

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 in St Benedicts

Present: Fr Christopher, Jim Hartley, Brian Randall, Philip Aldred, Chris Grant, David Hamilton, Hilary Hunter, Andrew Naylor, Alex Perry, Barbara Randall, Sarah Sayer and Morwenna Thomas.

Apologies: Ruth Brett, Isabel Davidson, Kay Dorling and Catherine Mack

- 1 **Welcome and Prayer** – Fr C welcomed the new PCC members and we each introduced ourselves. To fulfil GDPR regulations, a form was passed round the table for signing to allow us to share contact details for PCC business.
- 2 **Minutes of last meeting** held on 1 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record. Action
- 3 **Matters arising** – none
- 4 **Report on APCM** – Draft minutes had been circulated for information, but they would be tabled at the 2024 APCM for approval. No corrections were needed.
A member of the congregation had asked about the layout of the chairs. The PCC discussed the issue and agreed to add two more rows facing forwards and enlarge the family areas at the back of the nave. Godly Play would be centred further forward in the nave. A note regarding this decision would go in this week's pewslip. CWs
- 5 **The following PCC Appointments were agreed:**
Chris Grant: Treasurer
Andrew Naylor: Fabric Officer
Barbara Randall: PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer
- 6 **Financial matters:**
Chris Grant (CG) tabled a statement of financial activities comparing figures for 2022. An increase in donations had resulted in an excess of £65,000 over the same period last year.
We had already paid £8,000 parish share and with a reduction of many of the other expenses we were currently £25,000 up on the year.
We had been assisted by *Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust** who had £65,000 surplus money from the HLF project which was now helping to restore fabric and fittings that had been removed under the last incumbent.
The AGM of the *Friends of Wymondham Abbey** would be on 18 March 2023 and once their constitution was restored it should allow them access to their bank account.
*The Reverend William Papillon's Charity** had agreed to fund £4,000 p.a. to employ a youth worker for outreach work in schools. (see item 11d)
Philip Aldred (PA) asked about access to Spooner Row's account. CG reported that we now had the cooperation of Sybil Martin, former Churchwarden. She had recently agreed to contact the bank and arrange to transfer the funds into the Abbey's account where it could be held in a designated fund. Difficulties with Barclays had been greatly exacerbated by the account having Sybil's old private address and not the Abbey's address.
The designated funds of *Ron Hyams* and *Fred Buttolph* which totalled £237,793 in December 2021 had still not been accessed. It was thought they were in a CCLA fund but it was not known how much remained.

* Independent Charities supporting Wymondham Abbey:
Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust. Charity Number: 1054896
Friends of Wymondham Abbey. Charity Number: 1064418
Reverend William Papillon's Charity. Charity Number: 1016604

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Registered Charity Number 1130495

- 7 **Fabric report** – Andrew Naylor (AN) reported that the church architect, Ruth Blackman, was coming next week to look at providing a safe means of accessing the roof. The sound system installation should be completed in the next few weeks.
- 8 **Holy Trinity Spooner Row** – PA reported that quotes were being obtained for work to reshape the dais which would greatly improve access to the kitchen and back door fire escape.
- 9 **Purchase of Parish Manager Office Equipment** – CG explained that Hayley Cornwell needed a new laptop as the current one she was using was causing problems. The PCC agreed a spend of up to £400. A new printer for making Guild cards had been bought to save costs of outsourcing this task.
- 10 **Choir for weddings** – Barbara Randall explained that with the current small choir it was difficult to guarantee ten singers for a wedding. A reduction in the fee charged was discussed. The Abbey choir's reputation also had to be considered and it was agreed that for the moment we would not offer a choir for wedding services. There were other local choirs that might be available to sing. Requests for wedding choirs this summer would be referred to Philip Aldred.
- 11 **Mission / outreach**
 - a **Baby and toddler group** was so successful it was approaching capacity. We were providing a warm space, free to attend and bringing families into church. Five baptisms are planned because of the group. Leader, Lorna Goodrich, had been asked to investigate a way of managing attendance as overcrowding was becoming an issue. Extra help was needed with setting out chairs etc on Wednesday lunchtime and packing up afterwards on Thursdays.
 - b **Breast-feeding group** – a new group which was meeting fortnightly on Mondays in St Benedicts. It was led by three community midwives. Numbers attending had doubled at the second session.
 - c **Churchyard activities** – Hilary Hunter had circulated a Churchyard Management plan which included activities which would go into the events diary. She wanted to get some crab-apple and hazel nut trees planted at the western end of the churchyard which was managed for wildlife with advice from Ann Roberts of WyNG (Wymondham Nature Group). The PCC agreed. AN said planting the trees would need a faculty. The PCC thanked Hilary for all her work on the churchyard. BR explained that any costs of extra labour and materials were funded by the sale of herbs during the warmer months. AN said Ruth Blackman wanted to remove some of the moss but the wildlife experts opposed this view.
 - d **Community/Schools outreach** – a group had been set up to address this. It was not known whether Wymondham Academy planned to hold another Living History event.
 - e **Wymondham College after-school club** – CG had spoken to Gabriel Harris, a data scientist in the congregation, about providing facilities for a small group of 15-16 year-olds so they could build us a people counter for the north porch. We would need to buy some equipment. The PCC agreed.
 - f **Easter Fair on Sat 1 April** – Julie Briggs from Clear Company was coming to plan stall positions this week. More tombola prizes were needed. It was hoped musicians could be plugged into our PA system so that we could manage sound levels better.

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- g **Duck Race on Mon 10 April** – more tombola prizes were also needed for this event. Tickets are being sold on Sundays and would be sold at the Becketswell gate on the day.
- h **Concerts and events** – the list was being updated regularly. It included a variety of concerts, organ recitals, plus talks and other activities on ‘Sundays at 3pm’. New ideas included:
- i **Fashion show organised by Middletons** – date tbc possibly Wed.10 May, 6 – 9pm. It would be a ticketed (£10) event with Prosecco and canapes. Proceeds shared between Middletons and the Abbey, with a prize raffle with shop voucher. Music and changing facilities would be required.
- j **Town Green Cafe** were interested in a developing a business opportunity with us, perhaps at an occasional event with special cakes. A Sunday afternoon tea party might be a possibility.
- 12 **Abbey Hall** – AN reported that the cooker needed repair so there could be no parish lunch in April. The fire door needed attention. The hall needed to be promoted more widely to attract hirers. Wymondham’s Tiny Talk baby signing classes were interested but would need storage space.
- 13 **Guild of St Benedict** – Jim Hartley reported that the lanyards had been made and would be distributed via team leaders at a forthcoming meeting.
It was agreed that there needed to be a means of reporting good ideas from volunteers.
- 14 **Safeguarding issues** – none reported
- 15 **Any other business:**
- Pre-service music** – Ruth Brett asked for a variety of quiet music to be played through the PA system between 10 and 10.20 on Sunday mornings. This was agreed. CWs
- Easter week opening** – visiting hours would be the same with Evening Prayer/ closing at 4pm. Morwenna Thomas volunteered to open and lock up.
- Welcome leaflet for new worshippers** – this was thought to be a good idea.
- 16 **PCC Dates** (all at 5.30pm) –to be circulated by *Doodle Poll* and finalised according to responses. BaR
They would be as follows:
Mon 22 May, (subsequently changed to the 16 May) Wed 19 July, Wed 20 Sep, Wed 15 Nov and Mon 8 Jan 2024.
NB. a revised date is now proposed for the March meeting: **Wed 20 March 2024**
Please put these dates in your diary now.
- There may be additional meetings if the need arises, eg shortly before the APCM.
Next year’s **APCM would be on Saturday 20 April 2024 at 10.30am**
- We said The Grace together and Fr Christopher closed the meeting.