

# St Mark's Church

St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY  
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## Church Council Minutes 19 May 2016

### The meeting began with compline

**Apologies** John and Janet Day, Laura Farthing, Jim and Avril Williams, Vince Holloway, Wendy Waters

### Minutes of previous meeting

This was the first meeting of the St Mark's Church Council, the minutes of the ACM were circulated and accepted

### Church Leadership Team Report

This was produced by Elizabeth Bean and is attached

### Centre Management

This was delivered by Wendy Rider, Centre Managers. Thanks were recorded to Mick Ovenden for the spectacular work carried out in the toilets, which had now been described by one user as the best in Bedford. Roof repairs were recognised as essential and grant assistance was being sought. The church architect Mr John Creasey was currently conducting the church quinquennial.

### Finance Report

Ian Farthing reported that offerings and booking income were on target. It had been discovered that we could now claim for Sunday Service tea and coffee on Gift Aid, which brought the most recent claim to over £3,000.

The Council agreed to seek to move the church bank accounts from Nat West to the Charities Aid Foundation which allowed dual control on online banking. Much work had taken place by Ian and Jim on Employee working pensions. It was agreed that the church finances should operate with a reserves policy of 3 months our generated income and expenditure, with sufficient funds to enable capital expenditure for property repairs.

We were ensuring that all staff were employed on or above the National Living Wage as set by the National Living Wage Foundation, currently £8.25 per hour. This rate is different from the amount introduced by the government from April 2016 set by the Low Pay Commission Set which was currently £7.20 an hour. The National Living Wage rises each year and is based on the cost of living and is a voluntary rate that employers commit to pay and is a sign of best practice.

### Pre-School

Preschool were facing a shortfall in numbers of children predicted for September. It had been agreed to change the provision to a 47 week per year setting from 7.30am – 6.00pm to attract make our preschool more attractive for working parents.

### Openhouse

We were working with Luton Mentoring. Natasha the manger would be leaving in September

## **Leadership Team Report to Church Council**

The Leadership Team met this week to discuss the church and it was a very positive meeting with a lot to be thankful for and enthusiastic about.

We have formed a charity at St Marks and every member of the previous church council agreed to stand as a trustee. We are now the ecclesiastical parish of St Mark and although not a Methodist/Anglican Partnership, it is very positive to say that we are a church who welcomes all Christians and we no longer record the denomination of members separately, we will just be Christians worshipping together.

We have had well attended Christmas and Easter services since our last church council. During this week there are many church based activities which welcome people into the worshipping life of the church.

A particular event which the Leadership Team mentioned was the baptism of Emerson, who was welcomed into the church family after his family came to Messy Church. Wendy Waters became a godparent, which is a source of great encouragement and joy; seeing people welcomed to St Marks so positively.

The Church Team discussed many items which will be covered in the agenda concerning such things as finance, preschool, open house, the church centre, repairs to the building and social activities such as the Road to Rio Olympics event. There are lots of exciting things taking place to look forward to and which we know will be a way to welcome the wider community to St Marks.



# St Mark's Church Community Centre Account

# Budget 2016/2017

Expenditure		Budget	
		2016/2017	2016/2017
<b>Church</b>			
Cost of Ministry	A	55,641.00	41,092.00
	B	8,100.00	6,075.00
Ministry Expenses		2,950.00	2,000.00
Youth Workers		4,400.00	2,800.00
Organists		1,600.00	360.00
		<u>72,691.00</u>	<u>52,327.00</u>
<b>Community Centre</b>			
Salary Ctr Mgr		10,055.00	6,607.00
Site/Ins Costs		21,000.00	12,546.00
Printing		8,000.00	4,418.00
Utilities		11,000.00	4,164.00
Repairs/Maintenance		8,000.00	6,498.00
		<u>58,055.00</u>	<u>34,233.00</u>
<b>Mission</b>			
Gifts from Income		2,600.00	3,856.00
		<u>2,600.00</u>	<u>3,856.00</u>
<b>Contingency/Projects</b>			
Contingency		5,000.00	3,108.00
Projects		10,000.00	
		<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>3,108.00</u>
Totals		<b>148,346.00</b>	<b>93,524.00</b>

63.04

Income		Budget	
		2016/2017	2016/2017
<b>Church</b>			
Sunday Collection		35,920.00	20,584.00
Convenants/Gift Aid		7,000.00	3,272.00
Putnoe Heights		27,820.00	13,455.00
		<u>70,740.00</u>	<u>37,311.00</u>
<b>Community Centre</b>			
Centre Hire		54,500.00	37,740.00
Copier Income		6,500.00	4,362.00
Bank Interest		250.00	25.00
		<u>61,250.00</u>	<u>42,127.00</u>
<b>Mission</b>			
Mission		2,600.00	3,856.00
Fundraising		9,000.00	6,239.00
		<u>11,600.00</u>	<u>10,095.00</u>
Totals		<b>143,590.00</b>	<b>89,533.00</b>

62.35

### **Story Box**

Recent numbers had been 2—25 and the groups was operating well and much appreciated.

### **Chat and Play**

There are 40 – 50 children attending on a Thursday, the Monday group is still slow with few numbers.

### **Junior Church Update**

Thanks were expressed to Linda for her inspiring work with the children.

### **Messy Church**

Wendy Waters reported that there had been 78 attending in April and 66 in May. In June there would a picnic which would help with catering ! Jean Bank and Lois would be retiring.

### **Pastoral Support Team**

We had been pleased that Jennie Emsley had joined the team from Putnoe. The date of the next commemoration had been set for All Saints on November 6, the speaker would be The Reverend Bill Davies

### **Garden of Remembrance/Churchyards**

The garden had been busy and we were establishing plans for the next phase of the garden at the front of the church.

### **Woodland**

Linda Parry reminded the council that the woodland had been operating for nine years. There had been 190 burials, 126 interments of ashes and 300 reservations.

### **Mission Matters**

The Mission Map had been updated by the Ministers and would be brought for discussion at the next Church Council.

Sam asked for suggestions to be made to him for charities which might be suitable for our Autumn Mission Project. This was usually time for a home mission project and the appeal would be launched at Harvest and conclude beginning of Advent.

Forthcoming activities included on July 9 the Road to Rio and Brickhill Gathering on the Green for which the marquee would be shared with folks from Putnoe with activities from Messy Church etc.

### **Deanery**

There would be a chapter meeting at St Mark's with a barbeque on Thursday 21 July at noon. Help would be appreciated with catering.

### **Membership of the Council**

It was noted that George Burton had agreed to be a member of the Council but had sadly died before our first meeting. It was proposed and seconded that Lynne Seymour should join the Council as Trustee..

### **Date of next meeting(s)**

27 September 21 November 20 February

Annual Congregational Meeting 23 April



**Building.**

Decorating:

Since the last meeting the main and small hall have be re-decorated as well as the foyer area at the back of the kitchen.

At the last meeting I reported, that under the leadership of Mike Ovenden and his merry band of men, the work on the refurbishment of the toilets would happen during the summer break. As you know this work was carried out and what a wonderful job they did. Again I would like recorded our thanks for all their hard work

As reported last time we continue to have problems with both roofs concerning the ingress of water. The roof felting on the Hall roof needs replacing, which we know will be extremely expensive. Ian is saving money for this work, and we will be going out for grants. We estimate that the work required to repair both roofs could cost about £25,000.

Several of the double glazed windows around the building have blown. Quotes have been obtained and the cost to replace the windows will be £1,800, and Charlie is currently engaged in obtaining a grant.

The church carpet is to be professionally cleaned and this will happen on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The chapel carpet is in need of cleaning but we are considering changing the carpet for flotex.

A fridge freezer has now been purchased mainly for the use by Messy church.

**Bookings:**

Since our last meeting we have had the following new group start:-

Rangers – 2 hours weekly

Pilate group – extra hour on Monday booking plus 1 hour on a Tuesday

Restoration Pilates – 1 hour weekly

Supple Strength – 2 hours weekly

Move it or lose it – 1 1/4 hours weekly

U3A Play Reading – As from September 2hours weekly

Faith Community Church – Extra 2hours per week

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SCS Music & Movement group are leaving us at the end of May

**Office/Volunteers**

There have been no changes regarding the office volunteers since the last meeting. As I have said many times, I am very grateful for their commitment especially during the last. Without this we would not manage to operate the office as we do.

Centre Manager  
Wendy