

The Parish of Ordsall and Retford St Michael

Minutes of Thursday 18th January 2024

Meeting of Ordsall and Retford, St Michael Parochial Church Council
held in St Michael's Community Hall at 7.00pm.

1. Opening Prayer Action
2. **Attendance:** Revd. Alex Shiells, Pat Bloodworth, Barbara Burrows (*will be late arriving*), Michael Storey, Isabelle Richards, Paul Richards, Joan Henderson, Tessa Rolph, Nigel Bower, Chris Trend, Revd. David Bean, Pam Phillips, Don Phillips, Janet Lewis, Alison Thorpe
3. **Apologies received from:** Amanda Old, Martin Bloomfield, Rachel Waby, Peter Thomas.
4. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on Wednesday 15th November to be agreed as a true record. *attached*
Proposed: Revd. David Bean **Seconded:** Pat Bloodworth Unanimous
5. **Matters Arising not coming up on this Agenda:**
Safeguarding - we still need a full list of volunteers.
6. **Safeguarding:**
Don Phillips is concerned that our Safeguarding training is still not up to date. Janet Lewis has rung the Diocese but there has been no response. Tessa Rolph has an email contact.
A date has to be agreed for safeguarding training for anyone who has not completed it. PCC members need to have completed all the training necessary if they are to remain as members.
7. **Reports from Fabric and Finance Committee Meetings**
All Hallows:
 - **Parish Share** - Our Parish Share allocation for 2024 has been recalculated with a decrease of 20%, which will allow us to get back on track. It is important that we pay this in full, as this is more achievable than we had expected.

Fabric Updates

All Hallows:

- **Electrical inspection:** All Hallows is due to have an electrical inspection this year and it was agreed that Laurie of Lister Electrical, should be approached for a quotation.
- **Church Roof Repair:** This will start on Monday 22nd January.
- **Glebe Cottage:** JS Lettings have let us know that some repair work needs to be done as there is damp on the walls.
Three quotes were obtained.
Janet Lewis asked if the first two quotes included scaffolding.
Michael Storey queried if Croft Cottage should be done at the same time.
It was agreed that more questions needed to be asked before we could proceed. Revd. Alex will then email the Standing Committee.
- **Lych Gate Fund:** It was suggested that the outstanding balance of £620 from this Fund should be transferred to the Fabric Fund so that we could afford to do fabric repairs and future projects.

Motion: *This PCC agrees that the outstanding balance of £620 from the Lych Gate Fund is moved to the Fabric Fund.*

Proposed: Pat Bloodworth **Seconded:** Paul Richards Unanimous

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- **Miss Flowers Fund:** it was also agreed that this fund should be transferred to the Fabric Fund. We need to respect the terms of her legacy. The flowers for Pentecost will not come out of the Fabric Fund.

Motion: *This PCC agrees that using the Miss Flowers fund, we ensure that following the direction of her legacy i) All Hallows' Church is decorated every Pentecost Sunday. ii) That we look to have an appropriate memorial to her installed on church grounds. iii) That the fund is moved to the Fabric Fund.*

Proposed: Revd. Alex Shiells **Seconded:** Barbara Burrows Unanimous

St Michaels:

- Security Light for porch - Revd Alex and Simon Holdaway met with our architect Carl Andrews re the light and the Future Projects listed below.

Future Projects:

- Kitchen area at the back of St Michael's Church
- Community Hall - toilet and accessibility a bigger priority than a new kitchen. Grants for this might be obtained.
- Bigger sink and hot water in the vestry - less of a priority

Carl Andrews was very supportive of the first two projects.

- A servery at the back of church would need the floor to be lowered, but any wastewater would be no problem, connecting to either the existing downpipe or its soakaway. Units would have to primarily be movable, as this is the preference of the DAC and Historic England.
- He encouraged us to think bigger. There is funding for community work. The Community Hall could even be extended, possible by adding a mezzanine level, this could include an office or additional meeting room
- A proper scan and survey will be needed, Carl Andrews will get a quote for this it is likely to cost about £1400 - £1500, which would be a good use of the legacy money.
- Carl Andrews will also get a quote for the toilet area.

Church Altar Carpet:

- A quotation has not yet been obtained.

Motion: *This PCC is happy to accept the recommendations of the Fabric and Finance Committee regarding the priorities for buildings projects.*

Proposed: Nigel Bower **Seconded:** Revd. Alex Shiells Unanimous

8. **2024 Budget**

Martin Bloomfield, our treasurer, sent his apologies for not attending this meeting. Martin has been completing and sending off our Annual Accounts for 2023 to our accountant.

There is a shortfall of around £10,000 overall. All Hallows have agreed that they will pay a little more and St Michaels will pay a little less. We are looking as if we will be able to pay 100% of the Parish Share.

The Finance meetings were happy to approve the budgets for the year ahead.

Motion: *This PCC is happy to approve the 2024 Budgets set for our Parish.*

Proposed: Revd. Alex Shiells **Seconded:** Nigel Bower Unanimous

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Revd. Alex would like to send a card of thanks to Martin and some sort of gift.

AS,PB

9. **Vicar's Report:**

Revd. Alex thanked everyone for their help over the Christmas period. New people have been joining us and attending our services.

Revd. Alex has been able to take services in the Deanery as we are very fortunate to have seven ministers, lay and ordained.

This Sunday there will be a service of Morning Prayer at All Hallows taken by Licensed Lay Ministers Chris Trend. Revd. Alex is keen for us to make sure that we're honoring both Chris Trend and Chris Carnell for their ministry.

Becki and Chris Porter are becoming more involved at All Hallows. Becki is happy, subject to safer recruitment and ongoing safeguarding training, to use her experience as a paid church children's worker, to help us set up a toddler group or Sunday afternoon children's service. The benefit of doing something during the week and on a Sunday afternoon is that it puts less pressure on us to have something accessible for children during the 11am service, but Alex also thought that introducing a regular family communion as well our all age service might be a good idea.

A question was asked re Messy Church. It is hoped that in future we will be able to develop something similar to Messy Church.

Revd. Alex will speak to the diocese about the training needed for Becki, but she is happy to help, has provided references that we're able to use, and is booked in for her Safeguarding Leadership training in March.

Don Phillips and Revd. Alex will need to check Becki's references and develop a role description for her as a children's work volunteer. The Grove has advertised for a similar position.

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service Grant.

Chris Porter, Peter Thomas and Don Phillips have been involved into applying for a BCVS grant.

- That we can now develop the role description for and appoint a Children and Families Community Engagement Worker, for 10 hours per week.
- That they will be tasked with developing the following activities:
 - Weekly Toddler Group – Ordsall Parish Hall
 - Weekly After School Community Cafe - All Hallows' Church
 - Seasonal Children's Holiday Clubs – Ordsall Parish Hall

We would have to spend £7,500 by the end of the year but it is hoped that this would be supplemented by support from the Diocese so that we can sustain the role for longer.

Revd David pointed out that all the proposals were in line with our priorities in our Mission Statement.

This will make it easier to obtain other grants. Revd. Alex is confident that we'll also be able to apply for funding for St Michael's and our work in the community in Hallcroft.

Motion: *This PCC approves the activities listed above.*

Proposed: Revd. Alex Shiells **Seconded:** Revd. David Bean Unanimous

Working Groups/Finance and Fabric Committees:

Revd. Alex suggested that Finance and Fabric Committees should be set up for each Church. Revd. David suggested that we agreed the principle now.

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Motion: *This PCC agrees that we establish a Finance and Fabric Subcommittee for each church, who will meet at least bi-monthly, more often if required, and will act to support and advise the PCC. No authority is given to this group except to make suggestions. The group will be made up of the Standing Committee members from that church, as well as other PCC members and co-opted non-PCC members.*

Proposed: Revd. Alex Shiells **Seconded:** Nigel Bower Unanimous

Lent Courses: There will be two Lent Courses, these will take place on 20th and 27th February, 5th, 12th and 19th March.

The daytime course will be based on Bryony Wood's book 'The Sound of Musings' and will take place at 12 noon at St Michael's Church.

The evening course will cover themes from the new Diocesan vision and will take place in All Hallows Church at 7.00pm.

10. **Prayers of Love and Faith**

Prayers of Love and Faith offer a step forward. So far no couples have come forward, but this might happen in the future. The prayers can be used in a regular service at Revd. Alex's discretion, but if/when standalone services are introduced this would need the approval of the PCC. Different prayers are available.

A discussion was held re the prayers. Revd. David hoped that it was a step on the way. Nigel Bower pointed out that individuals could be blessed but not the union.

We are members of the inclusive Church and as such we are a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Motion: *This PCC, representing churches that are members of the Inclusive Church network, are in favour of the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith at the discretion of our incumbent or Priest in Charge. We are committed to working together to create a loving and welcoming environment for all, to the exclusion of no-one regardless of theological standpoint, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.*

Proposed: Janet Lewis **Seconded:** Nigel Bower Unanimous

11. **Health and Safety:** Rachel Waby was not able to attend the meeting.

The recent First Aid course did not provide participants with a certificate - will our insurance accept this?

12. **Action Points:**

All Hallows

- Rachel to meet up with our employees to discuss contracts
- Mick and Barbara to complete risk assessment for church building - Tessa Rolph queried whether a Risk Assessment form could be drawn up which could easily be altered for different activities.
- Bank account to be transferred from TSB to NatWest - this is taking some time.

St Michael

- Alex to speak to Andy from EES Showhire about sound system
- Janet Lewis to sound out Cantate choir about 2024 dates for performances - anything suggested would be great
- Decision to be made about dates of Fairs in 2024 - Summer Fair at All Hallows Michaelmas Fair at St Michaels.

Alex to reach out to local secondary schools about performances in church.

13. **Correspondence:**

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14. **Any other Business:**

St Michael's Boiler Servicing Contract: It was agreed that when the present contract ends a new contract should be drawn up with Durham's Heating Services.

Motion: *This PCC agrees to change the St Michael's Servicing contract to Durham's Heating Services.*

Proposed: Pat Bloodworth **Seconded:** Revd. David Bean Unanimous

15. **Confidentiality:**

16. **Date of next meeting:**

Finance and Fabric Committee at All Hallows on Wednesday 21st February

Finance and Fabric Committee at St Michael's on 28th February

Full PCC Meeting: Wednesday 13th March, 7:00pm at All Hallows Church

17. Closing Prayer