

St Margaret's Church – Crick  
Minutes of the Meeting of the PCC  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm, The Old School.

	<p><b>Attendance:</b> Rev Jo, John Rogers, Zona Dipple, Dave Milne, Lyn Johnson, Ian Jones Andrew Hutley, Hazel Gault</p>
1.	<p><b>Opening Prayers:</b> Matthew 25: 14-30. Parable of the talents. We all have talents given by God to work for his kingdom together we will learn and grow in confidence.</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Jacqueline Smith, Kent Polley,</p>
3.	<p><b>Minutes from 22/05/24</b> Agreed</p>
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising not on the agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How far do we go with external coverage with CCTV? We have 4 doors to cover. The South Door is the main entrance and is the priority. It was decided that we begin with the south door and can monitor the situation and if more security coverage is required we can extend. IJ said if we have a strong enough system initially it will be easy to extend.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Actions from 22/05/24:</b> All completed</p>
6.	<p><b>Curate's Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Rev Jo has completed the first year of her curacy training and is now an ordained priest! This year has been challenging, exciting and wonderful to be serving our Lord among all of you. Thank you for all your encouraging words and support. It has been a great first year.</li> <li>◦ Rev Graeme is still on his sabbatical. His first day back is August 12th. Being in charge of the benefice has been (so far) an enriching and formational time for Rev Jo.</li> <li>◦ There has been a general sense of a God-led theme to our preaching and activities over the last few months with a focus on God's call to evangelism and mission and in the recent Thy Kingdom Come event where several of us have been sharing our faith stories in the pub and in the informal services. We are hearing about recent answers to prayer so we know that God is at work among us for which we are thankful.</li> <li>◦ There has been a recent spate of thefts (small items) from the churches in the area. But let us remain prayerful and vigilant putting first the Kingdom of God and trusting God to meet our needs (Matthew 6:33).</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Children's ministry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The SHINE services have been less well attended by children and families this summer than in the cooler months but this does appear to be a seasonal variation as this happened last summer also and picked up again in the autumn. Barbara Brazier has been taking a most positive leadership role in SHINE and has been doing very well indeed. It is a delight to see her flourishing and growing in confidence. Well done to the whole SHINE team.</li> </ul>

	<p>◦ School Assemblies have been taken weekly as usual in Crick Primary School and the church continues to enjoy a good relationship with the school. The School Leaver's service will be in the church on Monday 22nd July at 10am- do come early if you'd like a seat. We will celebrate the year 6 pupils' achievements as we show the church's support for, and the love of Jesus to, the children, parents and staff. You are most welcome to come along and join in.</p>
8.	<p><b>Children and Families work Development:</b> Rev Jo circulated proposal papers prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Proposal Part 1</b> (Concerning Barbara's course):</p> <p>Would the PCC agree for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St Margaret's Church to become a placement church for Barbara starting in September 2024 as she undertakes a two-year dipHE course in Children and Families work (if her application is successful).</li><li>• To include £1650 in our Gen 2 grant application for Barbara's first year accommodation expenses.</li><li>• To match the grant application by agreeing to pay £1650 for Barbara's second year accommodation expenses.</li></ul> <p><b>Proposed by JR, seconded by DM and unanimously agreed</b></p> <p><b>Proposal Part 2</b> (concerning our existing children and families work: Little Saints, SHINE, baptism services, toys/books/resources for the children's corner, school assemblies, and year 6 school leaver's bibles):</p> <p>Would the PCC agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To include £1020.50 in our Gen2 grant application to support our existing children's and families work.</li><li>• To increase our annual budget for children's and families work for 2024/25 from £500 to £1020.50 (total increase £520.50) thus matching the amount of Gen2 grant claimed for 2024/25.</li><li>• To be aware that for 2025/26 the PCC would need to increase our annual budget for children's and families work further in order to support and sustain it in the longer term -and/or apply for grant funding elsewhere.</li></ul> <p><b>Proposed by JR, seconded by AH and unanimously agreed</b></p> <p><b>Proposal Part 3</b> (concerning new initiatives -Big Boat Fun Day, Bibles in the school classrooms, blessing our school and a Youth Drop-in Project):</p>

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	<p><b>Would the PCC agree to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include £1165 in our Gen2 grant application for new children, families and youth initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed by JR, seconded by DM and unanimously agreed</b></p>																																																																																								
9.	<p><b>Churchwardens' Report:</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>May/June services</u></b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Month</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Date</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Service</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Adults</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Children</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>1</td> <td>Holy Communion midweek</td> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>Informal Morning Praise</td> <td>22</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>Holy Communion midweek</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>Sung Holy Communion</td> <td>23</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>Holy Communion midweek</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19</td> <td>Shine</td> <td>20</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>22</td> <td>Morning Prayer midweek</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>Rev Jo training</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>26</td> <td>Songs of Praise</td> <td>18</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>29</td> <td>Morning Prayer midweek</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>Rev Jo away</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>2</td> <td>Informal Morning Praise</td> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>Baptism 2pm</td> <td>36</td> <td>15</td> <td>Boneham</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>Morning Prayer midweek</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>Rev Jo training</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>Sung Holy Communion</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Month	Date	Service	Adults	Children	Comments	May	1	Holy Communion midweek	6				5	Informal Morning Praise	22				8	Holy Communion midweek	8				12	Sung Holy Communion	23				15	Holy Communion midweek	7				19	Shine	20	3			22	Morning Prayer midweek	5		Rev Jo training		26	Songs of Praise	18				29	Morning Prayer midweek	5		Rev Jo away	June	2	Informal Morning Praise	20				2	Baptism 2pm	36	15	Boneham		5	Morning Prayer midweek	8		Rev Jo training		9	Sung Holy Communion	30		
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	16	Shine	13	1	
	16	Choral evensong 6pm	32		
	19	Holy Communion midweek	5		
	23	Songs of Praise	29		
	26	Holy Communion midweek	7		
	30	UB Songs of Praise	49		

## **2. Maintenance of the fabric**

- Nave ceiling plaster fall: The works have been completed and the scaffolding removed. The builder's invoice has been paid and we have applied for the VAT refund under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.
- Applying Danish oil to the north and west doors: Glen Smith has removed the graffiti from the north door and resealed the north and west doors with Danish oil.
- Our historic Elliot Organ is completely mechanical in operation relying on thin wooden rods and wires to connect the keys to the moving pallets that allow air to flow into the pipes when a note is played. Over time this mechanical linkage can become brittle and break either not allowing a note to be heard or worse still, the return spring mechanism fails to operate causing notes to sound continuously. The latter scenario affected the middle (most important) keyboard a few weeks before Choral evensong. Remedial action by Peter Spencer was swift and effective and he was able to arrive on site promptly after the initial request and before the following Sunday service. We are very grateful for his prompt attention.

## **3. CCTV**

Faculty required. This is the next step.

## **Past and future events**

- **Plant Sale 18<sup>th</sup> May** raised £525. Thank you to all who donated plants and supported the event. And a special thanks to Jacqueline for organising the day, the publicity and encouraging local businesses to support us.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Choral evensong 16<sup>th</sup> June.</b> This sung service was appreciated once again and our thanks to Andrew for putting his heart and soul into all the preparations over many months and to Chris Biddle and the Festival Choir. The service was recorded and will be available on our website once the edit has been done.</li> <li>• <b>Scarecrow 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> July.</b> By the time of the PCC, the Scarecrow event will have been concluded for another year. Our thanks to the St Margaret's team for all the work that will have been done in preparation and delivery. This year, the Scarecrow Committee kindly paid for the Elation Community Choir to sing in church on Saturday afternoon at 2pm and 3,15pm. The choir is based in Long Buckby and its members include David and Selena Sweeney. The choir have kindly offered to make a donation of £50 from their fee to St Margaret's.</li> <li>• <b>Big Boat Funday. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.</b> This will be a children's activity morning in church. It's being organised by Barbara Brazier as part of her Catalyst training for children and youth leaders.</li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth 1 event. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September.</b> Sally Nicholson and Crick History Society have kindly offered to run a fundraiser for St Margaret's. 100% of the ticket sales will go to St Margaret's. Sally is generously meeting the costs of the actor Lesley Smith who will come as Elizabeth I. The History Society will organise the ticket sales and refreshments. The pre-event publicity is being designed and the evening will give the audience a chance to meet Her Majesty at her political zenith.</li> <li>• <b>Ride and Stride Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.</b> This important sponsored event supports the work of the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust.</li> </ul> <p>John, Kent and Andrew</p>
10.	<p><b>Safeguarding:</b>  <b>CONCERNS &amp; ALLEGATIONS:</b>      Thankfully we have had no recent reported concerns or allegations, since the last PCC meeting</p> <p><b>PARISH DASHBOARD:</b>      We are currently at Level Three 100% on the Dashboard, with two Reviews &amp; Reports needing updating: -      Review List of Church Activities before the 23/05/24. Currently we now only have one activity listed i.e. Little Saints, the English Speaking course being suspended. <b>Should the Home Group now be listed and also Bell Ringing?</b>      Review List of Non-Church Activities before 24/05/24. Currently we have no activities listed.</p> <p><b>TRAINING &amp; DBS CHECKS:</b>      Currently the following training courses are yet to be completed:-      Church Wardens: Leadership Training. (one still outstanding)</p>

	<p>Tower Captain: DBS Check together with the necessary Safeguarding Courses. (I have reminded Nick Hyam without any current response).</p> <p>JR noted that the policy of both the C of E and the Bell Ringers Association is that all bell ringers have to be DBS checked and complete the Basic Awareness and Foundation training. Plus Domestic Abuse is optional. JR has emailed NH about this and RS will follow up.</p>
11.	<p><b>Little Saints:</b>          We have had 6/7/children each week recently which is great, plus two upcoming Baptisms of Little Saints children. We have 5 leavers this July, who have all had Photobooks of their time with us, plus all the children have been given a bottle of blowing bubbles and some sweets. We restart on September 9th, and can I please note my thanks for the constant love and support from the PCC for our group and my helpers, Barbara Hazel Jean and Jane.</p> <p>The PCC thanked ZD for her continued work with LS families and she complimented on the lovely leaver's photo albums gifted to the children.</p>
12.	<p><b>Fire Risk assessment:</b>          We do not have a fire risk assessment for the church and we should. JR proposed that we enlisted the help of the local school so we can rehearse an evacuation with a group of children in the building. It needs some thought about briefing of vergers, availability of hi-viz jackets, meeting points and door access for rapid and safe exit.</p>
13.	<p><b>Church fabric update – Prioritisation of the quinquennial:</b>          We need a prioritisation process for the quinquennial and William Assheton would help with this but if we asked him to do this work he would need to be paid. It was noted that Glen Smith is experienced in restoration work and it was proposed the PCC pay Glen to review the documents, create a priority list, which can then be validated by Mr Assheton. KP will talk to GS to agree the time required for the prioritisation and his hourly rate          ZD proposed that we ask GS, seconded by AH and agreed unanimously.</p>
14.	<p><b>Treasurer's update – including Parish Share:</b>          We are on target with our Parish Share. The income and expense accounts presented at the meeting did not include the invoice now due on the roof alarm contract of £1700. Additionally takings of from the Scarecrow weekend of £790 by card are still to be received and the Gift Aid rebate from Parish Giving for the July direct debits (approximately £350)</p>
15.	<p><b>Stewardship update:</b>  <b>Planned giving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have 33 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.</li> <li>• 14 members on the Parish Giving Scheme have agreed to annual inflation increases.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on a rolling 12-month period the revised average monthly and annual totals, assuming no other changes, are now £3,026/month/£36,315/year.</li> <li>• Our Parish Share for 2024 is £32,239.65</li> </ul> <p><b>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 there were 371 transactions totalling £3,574. Average of £9.63. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For Sunday and Wednesday offerings there were 207 transactions totalling £1,625. Average of £7.85</li> <li>○ For fundraising events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mothering Sunday teas 23 transactions totalling £592</li> <li>▪ Coronation weekend BBQ 45 transactions totalling £326</li> <li>▪ Scarecrow weekend BBQ and teas 85 transactions totalling £830</li> <li>▪ Harvest supper 11 transactions totalling £201</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• £968. Average £11.52, of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For Sunday and Wednesday offerings - 55 transactions totalling £412. Average of £7.49.</li> <li>○ For fundraising events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mothering Sunday teas 12 transactions totalling £335</li> <li>▪ Plant Fair 17 transactions £221</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16	<p><b>Re-opening of the church:</b> A discussion was held about the rationale for reopening following the spate of vandalism in 2023. Hours open to be truncated to 10-3. The PCC agreed it was important people had access to the church. The key holders need to be spoken to about this. ZD proposed, DM seconded and unanimously agreed.</p>
17.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride and Stride</li> </ul>
18.	Dates of next meetings, 25/09/24, 27/11/24

**Closing prayer at 8.50pm**

**Note ZD & JR absent in Sept.**