



St. Mark's Church Parochial Church Council

Minutes of PCC Meeting 22 November 2017



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 Evening Prayer

Apologies Wendy Waters, John Day, Elizabeth Bean, Elizabeth Jackson, Linda Parry, Avril Williams, Jim Williams

Minutes The previous Minutes of 26th September 2017 were agreed.

Church Leadership Report - Edward Parry reported.

1. A discussion of the quotations for the Garden of Remembrance had taken place and it had been agreed to instruct the architect to appoint Buildline. A balance of £50951 was held in the accounts.
2. A burglary had recently taken place and the office computer would now be upgraded and folks given access to online monitoring in case of alarm activation. The Leadership Team agreed to consider upgrades to the CCTV and security system including provision of additional lighting and a panic button.
3. The new altar frontal was beautiful and of exceptional quality. The team felt it would be beneficial to have a colored background and this would be investigated. Jean Kirk had done a remarkable job for which we are extremely grateful.
4. The issue of coffee had been discussed a priority for mission. Charlie had been asked to pursue this as well as biscuits and drinks for the children.
5. Afternoon Tea had raised £191.40 for Christian Aid and over 40 people had attended. It had been a much appreciated pastoral opportunity.
6. Two members of the Leadership Team, Mike and Wendy, would be absent over Christmas. Ian Farthing agreed to provide cover. Previous members of the Leadership Team would be asked to assist if necessary. Mick Ovenden had kindly agreed to purchase the oranges for the Christingle. Edward would arrange the Christmas readers. Charlie had agreed to sort out the tree. A Christmas Newspaper would be produced and Charlie would arrange a Christmas Media advert and production.
7. Joan York would be laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.
8. A marquee had been agreed for the River Festival in July 2018. It would be 9m x 9m near to the Suspension bridge.
9. In September there is an opportunity to invite Mr. & Mrs. Plass for a mini mission event. This would take place on 15th/16th September. This was agreed as a great opportunity.

Edward was thanked for the report.

Centre Management

Wendy Rider had produced a written report.

1. Both the large and small halls had been decorated and the floors stripped and resealed.
2. The Biffa and Wren rooms would be decorated as soon as Dave Hobbs could fit it into his work schedule.
3. There would be a stronger frame in the reception window.
4. A floodlight has been installed to illuminate the front door between midnight and 7am should anyone approach it.
5. CCTV and the alarm have been upgraded and cameras would be upgraded to infra-red in the future.
6. All group bookings were going well but Brickhill Ladies would be leaving in March due to closure of the group.
7. Mindful Meditations who had previously cancelled their booking had now re-started.
8. It was hoped that there would be a new cookery booking in the New Year.
9. The office would be closed from Friday evening 22nd December and would re-open on Monday 9th January.

Wendy thanked all the volunteers for their support and commitment and Wendy and her team were thanked by the council for all their efforts.

Finance Report and Gift Aid

Ian Farthing presented the year to date income and expenditure results. There were no concerns with the Income/Expenditure or the Churchyard. Ian also reported on the Pre-School finances.

Pre-School

1. Helen Harpin reported that there were 56 children on role with a full quota in the morning with fewer in the afternoon.
2. 8 children had taken the 30 hours with 2 more in January.
3. There were now 12 members of Staff.
4. There was a good breakfast club and the hot meals are excellent. Tea times are now quieter but some children sat until 6pm.
5. The children are well settled and an Ofsted is awaited as it is 3 years since the last one.
6. Sue Jones is now a Level 4 Advanced Practitioner. She was congratulated for this.
7. Health and Hygiene training will take place in January and training Staff in Literacy will also take place. The i pads and laptop have been received and are good.
8. £200 was raised from the Toddle Waddle and £160 from the Christmas Fair. Further money is still to come in from the photographs.
9. There are 2 child protection children a 1 child in need.

The staff were all thanked for their work.

Openhouse

1. Ecclesiastical insurance had produced an acceptable quotation been agreed and it is hoped to proceed to Charity status soon. Trustees would be sought and a separate bank account.
2. £816 was raised for Children in Need.

Story Box

Everything is running well

Chat and Play

This is still going well

Junior Church

There are no problems and it is still going very well

Messy Church

Everything is going well.

Pastoral Support

The Commemoration service went well and was much appreciated as usual.

Garden of Remembrance/Churchyards

1. The new development in front of the church is due to start on November 23rd.
 2. There is a steady income and Jean and Malcolm keep the area looking good.
- Avril and the volunteers were thanked for their work

Woodland

This has been very busy with 13 recent burials and 5 interments. There have been a number of reservations and 56 plots are available. Woodpecker will be open after Christmas. Linda was thanked for her work.

Mission Matters

The Mission project would finish at Advent and it was expected that there should be about £4000 from both churches.

Deanery Synod

Sam Cappleman reported that there are 5 clergy vacancies in 5 parishes. The number of retired clergy is declining so there are fewer to take the services. There is concern that there are no applications for the vacancies. 50% more people are needed into the ordained ministry. Charlie thanked all those who work behind the scenes.

Dates of next meetings

Parochial Church Council 21 February 2018.

Annual Parochial Congregational Meeting 15 April 2018 after the 9.30am service.

The meeting closed with The Grace