

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 6 November 2024 at 19.30

Held at Reafields, courtesy of Di and Chris Roberts

Present: The Rector, Di and Chris Roberts, Sue and Peter Warner, Ian Bailey, Eryl Copp, Jane MacFarlane, Mike Hames, Margaret Edgar, John Parsons

1. The meeting opened at 19.30 with a prayer.
2. Apologies: Eryl Copp, Sue Bailey
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record, proposed by Ian and seconded by Chris.

It was decided, after some discussion, that the PCC would stick by its decision, made at the last meeting, that minutes will be published on the website [with any confidential elements removed] after they have been signed off at the following meeting.

5. Matters arising

John reported that, after some investigation, he has ascertained that we would achieve a Silver Eco Church award if we set about encouraging members of the church, and wider community, to make suitable lifestyle changes in various relevant areas.

He recommended that a short talk in a service be made regarding the project, bringing attention to some simple steps people can make to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle. He also proposed that a series of posters or short articles be published in the Newsletter, and displayed on the church noticeboard. This could reach a good number of people, and hopefully encourage friends in church and village to make changes. He said he would produce a draft poster for the Newsletter and church noticeboard, and would send it to the PCC for comment.

6. Reports:

6a Church Wardens Ian was thanked for his hard work with the new distribution board

6b Treasurer Chris was congratulated on his successful bid for a Lottery grant of £30,000 for the new WC. Tenders will be going out very soon.

6c Churchyard Tony was thanked for his work, as ever. Mike will liaise with him about the upkeep of monuments in the churchyard, and the possibility of obtaining financial help with this.

Mike mentioned Tony's recommendation that the SE path towards the Village Hall be levelled, and made more accessible. All were agreed that this work should go ahead.

6d Deanery Synod Nothing to report

6e Fabric The chancel cross is now reinstated. Ian is awaiting a report on the condition of the middle cross. He is also still trying to obtain a roofer [so far without success] to replace roof tiles.

The fire risk assessment was duly signed by each member.

6f O&E It was noted that we do not have an accordionist for the Burns Night on 25th January. John said he would do some research to see if he can find someone.

6g Worship Committee Peter said that we should have a year-end review of Church4All, and suggested a meeting towards the end of the year.

Mike appealed on behalf of Julia for help with the Stir Up Sunday event.

7. Lent

Mike suggested we support We Are Farming Minds again, and all were in favour.

With regard to a speaker, Di suggested that we ask someone for whom their journey in the Christian faith started later on in their lives. John believes the Dean falls into this category, and suggested asking her. Robert will approach her.

8. A short discussion took place regarding the glebe land.

9. Church chest

Mike has made an application for a grant from 'Church Care' for the restoration. He is grateful to Ian, Chris and Sue Bailey for their help. All were in favour of Mike pursuing this worthy cause.

10. Benefice planning meeting

This will be held on 3/12/24, 7pm at Reafields. A number of other people will be asked if they would like attend, and an open invitation will be made in church notices.

A further Benefice meeting is planned for Saturday 11th January, 10.30 – 1pm, at Cradley Village Hall.

11. Health and Safety. There were no entries in the book

12. Safeguarding. There were no issues.

13. AOB

Mike talked about the formation of a Herefordshire branch of 'Save the Parish', for which there will be an opening event in the new year. He appealed for people to assist with this, and attend the event.

John reported, from Eryl and Katharine Parsons, that the school would like to run a competition amongst the children for the best design to go on the church flier which publicises Christmas services and events. The deadline for printing this will be the last week of November, so that it can be included in the December Newsletter.

All were agreed that the church should run a stall at the Christmas Fair.

The second Sunday of Advent was earmarked for the blessing of cribs. The congregation will be invited to bring cribs for a blessing, and to display them in the church if they wish.

14. The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Wednesday 22nd January, 7.30, at Russet House.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21.50

Signed.....

Date.....