

St Margaret's Church – Crick  
 Minutes of Meeting of the PCC  
 Wednesday 22nd March 2023, 7.30pm, The Old School.

	<p><b>Attendees:</b>          Rev Graeme, Rev Kris, John Rogers, Ian Jones, Hazel Gault, Jacqueline Smith, Sarah Fear, Zona Dipple, Dave Milne, Lyn Johnson, Kent Polley, Andrew Hutley</p>
1.	<p><b>Opening Prayers:</b>          Led by Rev Graeme</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies:</b>          None</p>
3.	<p><b>Minutes from 25/01/23</b>          Approved</p>
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising not on the agenda:</b>          None</p>
5.	<p><b>Actions from 25/01/23:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JS explained about a clear Perspex box with donation slot and space for promotional information. It was unanimously agreed to support its purchase to a cost of £25 max.</li> <li>• SF has struggled to get a contact with her Iranian friend to translate service liturgy. This has been removed from the actions.</li> <li>• DM agreed to print more copies of the version from Google Translate.</li> <li>• GA to send the Persian liturgy to DM</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Vicar's Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shine is going brilliantly. Original numbers about 20+ now up to 50+</li> <li>• GA told the PCC about his health.</li> <li>• Readings for the period June to October have been selected. These have been chosen from the various options that the lectionary affords. GA has spent some time trying to discern what our Lord may be wanting to teach us over this time. One is how our Lord ticks, and the psalm readings should draw that out. The other is how we relate to each other as a church community. Many of the epistle readings lean that way. So if you are a preacher/hymn chooser, I would ask you to lean into those themes please.</li> <li>• Last PCC meeting there was an unfortunate tension between the PCC and FOSM. GA called a meeting of parties concerned and felt the outcome was a good one.</li> <li>• New Bishop may be appointed by Easter 2024, possibly by Christmas! The appointment process is currently ongoing.</li> <li>• Rev Kris has been increasingly involved with the benefice. His training has been accelerated and pressure increased to help him hone his skills.</li> <li>• Good fellowship established across the benefice between the CWs, preachers and the minister.</li> <li>• Church attendance in the benefice is increasing against the national trend of a decline!</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The successful Italian night in the OS was indicative of the improvements in the building and its position and use by the community. Thanks to the team that support this.</li> <li>• GA updated the PCC on the situation at the IBIS hotel.</li> <li>• Remembrance Day 2022 was a success but there was a complaint. A meeting has resolved the concern and there is a rearranged version for 2023.</li> <li>• GA is busy as a school governor and really enjoying being Rural Dean.</li> <li>• The Diocesan bishops proposed prayers to bless same sex couples. There was much discussion and debate about this within the Church of England and the voting was exceptionally tight! It has created a schism between the See of Canterbury and the wider Christian world who are now denying the Archbishop's leadership.</li> <li>• GA cannot say the prayers of same sex unions because he is uncomfortable with them and what is said about relationships in the bible. However, there is another priest in the deanery who is sympathetic to same sex blessings and will conduct them.</li> </ul>																																																																																										
7	<p><b>Children's ministry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry is growing and Shine is a joy. KS thanked the team who work very hard to support it.</li> <li>• Next service will include a baptism.</li> <li>• An Easter Escape Room is booked on April 5<sup>th</sup> in Crick. 2-3pm and 4-5pm. Tuck shop included Aged 8yrs and above.</li> </ul>																																																																																										
8	<p><b>Church Warden's report:</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>January and February services</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="376 1272 1337 2020"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Service</th> <th>Adults</th> <th>Children</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>1<sup>st</sup></td> <td>UB Holy Communion</td> <td>32</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4<sup>th</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Holy Communion</td> <td>37</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11<sup>th</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>11</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Shine</td> <td>30</td> <td>18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>18<sup>th</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>9</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>22<sup>nd</sup></td> <td>Songs of Praise</td> <td>38</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>24<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Funeral</td> <td>49</td> <td></td> <td>Jeff Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>25<sup>th</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>29<sup>th</sup></td> <td>UB</td> <td>51</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb</td> <td>1<sup>st</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Morning Praise</td> <td>25</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8<sup>th</sup></td> <td>HC midweek</td> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Holy Communion</td> <td>32</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Date	Service	Adults	Children	Comments	Jan	1 <sup>st</sup>	UB Holy Communion	32				4 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	8				8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	37	1			11 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	11				15 <sup>th</sup>	Shine	30	18			18 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	9				22 <sup>nd</sup>	Songs of Praise	38	1			24 <sup>th</sup>	Funeral	49		Jeff Day		25 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	12				29 <sup>th</sup>	UB	51	1		Feb	1 <sup>st</sup>	HC midweek	6				5 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Praise	25	2			8 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	12				12 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	32	1	
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	15 <sup>th</sup>	HC midweek	14		
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Shine	32	12	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	HC midweek	14		
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Benefice HC Ash Weds	15	1	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Funeral	78	1	Christopher Goodyer
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Songs of Praise	42		

**1. Churchwardens' meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The benefice churchwardens met for a meal at the Knightley Arms, Yelvertoft. These events are certainly enabling stronger relationships and collaboration between the 3 parishes.

**2. Quinquennial report**

The immediate priority is to complete the investigative works to the chancel ceiling. One quote for the scaffolding has been received. At the time of writing, a second quote is awaited.

The relevant parts of the report relating to the churchyard, boundary walls, paths, memorials, bier house\* and trees were sent to Crick Parish Council on 30<sup>th</sup> January for action. A meeting was held with the Parish Clerk on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

\*Note. The poor state of repair of the bier house located on the north-east boundary wall was noted in the report. We have contacted the diocesan registrars who have advised that they consider this to be part of the churchyard and therefore the responsibility of the parish council.

**3. Urgent repairs to nave roof and repairs to flashings**

A date is awaited for the works to be done.

**4. Church clock**

At the time of writing this report, we are expecting Smith of Derby to complete the clock dial works on 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March. The scaffolding is booked for removal on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**5. Noticeboard**

The blue noticeboard has been updated with the changes to services on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

**6. Elliot organ**

Following the excessive hot weather spell in the Summer of 2022, the organ tuner had to make several adjustments to the mechanical action of the keyboards and pedals to correct sticking action. The extreme cold around Christmas caused similar issues and required a further set of recent visits to reverse some of the adjustments made in September where again notes were sticking and playing by themselves. After

three successive week visits by the tuner things appeared back to normal on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

What appears to be wood dust is regularly appearing on the steps leading up to the organ. This appears to confirm active woodworm at the west end of the nave. This is concerning as dust will also be falling inside the organ and the further worry that with a significant amount of the organ and case work made of wood, we could find worm eating away at the instrument.

#### 7. **Baptistry tidy up**

Our thanks to Jacqueline and Judy for their work on improving the display of books in the baptistry. The result looks very inviting and welcoming. Several boxes of books have been donated to the Christian Book Aid scheme being managed by All Saints', Lilbourne.

#### 8. **The Old School**

Rev Graeme, Kent and John are trustees of The Old School working alongside 2 representatives from Crick Parish Council. A great deal of progress has been made to improve the building and increase bookings. A few highlights to mention are:

- During 2022, booking income compared to 2019, i.e pre-pandemic, was up 150%. Bookings for 2023 are strong and further growth looks likely
- A programme of redecoration has been completed, with thanks to the hard work of a band of volunteers, and special mention and thanks to Rade and Jo Ognjanovic
- The Old School is now registered with the Charity Commission. This will help us as we apply for grants to continue to develop the facilities
- In March 2022 we opened a drop-in community hub every Tuesday which is open to all residents. We extended our offering by opening on Thursdays from November after we adopted the idea of creating warm spaces. Across the two days they are being attended by around 30 people each week
- In January 2023 we started a supper club. Our first event, an Italian supper, was fully booked and warmly received by all who came. We hope this will become a regular event throughout the year and will help us generate funds to contribute towards our plans to continue to improve the facilities.
- We are grateful to the volunteers who run the hubs every week, with a special mention and thanks to Janet Emery who has also helped us get the supper club up and running.
- We are planning to improve the insulation of the building, especially the small hall, and upgrade the heating and kitchen.

Kent, John and Andrew

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9.	<p><b>Quinquennial update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR written to the parish council clerk to highlight their responsibilities.</li> <li>• Chancel crack- a quote has been received but it is above the PCC agreed amount. JR proposed that we accepted the increased cost IJ seconded and it was passed unanimously.</li> <li>• JR recommended a standing committee be created to focus on the wider building problems that need addressing.</li> <li>• DM highlighted the dangerous state of the glazing and other aspects of the report.</li> <li>• GA will seek to form a buildings committee.</li> <li>• DM recommended we apply to Historic Churches Trust following our years of supporting them through Ride and Stride.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Coronation Event:</b></p> <p>Sandra Owen is working with a committee to close the road between the Wheatsheaf and Rectory Close for a street party on 7<sup>th</sup> May. They would like to use the church grounds for some aspects of the entertainment. The PCC felt this would be appropriate and LJ will liaise with her and FOSM on this.</p>
11.	<p><b>Safeguarding update:</b></p> <p>There are no safeguarding issues to report.</p>
12.	<p><b>Little Saints:</b></p> <p>Little Saints has an average of 6/7 children a week, mostly regulars which is lovely. A few new mums occasionally which is always encouraging to see Is going to Dotty the Donkey trail around the church yard during Easter.</p>
13.	<p><b>Deanery Synod update:</b></p> <p>The Deanery Synod met on 31<sup>st</sup> January. It introduced Reverend Graeme as our new Rural Dean. The highlight of the evening was a facilitated session by Charlie Nobbs focusing in on Volunteers! We explored the areas of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges of finding volunteers</li> <li>• Why people volunteer</li> <li>• How to get new volunteers</li> <li>• Why volunteers leave</li> <li>• How to sustain commitment and enthusiasm.</li> </ul> <p>The notes from the meeting are available if you would like to see the conclusions of the participants.</p>

<p>14.</p>	<p><b>Speak English classes in the Old School:</b>          We have been continuing to support the Asylum seekers through the English conversation sessions. We have covered topics such as the weather, shopping, discrimination and faith, instructions, hobbies and many more.          Quote from the shopping session “Why is no-one wanting to buy a boat? It’s because we have all seen enough of boats!”          We are up to full capacity for students, however we are planning to progress the most regular and long standing men to a more casual “chat zone” in another room. For this we will be looking for more helpers.          Many thanks for your continued support.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p><b>Treasurer’s update – including Parish Share</b>          We are presently on schedule to meet our Parish Share from Planned giving          DM shared an account of the monies processed since January 1<sup>st</sup>.          Money is tight.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><b>Benefice Walk 17<sup>th</sup> June:</b>          JR wants to organise a Benefice walk across all three churches. 11.5 miles. There will be a worship at each church. He will organise a timetable so that people can join in the worship even if they don’t do all or part of the walk.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p><b>Stewardship update:</b></p> <p><b>1. Planned giving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since my January report there have been no changes to our planned giving</li> <li>• Based on a rolling 12-month period the revised monthly and annual totals, assuming no other changes, are now £2,634/month/£31,608/year.</li> <li>• Our Parish Share for 2023 is £32,240.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Card reader</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our card reader has been live from the beginning of September 2021.</li> <li>• In 2021 there were 172 transactions totalling £1,290. Average of £7.50.</li> <li>• In 2022 there were 254 transactions totalling £1,688. Average of £6.64.</li> <li>• In 2023, year to date, there have been 49 transactions totalling £375. Average of £7.65.</li> </ul>
<p>18.</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 1<sup>st</sup> in Yelvertoft Reading Room GA is leading a session on how to make sense of the bible. Everyone is welcome. Can bring own drink and nibbles.</li> <li>• LJ reminded the PCC of the APCM. Nomination forms were issued and we have 2 vacancies.</li> </ul>

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19.	<b>Dates of next meetings:</b> (APCM 26/04/23) 24/05/23, 26/07/23, 27/09/23, 29/11/23.
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