

Holy Innocents Church

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

*Those Present :* Rev'd Benjamin Edwards (Chair), Kathy Drakes, Tim Frost,  
Betty Holdgate, Claire Mackichan, Angela Pearce, Peter Robinson,  
Linda Scoles, Jane Dalton

*There were no apologies for absence – all members were present*

Fr. Ben opened the Meeting with prayer, and a reading from St. Mark's Gospel

1. *Minutes of the Last Meeting*

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved. Proposed by Peter, seconded by Kathy, all in favour.

2. *Matters Arising*

*Fundraising* We considered inviting the Chedburgh Community Choir (founded by Polly Anderson, a member of Kirby Voices) to give a concert. They are less "classical" than Kirby Voices and sing a wide variety of music "with a high level of enthusiasm in rich 4 – 8 part harmony." They charge between £200 and £250, and are giving a concert at All Saints Church in Bury St. Edmunds on 26<sup>th</sup> October when we could see what they are like. Peter will enquire what dates they are available.

Another possibility is "Classic Femme" of which Polly Anderson is a member, and they offer an hour-long programme with songs from the 30s and 40s up to the present era. Their usual fee is £140. Both groups would probably bring audience members with them. Peter will enquire what dates they are available too.

Another possibility is to ask our organists, Chris and Jeremy, to supplement a 'Classic Femme' concert and play for 20 minutes each as they are very good.

*Spring Lunch* – Another good idea, proposed by Betty, is to have a fundraising Spring Lunch.

*House Groups* Fr. Ben and Kathy are still thinking about this and working on it.

*Mice in The Institute* There have been no complaints recently, although Fr. Ben found light signs of mice in the kitchen. The glue traps which Fr Ben acquired are no longer legal. We should continue to be vigilant and let Fr. Ben know if there is any sign of mice.

*Booklets, etc., for Children being baptised or facing bereavement.* Linda has been looking into this. Booklets for Baptism cost £8.99 each, and we could get 5 for £49.40, while first anniversary postcards were thought to be a good idea. A5 leaflets for families are just 10 for £1, likewise bereavement leaflets for children. Kathy will order these.

### 3. *Financial Report*

Kathy's Financial Report (with Betty and Peter) was received with thanks and appreciation.

*2022 Accounts* Betty has spoken with Steve Francis who has given her the name of a gentleman who might do the 2022 Accounts, and who will get in touch with Kathy.

*Treasurer Training Modules* Purchase of these modules for Kathy, Betty and Peter was agreed by all members of the PCC. The cost is £12 per module, 6 modules for each person, making the total cost £216.

Tim and Kathy reported on a donation of £12,000 (increased from £10,000) which has been offered for specific needs of the church, and we have to consider projects and go back to the donor. The Finance Sub Committee will consider this and come back to the PCC. Among needs which could be considered are the kitchen cupboards of the church which are in bad condition, and CCTV cameras in the church where we have had damage done. And work at the Church Institute. Also trees in the churchyard badly need pruning,

### 4. *Safeguarding*

Kathy had circulated a helpful document from the Diocese regarding Safeguarding Training, and she will recommend what training is needed. She passed round 3 copies of a poster from the Diocese about training, and all were happy for this to be put up in Holy Innocents, St. Peter's, and in the Church Institute.

PCC members have to do basic and foundation training, and domestic abuse training is recommended.

### 5. *Church Buildings - Toilet for the Church*

Tim has met with the Church Architect, who has submitted a draft opinion with regard to the most suitable place for a toilet in Holy Innocents. The Architect had to examine all the options and give reasons why we would go for Option F, the option we had all agreed. Tim also had a visit from the Chairman of the DAC who spent an hour looking round the Church. Tomorrow there will be a meeting of the DAC, and

hopefully we can advance once they have agreed that the option we have chosen is the most suitable one. We will have to deal with the drainage system, with running water for the kitchen, and hopefully we will get permission for this too. The next step is a feasibility study for the drainage system.

Our village is very sensitive about what is done in the Church and Churchyard, and we should speak about the proposed work in an encouraging way – we need to be very open about what is happening.

*Insurance* We are due for an inspection of the Church and the Institute for insurance, and this will be a forthcoming expense

*Grave Space* Tim has had a request for a grave space for two people who have lived in Great Barton for some time, but have downsized and moved to Elmswell. Their family members have been buried in Holy Innocents' Churchyard and they have strong connections with Great Barton. Tim will send them a form to fill in their details.

*Waste Recycling.* We have to show West Suffolk Council that we are recycling dry materials and food waste by 2027. We are already recycling dry waste, and we give food waste to Chris Blades for his farm animals – there is just one nearly-full black bag a week. We could use such things as teabags for composting.

#### 6. *PCCs of Holy Innocents and St. Peter's joining together*

We discussed the possibility of combining our PCCs. Thurston's PCC is diminished in numbers – just three members (apart from the Churchwardens). They had a meeting last week, and would like to explore the possibility of combining as a Benefice. Finance would be kept separate.

The Archdeacon has said there would be help from the Diocese.

We could make good use of the Sub-Committee so that we would not spend a long time discussing individual village matters.

It is important to retain our own Church-character, but we should remember that we are in this faith together.

It would be good to put minutes on the website, and let the Church communities know of meetings in advance so that if they wished they could propose matters for discussion.

It was felt that we should pursue this. Both PCCs therefore have officially indicated that they are happy to explore this: Fr Ben will send an email to

Archdeacon David – and then we can arrange some kind of meeting together, perhaps with someone to talk to us. Then we can decide separately as PCCs.

#### *7. Church Institute*

Betty raised the question of the Church Institute and its maintenance. We do not own the building, and our contract stipulates that we must deal with its maintenance. We should be paying £50 a year; Last year we paid £250 for the previous 5 years and the owners gave the money back.

We will have a Sub Committee to look into matters concerning the Institute. It could comprise Claire, Betty, Peter and Jane.

Meeting Point is a really worthwhile ministry at the Institute. People are coming from Thurston and Bury as well as Great Barton.

#### *8. Kathy's Relicensing and Expenses as a Reader*

Kathy has been relicensed as a Reader, and her support is greatly appreciated by Fr. Ben. We should reimburse her for her expenses such as books and petrol (shared with St. Peter's). Kathy thinks this would be about £50 per year. Expenses over £250 should come back to the PCC for approval.

#### *9. Cupboards and kitchenette surfaces in the Church*

Linda noted that the wood of the cupboards and worktop needs oiling – it is getting very dry, and there are water stains. It would be good, too, to have a polyurethane sheet on the top. We will get someone to come and give an estimate – we could ask the person who did the porch.

#### *10. Parish Mobile Phone*

Fr. Ben commented that the mobile phone for the parish is very rarely used. When asked for a number he will now use his own mobile, and this will be put in the pew sheet from now on, and the Great Barton Village Newsletter.

#### *11. Date of Next Meeting*

The next PCC Meeting was arranged for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm, in the Church Institute.

*Fr. Ben closed the Meeting with prayer.*