

St James the Great, Cradley

Minutes of PCC meeting – 22nd January 2025 at 15.30

Held at Russet House, courtesy of John Parsons

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

1. The meeting began with a prayer at 15.35
 2. Apologies for absence: Jane MacFarlane, Eryl Copp
 3. Declarations of interest: Robert and John, re glebe land planning application
 4. The minutes were approved and all were agreed that it can be published on the website
 5. There were no matters arising
 6. Church chest. See report. Mike spoke about the recent report by Tim Phelps regarding possible work on the chest. It was noted that Tim recommended that people should be discouraged from sitting on it, and that it should be covered [against dust] during work on the WC.
 7. Rectory Lane. Mike updated the meeting on the remaining work on Rectory Lane. See report.
 8. 'Save the Parish' – see report. Mike updated us, and noted that a further meeting is to be held on 19/2/25 at Kingsland, in preparation for the formation of a new Herefordshire branch.
 9. Glebe land planning application. Members of the PCC were encouraged to comment to the application individually should they wish to do so. A discussion ensued as to whether the PCC should also make a response, and it was decided that it should. Much discussion ensued about the ambiguities and omissions of the application and its reports, and also regarding the potential degradation of this piece of habitat in the middle of the village. All were agreed that the existing car park should be retained for church and village hall use. Chris will draft a response for comment by PCC members, before he submits it.
- 10.a Fabric. Chris proposed, and Mike seconded, that the quote for the WC from I. J. Preece is accepted, and this was unanimously approved. Ian outlined some minor electrical work that needs to be undertaken soon. Sue Warner thanked Ian for all his continued work, especially recently with the electrics.
- 10.b Church Warden. See report. Ian added that the recent ringing of the 'extended quarter' to celebrate 300 years since the installation of our bells was a notable event which should be recorded.
- 10.c Treasurer. See reports. One or two minor questions were raised which Chris answered.

10.d Churchyard. See report. Tony was thanked for his work in the churchyard, as ever.

10.e Worship Committee. Some updates were shared regarding plans for Lent:

It was noted that there will be four lent lunches.

Jane MacFarlane will be running a recommended Lent Course comprising discussions based on the film *Chocolat*, in the village hall on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, starting on Ash Wednesday, and continuing through Lent. Thanks to Jane were expressed for her work towards this.

Ian pointed out that 30th March is a 5th Sunday, and therefore a benefice service. It was decided that the first Sunday in April will therefore be a parish communion.

Church 4 All. Peter proposed leaving a feed-back sheet on the pews for a month, and responses collated for future discussion.

Audio-visual facilities: Peter has contacted the diocese which has said that they may be able to support us through the Mustard Seed Fund.

10.f Outreach and Events Ian reported that Burns Night was a great success. Margaret has the St David's Day concert in hand, and John also with the organ concert by Owen Chan on 4th May.

11. Clerical Vacancy The archdeacon is proposing a meeting with representatives of the three PCCs of the benefice, on 25th or 26th Feb. Peter suggested the village hall as a suitable venue. Robert will contact Mathon and Storridge PCCs to see if either date suits them.

Jane MacFarlane's position as Local Lay Minister received reassuring and encouraging comments, and it is felt that we are fortunate to have her here at this time. It was noted that she will be answerable to the Rural Dean, Rev Preb Chris Moore, during the clerical vacancy.

12. Annual report Sue Warner will write the report for the year ending December 2024 using last year's as a basis. Representatives from the various sub committees agreed to contribute to this report. The APCM will be held on Sunday 13th April after the service, at about 11.45.

13. Cradley planning meeting This will be held on 3rd March at 7pm at the home of Peter and Sue Warner. We will discuss opportunities for the future, and the parish profile, ahead of the appointment of a new Rector.

14. Health and Safety There was nothing reported in the book.

15. Safeguarding Karen Wright's DBS reg is 001903525300 [18/11/24]

16. AOB Peter would like the next Church 4 All meeting to take place on Wed 19th Feb at 11.00 in church.

17. Next meetings:

Church 4 All: 19/2/25, 11.00, in church

Planning meeting: 3/3/25, 7pm, at Peter and Sue Warner's

Business meeting: 25/3/25, 7.30, at Chris and Di Roberts'

APCM: 13/4/25, after morning service [c.11.45], in church

Signed.....

Date.....

