to consider increasing the number of wine distributors each Sunday. PCC endorsed this. PCC also supported Stuart's proposal to erect a Christmas Star on the church.

Each PCC Officer had circulated their reports prior to the meeting including subcommittees' reports. David summarised our financial position. Stewardship is slightly up this year, and we received a welcome legacy gift. Our Parish Offer is on track to be paid in full. Fund raising and Halls income is down. Stuart proposed PCC discuss "Giving" at our next meeting.

Rhona said we have a new extended form to fill in for DBS checks which PCC agreed should be used at the next clergy and reader DBS refreshes.

Roger said he'd worked with the Cemeteries Office to address the tree fall in the churchyard, arising from recent storms. They also power washed church paths ahead of expected repairs.

Following a discussion on the Knox Street Annex PCC agreed to fully research a sale option ahead of a final decision in January. PCC endorsed an upgrade to audio equipment to modern standards in the Centre which will enhance sound quality. Following a successful trial of ChurchSuite software to improve church management activities PCC agreed to its purchase.

Stuart said the Diocese Advisory Committee (who advise on church buildings and proprieties) are visiting St John's in December and whilst here they will visit our Centre to give advice on its development and maintenance.

Brenda Hill has stood down from managing Centre bookings. Monica Pugh will cover in the short term.

PCC meeting dates for 2024 were agreed to. Next meeting is on Thursday 25th January.