



St. Mark's Church Parochial Church Council

Minutes of PCC Meeting 22 May 2019



The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mark, Bedford Charity Number 1164416.
All minutes are available on our website www.stmarkschurch.com

The meeting began with Compline

Apologies

Graham Brown, John Day, Liz Jackson, Mick Ovenden, Marion Prior, Wendy Rider, Morag Stewart, Janet Warren, Mike Warren.

Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of 5 March were agreed

Church Leadership Report Mike Cooper gave details of the 16 May Leadership Team meeting.

- At our APCM last month, Edward Parry presented a substantial report of the life of St Mark's Church, covering Finances, Fundraising, Safeguarding, Mission, Church Community Centre, Children's groups, Open House, Bible Study Group, Garden of Remembrance, Woodland Burial, Pastoral Support, Pre-school and Worship. His report is on our website.
- At our recent Leadership Team meeting, we expressed huge thanks to Edward and to Wendy for all they have done as members of the LT over the past six years. We also welcomed Janet Warren and Alan Kirk on to the team.
- Most of the items we discussed appear elsewhere on this evening's agenda, or are now not a matter for discussion here, there being a requirement to keep charities separate.
- Permission has been asked for Rev. Sarah Burrow to lead a service at Putnoe Heights Church. This requires permission from the PCC; the Leadership Team is pleased to support this. It's a service to do with MHA.
This request was approved by PCC members.
- I would like to flag up one date for the diary – 5 October, when we plan to hold a Scottish themed evening and a quiz.

Centre Management

- In a written report, Wendy advised members that fencing around the premises is in the process of being repainted, with the Preschool play area being carried out at half term.
- Some electrical work has been carried to relocate outside sockets, affected by ants, causing them to fuse.
- Since the last meeting, two new groups were meeting weekly. Currently, 61 groups now meet at St Mark's.
- A recent inspection had reported on updates needed for the fire alarm system. Quotes were being sought for these updates.
- Wendy recorded her thanks to all the volunteers for their continued commitment and support.

Finance

- Ian presented details of the year to date Church finances to the end of April. All areas were currently in line with the budget and compliant with our reserves policy. Balances were as follows; Main Account +£12 032, Preschool Account +£8 199.22, Churchyard Account +£2 119.48. Ian then ran through the key budget areas of income and expense. The second quarter Diocesan payment had been made.
- Preschool finances continue to be managed closely. Numbers have increased and rent arrears have been cleared. The employer pension contribution increase had been implemented and reassessment of eligible works will be made in the coming weeks.
- The Garden of Remembrance account is starting to build reserves following expenditure on the extension. Donations towards the GOR fund had reached £2 560.

- The 6 month Gift Aid tax repayment had been received.

Ian was again thanked for looking after the finances so efficiently.

Preschool

- There have been ongoing discussions with Ofsted regarding the need for Preschool re-register, as a result St Mark's Church changing to charitable status. Differing advice had complicated the process, but it was expected that the matter would soon be resolved.
- Numbers are currently good. Recruiting for a new Preschool assistant is underway. This will ensure staff ratios are maintained and will be effective from September. The next management meeting is to be held on 23 May.

Openhouse

Now that Openhouse had gained charitable status, and is running with its own trustees, members were advised that it should no longer be a PCC agenda item. This would ensure that there could be no future conflict of interest issues.

Storybox

Numbers were averaging 12 to 18 per week. The sessions are enjoyed by both the children and mums and carer's. It was discussed whether any additional volunteers might help to increase numbers on the lunch preparation rota. Thanks to Jaana and Valerie for continuing to arrange and organize the group.

Chat and Play

Numbers attending continue at a high level with everyone participating in the sessions organized so well by Janine and her Mum. Some remain for Storybox. As above, members discussed if additional volunteers might help.

Junior Church

Charlie welcomed Aleta, who has kindly agreed to attend PCC meetings as a representative of the young people at St Mark's. She said how much the children enjoyed the activities and studies arranged by Linda Turner. This showed through in the way the children are so keen to participate. Thanks were recorded to Linda for all the time spent in preparing and running the Junior Church and to Aleta for her support.

Messy Church

All is running well but new organisers would be needed in the Autumn, as Wendy and Richard would be standing down. An article would go in to Parish News to see if new organisers came forward.

Pastoral Support

Wendy advised that two members of the team had felt it necessary to stand down. This would not have any impact on Telecare but would be monitored.

The Bereavement Support Group at Norse Road had sadly closed. Members discussed the possibility of running a similar type of group, once per month, in the Chapel at St Mark's, possibly after Wednesday Communion. Charlie agreed to explore this further, and run the group initially if there was interest.

Garden of Remembrance

All running well. The water feature and memorial bench for new area had been ordered and donations towards the project were still being received.

Jean and Malcolm were thanked for their work in ensuring the Garden is kept looking so well.

Woodland

All was running well. The 2019 Open Day will be on 8 June 2.00pm - 4.00pm. In order to ensure that there were no conflicts of interests it was agreed that this would be taken off the agenda.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Trustee, Janet Day confirmed that DBS certification lasted for 5 years. New certificates were in process for Joan York, Janet Warren and Alan Kirk. Janet also confirmed that on line training is available for new members. Contact details for anyone needing to report any form of safeguarding issue is displayed on the noticeboard.

Mission Matters

Sam advised members of the format of the Mission weekend with Phil and Di Stone of The Scargill Movement – 14 and 15 September. We would have a barbeque on the Saturday evening followed by a talk and questions in the Church. On Sunday there would be a lunch and further opportunity to hear from Phil and Di Stone. Details will be included in Parish News.

Deanery Matters

The next meeting will be on 23 May at Houghton Conquest.

Dates of next meetings

Church Council Meeting: 26 September, 28 November, 24 March 2020

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting: 19 April 2020

With no further business the meeting closed with The Grace.