

St Margaret's Church – Crick
Minutes of the PCC
Wednesday 6th December 2023, 7.30pm, The Old School.

	Agenda Item
1.	Opening Prayers – Rev Graeme shared his thoughts about repentance and its impact on our lives.
2.	Attendance: Rev Graeme, Rev Kris, Rev Jo, John Rogers, Zona Dipple, Gemma Drakeford, Hazel Gault, Dave Milne, Jacqueline Smith, Ian Jones, Lyn Johnson, Kent Polley Apologies: Andrew Hutley,
3.	Minutes from 27/09/23: Agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.
4.	Matters Arising not on the agenda: None
5.	Actions from 27/09/23: DM continuing to follow through on the new CAF bank set up.
6.	Vicar's Feedback: (Rev Graeme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in a strange time as we wait for Rev Kris to get his first substantive post. He will be brilliant. • I am encouraged by the way the informal service is going • Benefice laptop for Rev Jo has now been purchased. (Jo expressed her gratitude for the support and contributions) • At the next PCC GA would like a more substantial discussion about safeguarding. He is asking the safeguarding officers to give him their leadership certificates that will be framed for public display. • A speaker for the outdoor use of the benefice has been purchased. • Thank you for the Rector's Board, and particularly thanks to John Winn for funding it. • There is a new 'house group' formed and hosted by Ray Smith. First Monday of the month. • GA has just returned from a spiritual retreat in Bristol. • Remembrance service went well, thank you. • Closing the church has been caused by the recent spate of vandalism. Concerns with safety particularly. • Ceiling work (follow up by John) • He appreciates the work of the fabric Sub-committee. • Asylum seekers now gone and thank you to all those who have treated them with dignity and respect. Particular thanks to Judy, Cheryl and the team who put together the Speak English classes. They made a real difference. • Christmas services can seem less Christian to some as so many people who do not have a daily relationship with God attend. But it is a wonderful opportunity for Christians to attend and be part of leading these people one step closer to Jesus. We are likely to have more non-Christians turning up at these events • Those of us who work in church may not always notice what is happening around us, but it is good and thank you.
7	Children's ministry: (Rev Kris) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's hand has really been moving with the children's services lately. A wonderful increase in numbers. • Thank you to the core team. The group has really gelled and are contributing in ways they wouldn't have expected a few months ago.

- We are going into the school every week to speak with the children at an assembly. Ray Smith presents a reading for discussion/further development
- There was a very good session with Crick Yr1 children who came into the church and JR, ZD and BB helped them understand more about aspects of the building. It was excellent.

8. **Churchwardens' Report- (JR/KP)**

1. September to November services

Month	Date	Service	Adults	Children	Comments
Sept	3 rd	Morning Praise	27	1	
	6 th	HC midweek	11		
	10 th	Holy Communion	26		
	13 th	HC midweek	13		
	17 th	Shine	22	7	
	20 th	HC midweek	13		
	24 th	Songs of Praise	34	1	
	27 th	HC midweek	14		
	Oct	1 st	Morning Praise	14	
4 th		HC midweek	10		
8 th		Holy Communion	30		
11 th		HC midweek	11		
15 th		Shine	23	10	
18 th		HC midweek	14		
22 nd		Songs of Praise	46		
25 th		HC midweek	17		
29 th		UB	45		
Nov		1 st	HC midweek	17	
	5 th	Morning Praise	25		
	8 th	HC midweek	12		
	8 th	Funeral	100	5	Adnitt
	12 th	Holy Communion	32		
	12 th	Service of Remembrance	147	80	3pm service and wreath-laying at the war memorial
	15 th	HC midweek	16		
	19 th	Shine	33	25	
	22 nd	HC midweek	15		
	22 nd	Baptism 5pm	10		Reza and Masoud
26 th	Songs of Praise	37	1		
29 th	HC midweek	11			

1. Churchwardens' meeting 22nd November 2023

The benefice churchwardens will have met over a meal at The Knightley Arms, Yelvertoft on 22nd November.

2. Quinquennial report

Chancel ceiling:

FOSM has kindly agreed a second grant of £6,755 for the total estimated costs to restore the western ceiling panel in the chancel. On behalf of the PCC, the churchwardens express their thanks to FOSM for its support. The grant excludes the VAT which the PCC will reclaim under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

John Barker inspected the eastern panel of the ceiling on 27th November and reported only surface cracking which can be made good with filling and repainting.

Although we are expecting all plaster works to the chancel ceiling to have been completed before 15th December, final painting may be delayed by around a month depending on how long the lime plaster takes to dry. Therefore, it's unlikely that the scaffolding will have been removed before Christmas.

A provisional date for the reinstallation of the AV screen has been fixed for 4th January 2024. However, this may have to be rescheduled dependent on the timings of the above.

Nave ceiling plaster fall: As reported by email on 7th November, a small section of plaster has come down from the nave ceiling. This will have happened sometime between Sunday 5th and 7th. It's on the line of the wall plate on the south side just below the 4th clerestory window and roughly in the area where we have been experiencing a leak from the nave roof. Consultations with our surveyor, John Barker, and Simon Elbrow, of SC Builders, has taken place. Simon was able to make an inspection on 7th November from ground level. From the fallen debris, Simon's view is that the cause is not water ingress but a loss of adhesion between the plaster and the lathes above. Scaffolding will be required to enable a closer inspection and repair. He hopes that it may be possible to effect a localised patch to the plaster rather than needing to remove a whole panel. To mitigate the risk of further falls in this area, 4 pews have been taped off. Simon will provide a quote for the work.

Roof works: The previously agreed repair works to the lead on the nave roof have still to be done. Simon Elbrow is chasing up the lead contractor so that the external roof repairs above the area which is leaking can also be put in hand.

Churchyard works: Crick Parish Council is proceeding with the urgent works to churchyard. A faculty for repairs to a section of the tarmac path has been granted.

3. Fabric sub-committee

The Fabric sub-committee held its second meeting on 22nd November. A separate minute of this meeting has been produced.

4. Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023 Our annual Service of Remembrance was well attended again this year. We convened a planning meeting on 15th October which was attended by representatives from the parish council, ex-servicemen's club and the Scouting and Guiding groups in the village. Lessons learned from the 2022 service were discussed and, through a collaborative spirit, especially on the part

of the Scout and Guide leaders, the 2023 service went smoothly. At their meeting on 20th November, the parish council resolved to form a working group to review the organisation of Remembrance Day events in Crick in future years. The scope of this review is to be determined but, from our informal conversations with the parish council, this is likely to be limited to the civic acts of Remembrance at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and at the Tommy Memorial on Armistice Day. Separately, the PCC will also review the service/s that will be offered on Remembrance Sunday.

5. Christmas communications

1,000 flyers advertising our Christmas special services have been printed and will be distributed door-to-door to every property in the village. Our thanks to those who have volunteered to do this. An advert will also appear in the Christmas edition of Crick News.

A vinyl banner has also been produced that will be displayed in the churchyard. Standing committee approval was obtained for the expenditure.

6. Petty damage

Some of you will be aware that we have, in recent weeks, experienced some petty issues which we are pretty sure have been caused by a small group of teenagers hanging around in the south porch and in church. Some of the dolls in the Little Saints area have been moved and damaged and a broken sparkling wine bottle was found in the North door vestibule on 19th November. Noodles, probably from the food bank box, and other litter, were found by Zona on 8th November as well as evidence of messing around with the flower displays. Our PCSO Les Conopo moved on some teenagers on the evening of 7th November and he spoke initially to Jacqueline and then to John. He and his colleague Duncan will keep an eye on the church during their rounds. Barbara is doing her best to keep the items in the food bank box to a minimum. If you come across any issues, would you please make a note of dates and times, take photos of any damage and contact the churchwardens.

7. Padlocks to North door

To improve the security of the building, Andrew has kindly installed two padlocks onto the bolts to the North door. As most of you will know, this door has no key lock and we want to mitigate the potential risk of somebody throwing the bolts during the day and returning during night time hours unimpeded. Both locks use the same key and a green fob labelled 'North door' is now on the key hook in the vestry. Would those who verge please add the unlocking of the padlocks to your duties prior to a service and locking up afterwards.

8. Rectors' Board

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	<p>The complete renewal of the Rectors' Board is taking shape and a photograph of the work-in-progress was circulated to PCC members on 8th November. We have also updated John Winn.</p> <p>Kent, John and Andrew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance numbers are interesting. The first Sunday service is different with its worship singing. It feels as if it now has settled into its new identity, with more congregational involvement.• The ceiling work in the chancel is now completed. We are waiting for the plaster on the arch in the western panel to dry before it can be painted. The scaffolding will remain up until the screen has been replaced.• The resolution of the fall of plaster in the nave will need to wait until after Christmas and the PCC has decided who the new architect will be.• Christmas communications – thank you to those who have delivered leaflets and thank you to Jacqueline for the design.
9.	<p>Fabric Sub Committee update: (KP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was well attended.• David Westerman is now unable to do some of the work to clear the gutters because of family commitments.• Glen and Kent have spent several Saturday mornings looking at aspects of the internal work• There is now a spreadsheet with the list of jobs to be completed.• The cabling to the yew tree will be replaced, but the thickness of the walls has delayed this. An alternative approach is being researched.• FOSM is considering its role in funding future work• There may be a grants committee formed to raise funds for the bigger jobs• Glen Smith has completed a number of maintenance jobs in the quinquennial report. The PCC really appreciate his generous help.• Sacristy needs a heater and re-pointing.• Use of the bier house was discussed and its possible renovation. This will need to be raised with the parish council because it sits within the curtilage of the church, it is a listed building and could well be a health and safety risk.
10	<p>Appointment of new architect or surveyor: (JR)</p> <p>John Barker is retiring. He passed his list of churches to Henry Sanders. We do not need to engage with him. Lilbourne has engaged Adrian Ringrose and are very pleased with his work. JR will contact a few church wardens to see who they are now working with.</p>
11.	<p>Safeguarding update: (RS)</p> <p>CONCERNS and ALLEGATIONS: Thankfully we have had no recent reported concerns or allegations, since the last PCC meeting.</p> <p>POLICIES and ACTION PLANS; The following policies and Action plans need to be reviewed and approved:- Data Protection and Retention, last reviewed 22/10/22 Responding to Concerns or Allegations, last reviewed 22/10/22 Safeguarding Action Plan, 22/10/22</p> <p>TRAINING and DBS CHECKS:</p>

	<p>Currently the following training courses are yet to be completed:- Church Wardens: Leadership Training. Tower Captain: DBS Check together with the necessary Safeguarding Courses. Several members of the Teaching English Group have completed their courses, those that remain outstanding will no longer be required to be completed, due to the closure of the course.</p>
12.	<p>Little Saints: (ZD) This is now fabulous. The children are happy. Little Saints is doing well. Since the last PCC we have welcomed three new mums with 4 children. We have roughly 6-9 regulars. We've got three weeks of the Christmas story in December and then we'll have a break until January. The children and parents will all be given a gift. We're going to attempt a group Christmas photo too!</p> <p>It's been sad seeing some of the toys being damaged lately, but I'm in the process of putting some of the newer toys away and they can be brought out at services. I'll update the PCC/vergers on this when I've sorted through the toys.</p>
13.	<p>Christmas events: (JR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocho on 12th December • Family Carols 10th • 7 Lessons and Carols 17th December • Crib service 24th • Towers the undertakers have generously donated the Christmas tree. Thank you.
14.	<p>Deanery and diocesan synods: (LJ) The deanery synod met at Long Buckby on 5th October. There was an excellent presentation by Rev. Tim Mitchell on 'Church Growth'. He said that church leaders need to find and offer hope to those they lead. New congregations want leaders to be imaginative and adaptable. Churches that are currently flourishing are those more 'distinctive' with the traditional types of service considered 'boring' by younger congregations. In his view, ministry must change with the changes in culture and this will require courage! <i>'People don't resist change, they resist loss'</i></p> <p>The Diocesan Synod met in Northampton on 7th October. It was introduced by Bishop John who confirmed the appointment of the Right Reverend Debbie Sellin as the new Bishop joining the diocese in 2024. This meeting was more animated than usual. The main topic was finance, led by Dr Paul Buckingham. There will be an increase in parish share of 2% for 2024. We looked at the diocese Net Zero Carbon Action Plan. Several speakers were concerned about the implications for and pressures on parishes with listed buildings. It was felt money could be saved if vicar's homes were better insulated and had solar panels and churches were allowed to have solar panels on their roofs and better insulation. It seems there will be tension between those wanting to preserve our historic buildings by ensuring they are maintained using traditional methods and materials, and those who believe the DAC should be more flexible and permit churches to adapt to changing times, needs and energy demands. Watch this space!</p>
15.	<p>Speak English classes in the Old School: (JA)</p>

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	<p>By the time this PCC is taking place, all the asylum seekers will have left the Ibis, and be distributed around the country in various hotels and other accommodation. It has been an immense privilege for us as a team, meeting, getting to know and teaching English to these men. We have heard about families back home, lives which have been devastated by war, and Christians whose lives have been put in great danger in their home countries because of the Christian faith that some have nurtured. We have become very fond of these men, and will miss them.</p> <p>There has also been an interesting and heart-warming co-operation between Christian people and residents from the community without Christian faith. There has never been a lack of helpers who have all brought their enthusiasm and distinct gifts, and all the needs have been met as we have gone along. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Cheryl Stonehouse who has really kept us going with teaching materials, expertise and not least a huge, kind and servant heart. I also thank all the St Margaret's people, and Christians from other churches, who have been incredibly committed and faithful in this work, and so supportive to me. It's obvious but true, that I couldn't have done it without them!</p> <p>Thanks must also go to St Margaret's congregation, who have been welcoming and warm-hearted towards the men who have come to worship with us. The recent men who joined us; Reza, Masoud, Mehdi and Abolfazl, feel especially down-hearted about leaving us. I also thank you for your prayers, and support, and donations of clothing and money. We certainly couldn't have managed without this kind help.</p> <p>Please would you continue to pray for them in the next stage of their lives.</p> <p>There will be some remaining funds, and these will go to the work that "Community Welcome" do in Rugby. (a charity working with asylum seekers in Rugby and environs)</p>
16.	<p>Treasurer's update – including Parish Share: (DM)</p> <p>We are on course to pay the full parish share for this year and unless there are any more nasty surprises and with the help of fundraising and two grants from FOSM the accounts will be relatively straightforward.</p>

St Margaret's Church, Crick			
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023			
	2023	2022	
<i>Income and Expenditure Account</i>			
Income			
Patre	1,710.11	3,387.82	
Planned Giving	26,619.02	26,641.58	
Easy Fundraising	0.00	21.45	
Reg donations	2,382.50	2,314.00	
Orations	1,609.01	2,202.21	
Weddings/Funerals	2,044.57	6,056.59	
Patre - Gift Aid/Easy	187.60	481.20	
Conation Box	225.33	241.61	
Fees	0.00	0.00	
Fund Raising	5,468.81	3,020.79	
Self Ringing & Floodlights	0.00	0.00	
Misc	0.00	16.00	
Interest	140.42	30.33	
Gift Aid refund	2,311.15	1,800.90	
Land Rent	600.00	600.00	
Goodies	1,107.84	1,652.08	
Book of Remembrance	19.00	86.00	
	<u>47,311.37</u>	<u>50,876.08</u>	
Expenditure			
Parish Share	29,554.00	28,810.00	
Rector's Exps	1,851.27	1,274.90	
Ministry Exps	120.10	281.90	
Meat	6,300.73	6,049.38	
Society	79.04	166.48	
Reg Serv costs	1,217.42	889.98	
Light & Heat	1,562.69	1,774.99	
Stationery Etc	86.07	111.60	
Misc	34.00	19.00	
Flowers ()	35.06	114.14	
Fund Raising	640.67	887.46	
Licences etc	429.85	470.24	
Insurance	2,708.61	3,081.19	
Charitable giving	0.00	300.00	
PCCF Fees (Weddings, Funerals)	621.00	1,277.00	
Weddings, Funerals Disbursements	661.78	2,222.00	
Goodies	132.00	175.27	
	<u>49,295.72</u>	<u>49,001.18</u>	
Surplus/Deficit	<u>815.65</u>	<u>1,874.90</u>	
Balance Sheet			
opening balance	10,232.26	7907.36	
Rector's Disbursement	754.67	1817.83	
Sts Margaret Fund	969.73	0.00	
Surplus/Deficit	815.65	2274.88	
closing balance	<u>12,882.64</u>	<u>11848.89</u>	
represented by			
current account (Santander)	9,485.85	8176.75	
less unexpended cheques		(300.00)	
Current account (CAF)	250.00	0.00	
deposit account (CCLA)	726.86	868.14	
Deposit account (CAF)	250.00	0.00	
cash in hand	219.22	150.00	
	<u>10,882.64</u>	<u>11848.89</u>	
Notes	1)		

17. **Stewardship update: (JR)
Planned giving**

- 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.
- Based on a rolling 12-month period the revised average monthly and annual totals, assuming no other changes, are now £3,039/month/£36,474/year.
- Our Parish Share for 2023 is £32,240.

1. Card reader

- 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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2022 there were 254 transactions totalling £1,688. Average of £6.64.• In 2023, to end of November:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For Sunday and Wednesday offerings there have been 170 transactions totalling £1,420. Average of £8.35.○ For fundraising events:<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 <p>It will really help if all planned givers review their contributions. Our parish share is going down slightly next year.</p>
18.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clickers (ZD). Agreed that we would buy two.• Crick History society fundraiser 6th September 2024 – They want to pay for someone to do an enactment of Elizabeth 1 in St M's. It will be a ticketed event. On the following day there will be two weddings so the church must be tidied up.
19.	Dates of next meetings 24/01/24, 27/03/24 (AGM 24/04/24) 22/05/24, 17/07/24, 25/09/24, 27/11/24

Meeting closed with a prayer at 9.05pm