

St Margaret's Church – Crick
 Minutes of the Meeting of the PCC
 Wednesday 24th January 2024, 7.30pm, The Old School.

	Attendees: Rev Jo O, (Chair) Lyn Johnson, John Rogers, Andrew Hutley, Rev Graeme, Ray Smith, Dave Milne, Hazel Gault, Kent Polley, Jacqueline Smith
1.	Opening Prayers: Were given by Rev Jo,
2.	Apologies: Rev Kris Seward, Zona Dipple, Gemma Drakeford,
3.	Minutes from 06/12/23: Accepted
4.	Matters Arising not on the agenda: None
5.	Actions from 06/12/23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JR is still pursuing recommendations for churchwardens /architect. He has some feedback and still has more to find. • IJ is still reviewing ways to get the cable extension. • DM still needs to conclude the setting up of the CAF bank and winding down of the Santander. This will be completed after the PCC accounts are signed off by the accountant. • JR has checked on the progress of the parish council relating to their maintenance work in our church yard (eg bier house). This is still ongoing and a meeting with the PC is being set up to establish their programme of works.
6.	Vicar's Feedback: The Christmas services went very well. Many people played a part in this, particularly because Rev Graeme was so ill during this period. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped.
7.	Children's ministry: I am pleased to report that the Shine services are continuing to be supported well by our families and congregation. The Christmas service focused on the passage from John celebrating Jesus' birth and Christ the light coming into the world who overcomes the darkness. It was a great service and we had 11 Adults and 22 Children attend which is a real blessing from God. As a way to say thank you to the team for all their hard work and dedication over the past 6 months I arranged for us to go out for a Christmas meal together which was a good evening. Preparations are now in place for when I leave the benefice in February. The team has met and discussed this transitioning period, Barbara Brazier, John Rogers, and Rev. Jo have agreed to chair/organise the Shine planning meetings and the rest of the team supported by Rev. Graeme will continue to decide on the themes for the services and who is responsible for the various sections within each service. I have completed and circulated within the team a step-by-step handover plan along with PowerPoint and leaders, order of service templates and an updated risk assessment. It has been a real blessing for me to lead the team and I have learned so much from each of

them. It's been a pleasure to see their growth and how God is working within them, along with their willingness to take on new areas that have been out of their comfort zones and I want to thank them for all that they do. I will leave the team knowing SHINE is in good hands and will continue to pray for this wonderful missional outreach.

I would also like to thank the congregation and the PCC for all their support and prayers. Please do continue to pray for Shine, our School, and for all the work which is ongoing to grow our children's and family's ministry within the benefice.

God bless. Rev. Kris

8. Churchwardens' Report:

The main scaffolding at the western end of the chancel is now down. The remaining scaffolding by the East window will be removed shortly. We are awaiting the final bills from the builder and the architect. These will be paid by FOSM.

Simon Elbrow has said £2650 is the cost for repairing the plaster fall in the nave which also includes the scaffolding cost. We need to move forward with this.

DM said we have enough in the PCC accounts to cover this and pay our parish share for 2024. JR proposed we accept Simon's quote, seconded by KP and unanimously agreed.

Glen Smith has been an incredible support to St Margaret's and the ongoing maintenance of the church, gutters, moss, gravel and a window repair. These have made so much difference and the PCC are very grateful for his work.

1. December services

Month	Date	Service	Adults	Children	Comments
Dec	3 rd	Morning Praise	20		
	6 th	HC midweek	11		
	10 th	Holy Communion	24		
	10 th	Family carols 3.30pm	43	35	
	13 th	HC midweek	10		
	17 th	Shine	11	26	
	17 th	7 Lessons and Carols 6pm	80	5	
	19 th	Crick Primary Christingle	140	180	
	20 th	HC midweek	9		
	24 th	Crib Service 4pm	182	152	
	24 th	Midnight Mass HC 9pm	30		
	25 th	Christmas Day HC 9.45am	27	2	

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	27 th	No HC midweek			
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1. Christmas services

We'd like to say a big thank you to everybody who offered a warm welcome at our two carol services, Shine, Crick Primary School's Christingle, our Crib Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Holy Communion. Across all these services, we welcomed 510 adults and 425 children. We offered mulled wine and mince pies, candles and glow-sticks, brilliant singing and music, beautiful flower arrangements and the atmospheric light of candles.

2. UB dates for 2024 and 2025

31st March 2024 – Easter Day. No UB service as each church will have its own communion service that day
 30th June 2024 Crick
 29th September 2024 Yelvertoft
 29th December 2024 Lilbourne – no lunch. Mulled wine and mince pies, or similar
 30th March 2025 Crick
 29th June 2025 Yelvertoft
 31st August 2025 Lilbourne
 30th November 2025 Crick

3. Services on 14th and 28th July 2024

Sunday 14th July is the day when Rev Jo will be ordained a priest at Peterborough Cathedral. There will be no services in the benefice that day to enable as many as are able to attend the ordination service. It is quite unfortunate that this date will clash with the Crick Scarecrow Festival. Both events are very important and it means that the team from St Margaret's will need to be committed to running the tea rooms and BBQ. We've agreed with Rev Graeme that the Holy Communion service for July will be held on 28th at which Rev Jo will officiate.

4. Quinquennial report

Chancel ceiling:

The works to the western and eastern ends of the chancel ceiling have been completed. Simon Elbrow, our builder, carried out an inspection on 11th January 2024 and has taken photographs of the work which John Barker will use to sign off the work. The scaffolders have been instructed to take down the scaffolding and a date is awaited. Once the work has been signed off, we will receive final invoices from SC Builders and John Barker.

The AV screen was reinstalled on 4th January 2024.

Nave ceiling plaster fall: A quote for this work is awaited.

Roof works: The previously agreed repair works to the lead on the nave roof have still to be done. We spoke to John Barker on 8th January 2024 about this outstanding item. He agreed to follow up with Simon Elbrow to get this progressed.

5. Fabric sub-committee

Glen Smith has been busy clearing the drainage gullies around the perimeter of the church and below are just a couple of the before and after shots to show the difference made.



During the chancel ceiling inspection, we asked the builder to inspect the visible wooden beams, trusses and arches to assess attack from death watch beetle and other wood boring insects as noted in the QIR. He had swept all the beams about 6 weeks ago and if there was any recent activity there would be evidence of fresh dust deposits. The good news is that he found no sign of dust and no further action is required. John Barker recommended that we monitor the condition of the beams in this area and elsewhere by taking photographs every 6 months. A date for the next meeting of the fabric committee is being arranged.

6. Fundraising

Fundraising in December: Ocho concert 12th Dec £275. Christmas Raffle £150. Our thanks to Jacqueline for making this happen. We didn't produce a new collection of Christmas cards as we were still holding a stock of 33 packs from 2022. 18 packs were sold; income £45. 15 packs remain in stock.

7. Vandalism in the church porch

1st and 2nd January petty vandalism in the south porch. Items such as broken bottles, opened soup cans, and the trashing of the foodbank collection box were found. Crime reports have been raised for both incidents. Follow up conversations have taken place with PCSO Les Conopo 3rd Jan and PC Tryes 5th Jan. 12 youths are under surveillance for a range of antisocial and criminal activity in the village and action is being taken. The Police are increasing their presence around the churchyard. We have said that we will investigate CCTV. Kent, John and Andrew

9.

Safeguarding:

There are 3 areas that we needed to confirm to complete our parish dashboard and they need renewing annually.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguarding Joint practice and records- We are currently following the statutory guidance and we need to show that we are up to speed and acknowledging its recommendations. Rev. Graeme and Ray Smith, safeguarding Officer, both hold the same information and confidentially. This was proposed by JR seconded by DM and unanimously adopted. 2. How do we respond to allegations or concerns? - We are following the documented diocesan procedure. Within 24 hours of allegations, concerns or disclosures being raised it/they are then escalated to the diocesan safeguarding team. We take concerns seriously. Everything is documented. We never 'do nothing'. We must notify. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility- proposed by JR and seconded by KP. Unanimously agreed. 3. Safeguarding audit and Action Plan –Anyone who works with children or vulnerable adults must be checked following the diocesan Safer Recruitment Policy. Ray Smith is the lead recruiter and all appointments must be referred to him for checking. 4. Other than the above noted items, all areas of the action plan have been addressed and are rated green. JR proposed that we adopt the action plan audit. DM seconded and it was agreed unanimously. <p>GA thanked RS for his work on this. We want our culture to be good and improving and our leadership team are all taking the highest level of training. He reminded everyone that all of us have responsibility for safeguarding. We want to be a church where the most vulnerable people come, are safe and feel safe. Although, understandably safeguarding often has a negative tone, he asked everyone to reflect on the positive aspects of when it is done well. The most vulnerable amongst us are protected and can grow and flourish in their lives. That simply would not happen without effective safeguarding.</p>
10.	<p>Little Saints: Little Saints had a busy end to the term, each child was given a book and chocolates. We also gave chocolates to all their siblings too. The Mums had a card and the <i>Follow The Star</i> booklets that Kris kindly bought. We started the term this month with 7 children, one of which is a new family. This is very encouraging considering how cold it has been!</p>
11.	<p>2024 dates for special events: Harvest festival – first Sunday in October. Harvest Supper Saturday 5th October. Institution Service for Rev Kris- 27th March. JR has prices on coaches.</p>
12.	<p>Occasional Offices: The prices for these in 2024 needed to be agreed. We looked at the recommended list and discussed what the other benefice churches were charging.</p>

	<p>£100 for heating £60 occasional fees/verger's fee £80 organist £20 maintenance £230 bells Choir 120 AV operator 20 Proposed JS seconded KP unanimously agreed.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Treasurer's update – including Parish Share The parish Share 2023 was all paid. It currently appears that planned giving is well up on last year. I'm still waiting for the of the CCLA interest payments for the last quarter of 2023. The draft accounts for 2023 will be audited ready for the APCM in April. Crick's Parish Share for 2024 is £31,619.25 with an initial payment of £2,645.25 and a further 11 payments of £2,634.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Stewardship update: 3 people in the last few weeks have reviewed and increased their planned giving and we must give thanks for the continued generosity.</p> <p>Planned giving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the number of givers. I continue to make personalised approaches. • We have 34 members on the Parish Giving Scheme and 3 people who pay by standing order direct to St Margaret's. The Gift Aid on the latter is claimed annually. • 14 members on the Parish Giving Scheme have agreed to annual inflation increases. • 3 members who don't accept inflation increases have reviewed their giving. • Based on a rolling 12-month period the revised average monthly and annual totals, assuming no other changes, are now £3,058/month/£36,696/year. • Our Parish Share for 2023 was £32,240. <p>Card reader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our card reader has been live from the beginning of September 2021. • In 2021 there were 172 transactions totalling £1,290. Average of £7.50. • In 2022 there were 254 transactions totalling £1,688. Average of £6.64. • In 2023 there were 371 transactions totalling £3,574. Average of £9.63. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For Sunday and Wednesday offerings there were 207 transactions totalling £1,625. Average of £7.85 ○ For fundraising events:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mothering Sunday teas 23 transactions totalling £592 ▪ Coronation weekend BBQ 45 transactions totalling £326 ▪ Scarecrow weekend BBQ and teas 85 transactions totalling £830 ▪ Harvest supper 11 transactions totalling £201 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2023 St Margaret's raised approximately £4300 through its fundraising events.
15.	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging Lifts- should we make a lift support service more overt so that the vulnerable can get lifts to church? • Language used in services- HG would like the leadership team to think about the over use of male pronouns in church liturgy. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer is popular and used on Wednesday's Holy Communion service and its liturgy cannot be changed. Common Worship is used for the Sunday HC and this liturgy uses more modern language. • Date of next PCC meeting has been brought forward because of Rev Kris's installation into his new parish • Good box – the machine is working but sometimes the 3g signal is not good which occasionally happens in our area • Gifts for Rev Kris- The CWs agreed a single pot of money to purchase a communion set. Other monies will be given in vouchers. However, the other churches also want to give Rev Kris a separate gift. It was agreed that Crick PCC would also like to do this.
19.	<p>Dates of next meetings 20/03/24 (AGM 24/04/24) 22/05/24, 17/07/24, 25/09/24, 27/11/24</p>

Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.50pm