

**The Parochial Church Council of the  
Ecclesiastical Parish of Lichfield: Saint Michael with Saint Mary  
Meeting: Monday 15 May 2023 at 19.30 in church**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Abbie Walsh (Rector – Chair)	Lyn Shiel	Sue Jones
Ray Allen	Lynn Edge	Viv Oliver
Ruth Bull	Elizabeth Clarke (Liz)	Maureen Brand
David Easton	Steve Oliver	Veronica Morris (Secretary)
Mike Jones	Mike Godfrey	June Frayn
Joseph Sneddon	Richard Brooks	Edward Green (Ted)

1. The meeting opened with prayer, led by the Rector.
  2. **Apologies** were recved and recorded from Brenda Liptrot, Alan Toplis
  3. **Declaration of Interest.** There were none
  4. **Notification of Any Other Business or Questions.** There was nothing
  5. **Minutes and Action List of previous PCC meeting.** Ruth Bull should have been included as in attendance. Otherwise the minutes and action list of the previous meeting held on 27 March 2023 were agreed unanimously. Proposed by Ted Green and seconded by Lyn Shiel.
  6. **Matters Arising:** There was nothing to report
  7. **Ministry**
    - 7.1 **Worship**
      - a) Review of Holy Week. Revd Abbie asked for feedback and comments on how the week had gone. PCC noted the following:
        - Palm Sunday service had been attended by 120 people.
        - the Maundy Thursday service bring and share meal had been great
        - The Friday evening service in the cathaedral had been very well received and the choir sounded great
        - the Saturday evening fire service was liked
        - the Sunday morning interviews had been different and really good
        - there had been something for everyone
- Revd Abbie said the interviews could be repeated and a rethink needed about walking up the hill on Palm Sunday as it was difficult to hear what Revd Chris was saying as he was leading his group..

## 7.2 Mission

- a) **School.** Revd Abbie reported that 21 children from St Michael's school had been admitted to communion. Confirmation would be offered when the children were old enough ie 10 years.

The 'Thy Kingdom Come' course would be running in church for 4 days from 23 May. It would comprise a series of activities led by Year 5 St Michaels school. In future Revd Abbie said she would like to open up the programme to other schools.

Also coming up was a school Pentecost Eucharist and a School confirmation service

The Homework Club was also flourishing with 6 children benefitting.

- b) **Junior choir.** There were now 16/17 members and Revd Abbie said she would like to get them involved in Sunday Worship once a month. She asked for PCC approval to change the liturgy slightly for this service. PCC agreed.

EG said the Junior Choir would be holding a concert on July 5<sup>th</sup> for the congregation and their families. Afterwards there would be a BBQ to raise funds for the Camus trip. EG also said the choir had been asked to sing for a wedding at St Chads and Revd Abbie had agreed. The choir would be paid for this and had led to further discussion about resurrecting the idea of payment for the choir. EG, JS and Revd Abbie to meet and discuss the proposal properly to bring back to PCC.

Junior choir members were bringing their friends to rehearsal as well. Revd Abbie said in September we could think about going into other schools in the parish to start up other choirs.

- b) **Bereavement course.** Revd Abbie said this was a well designed course comprising videos and study materials. A notice had been placed in the Pew Sheet and an invitation had been sent to the School. The Office Administrator (AK) would be contacting the Funeral Directors. PCC were also invited to promote the course. She added recently the bereaved may find the course too difficult. Revd Ruth Bull and Revd Chris Polhill would be assisting her

- c) **Shaping for Mission.** The next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May was an Open meeting and would look at Care for Creation and people interested in ECO church, Forest Church, conservation, churchyards.

- e) **Archdeacons Enquiry Articles.** Revd Abbie said the church would have a visit in June and churches were invited to respond to 2 questions:

1. What would you say the vocation of this church is at this time?
2. How far would you say this church is flourishing at this time?

Churches would likely be asked to work on these questions over the next 12 months.

Revd Abbie invited PCC members to provide her with feedback to help her collate a response to the diocese.

### 7.3 Pastoral

**a) Safeguarding.** MB said there was nothing to report. New PCC members would need to be DBS checked and complete the training which they had been advised about

**b) Health and Safety.** RBr reported the most up to date policy had been posted at the back of church

## 8 Church buildings and churchyard

### 8.1 Buildings

**a) Church Maintenance.** SJ said there was nothing new to report. There had been no new leaks.

**b) Parish Rooms.** Revd Abbie went through the briefing paper which included notes from the last Project Team meeting and a report of a recent meeting with the Architects. RBr had been asked to prepare a report for the upcoming APCM.

Revd Abbie advised there would be an additional PCC meeting focusing on the Parish Rooms to agree:

- a vision statement and what the rooms will be used for to state in applications for grants
- the final design so planning permission could be applied for

Once she had received some additional bits of information and was in a position to move forward she would identify a date for the additional PCC meeting. There were no comments or questions on the report.

In response to a question about resubmitting an application to HS2 Revd Abbie said this was dependent upon us proving land ownership which was in progress.

**c) Audio Visual System Update.** AT sent an update prior to the meeting to say that he had an appointment with Beacon AV the following week to revise the quote prior to submitting a Faculty application.

**d) Electrification of church clock.** MG said that Revd Abbie had submitted a Faculty List B application so hopefully approval would come through soon. The Diocese had not requested any additional information.

### 8.2 Churchyard

**a) Report.** RA's report had been previously circulated. RA reported that he had spoken to the Project Manager at Greenwoods about applying for Heritage money for the churchyard and her view was that an application would fit well with the new Parish Rooms proposals and she would make sure that any funding applications don't block each other. As a new building the Parish Rooms proposal was not eligible for Heritage funding.

**Coronation Tree** – the location was discussed. Revd Abbie said we would need to get advice/permission on where we could put it and PCC agreed to this. RA said that he would find out how much funding would be needed to plant a tree. A request would be put in the pew sheets and church magazine requesting donations.

**b) Tree works.** A scheme of work was planned and dates were in the diary for when the work would be carried out. Ongoing.

**c) Bench near Church Door.** SJ reported that the application for the replacement bench was submitted as a Faculty but had been downgraded to a List B after additional information had been sent in to the diocese.

**d) Elizabeth Logan grave.** Revd Abbie said that Elizabeth Logan was a nurse and had served in the Crimea with Florence Nightingale. Revd Chris Baker (CB) had located her grave in the churchyard. He had found out that she had given selfless service during the war and was of good character, and he would be giving a talk about her on 31 May. CB was proposing that the grave stone (now lying flat) was restored to its standing up position and his intention was to both approach the Florence Nightingale Trust for funding and obtain a quote from a local stone mason for the work. The work may also need a Faculty. No other place has made a claim to her memory.

Revd Abbie wondered about using Elizabeth Logan's name for the Parish Rooms Project. Her grave stone would be close to the site and also she gave selfless service. An information plaque would be put up in the new parish rooms with more information about Elizabeth Logan.

RBr commented that the proposed links with the school to develop this project were good.

RA said that this proposal was the sort of thing grant givers like, for example, The Crimean War Society.

PCC approved the project in principal. The next step would be to find funding and progress to a Faculty. **Proposed by EC and seconded by EG.**

## 9. Finance

- a) **Verification of accounts.** VO reported that the 2020/21 accounts were still being looked at by the Diocese. She has done everything she needs to do but the Diocese was trying to get her to move over to the new system. She also said that she needed to update bank mandates.
- b) **Energy costs** this was still work in progress. Revd Abbie had not been able to meet John Polhill yet. At PCC's request the meeting was designed to find out why the advisor wants us to fix our energy prices.

## 10. Deemed Business

- a) SC Meeting Minutes 24.04.23. These were noted. One correction Item 11, bullet point 3 should read RBr not RB.

## 11. Any other Business

**a) Preparation for the APCM and renewal of PCC members.** Revd Abbie said if members (RBr, RA, JS) were coming to the end of their terms and intended to stand again they would need to complete a Nominations for Election Form. SJ said she had copies of the forms. EC said she would be standing down at the ACPM as she was moving away from Lichfield.

**b) Faith place of sanctuary.** Revd Abbie said that this initiative had come from Lichfield City of Sanctuary and the statement circulated had come from St Chads. PCC agreed the proposal in principal. Revd Abbie said there needed to be more discussion about it and further clarification sought before any further discussions took place.

**c) Inclusive Church.** Revd Abbie said she would like to talk more about this at the next PCC as it involves the wider congregation.

**d) Thank yous.** Revd Abbie thanked Liz Clarke for her wisdom and energy and Lyn Shiel for her years of service.

12. **Date of next meeting:**  
**SC** Monday 3 July 2023  
**PCC** Monday 17 July 2023
13. **Closing Prayer** [AW]