

The Parish of St. Thomas Werneth

Minutes of P.C.C. meeting Thursday 27th March, 2025 at 7p.m via Zoom.

1. Welcome and prayers.

Meeting was led by Revd. Nick Andrewes.

2. Present: Revd. Nick Andrewes, Revd. Richard McEwan, Revd .Zahra Shafiei, Ann Batchelor, Janet Campbell, Mercy Ekhoesuehi, Graham Lees, Kathy Lees, Nasreen Masih and Abigail Ogbesusi.

Apologies : None.

3. Minutes of meeting of 23rd Jan 2025

3.1) Accepted as a true account. Proposed by Graham .Seconded by Richard. It was passed with one abstention.

3.2) Matters Arising

- Clarification about Karen Heverin's letter that church is vulnerable. This relates to building only.
- Church gates. This meeting accepted the Walkers quote for the gates and Graham is to contact Carl for his help in moving things forward.
- St Thomas School Foundation Governors. The school is now part of Crompton House Multi Academy Trust and so fewer governors are needed.
- Training for Sunday School leaders. A date has been offered from Laura and Rick.
- Easter Experience 2025? Meeting about this was held at St Paul's and was well attended. Because of time constraints, it was felt it would be better to plan for a possible Easter Experience'26. Planning would need to start before Christmas .Therefore ,no Christmas Experience in Dec.'25.
- This Time Tomorrow. Hasn't yet happened.
- Post Box. Arrived today and needs bolting up.
- Parish Fees. Have increased and are displayed in church.
- Risk Assessment. Janet to source 2 “Wet Floor” signs ,which will be kept in locked cleaning cupboard in church.

- Door to Tower. Graham to check Gordon's keys to see if one is available, or if lock needs to be changed. Dmitrou could possibly be asked.
- Cable. Nick has bought another cable for use near pulpit.

4. Correspondence.

Re Organ. Nick received a request from Jonathan and Tom Scott to visit the church and play a borrowed organ. The music will then be put on U Tube. They are currently visiting many local churches to Failsworth where they live and doing this. They are also interested in helping us with possible renovation of our organ with David Wood, organ builder from Huddersfield.

5. Vicar's Update.

Discussion and review of Young People leading Confession and Creed on a Sunday morning.

It was useful to have a broad based discussion about this. Some comments- Helen and Godswill are happy to be involved in Confession and Creed and are growing in confidence and feeling more a part of the Church community. Other children are involved in other ways. Some are not involved but hopefully will be.

Discussion on appropriateness of using the term “leading” for what the young people do.

A reminder that the community consists of all ages. We all want the children to mature in their Christian faith and in increased involvement in the church.

Proposal..

For either Helen or Godswill to be involved in Creed and Confession on 4th Sunday.

To look more imaginatively at how our young people can be involved within the structure e.g choosing a hymn and giving a reason for their choice if they wish, reading a poem or a favourite piece of Scripture.

Possibility of a conversation with Laura Tebay about all of this.

To be reviewed within a year.

Review of Suspension of Sunday School.

To be looked at in another meeting.

6. Annual Report.

P.C.C . agreed to put Annual Report and Accounts before the A.P.C.M.
Proposed by Graham. Seconded by Nick. Passed unanimously.

Change of date of A.P.C.M.to Sunday 25th May.

7. Safeguarding Policy.

We need to review this and also ensure that our young people are never alone with only one adult in a room.

8. Carbon Footprint.

Will be an item at A.P.C.M.

9. Proposed work for Community Payback at St.Thomas' Church.

There would be 6 men with one leader. It was suggested that they could help with mowing grounds (bringing their own equipment) and edging. Discussion about how they could safely access toilets inside church. Not sure how this could work.

Discussion about whether they could come on Thursday mornings and Thursday afternoons when church is already in use. But it should not be the responsibility of those taking part in these activities to safely manage these men.

Graham and Nick to get back to Community Payback to raise our questions.

10. Use of Church for Social Events.

Julie Stones and Margaret (former bursar of St. Patrick's School) have requested if they could host social events at the church. The charges would be £75 for a session of 3 hours and a charge of £15 for each additional hour. A one off event (a tea party)is be held on 11th April and this will enable both parties to judge the viability of such social events in church. Julie and Margaret would provide their own supervisor who would be there throughout the event and a caretaker who would ensure that all rubbish was bagged and cleared from the premises immediately after the event. All catering would be external.
Some comments.

It wouldn't be possible if it meant a clash with one of our regular users. Not to be held during Jan. and Feb. because of heating issues.

We would need to set an upper limit on numbers.
We will keep the matter under review.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting had been a long one and Nick was having problems with power supply at the vicarage.

The continuation of this P.C.C. meeting was fixed for Thursday 1st May at 7pm via Zoom. We will follow agenda from item 11 onwards.

Zahra ended the meeting with the Grace.

