

St. Leonard's Parish Church  
Clent, Worcs.

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies

The register for the preceding meeting was accepted subject to the addition of ALM Rose Padmore and Paul Timmins, who had returned to church, bringing Anne Harris' apologies.

2. Minutes of 2022 Meeting

Copies having been circulated were accepted by the meeting.

3. Elections.

To the PCC:

The names of Celia Nancarrow, Sarah Eagle and Susan Dennis having been put to the meeting, they were duly elected to the PCC: their term-of-office being three (3) years.

To the Deanery Synod [Greater Dudley Deanery]:

Harry Grove wished to be re-elected. There being no further volunteer, he was confirmed in position, the term-of-office being three (3) years. There remained one unfilled place to represent St. Leonard.

4. Confirmation of Ex-Officio Members.

Martin Whittaker was so confirmed [Bell Ringers].

5. Update to Roll of Sidespersons.

The current roll would be\_

Sarah Eagle, Steve Eagle, Susan Dennis, Diana Davies,  
Jill Mucklow, Janet Steele.

with any / all volunteers on any Sunday most welcome to swell the ranks and give a warm and profound greeting to all who enter.

6. Appointment of Independent Auditor to the Church Accounts.

Jon Prior reported that Mark Taylor was prepared to continue in this roll and the meeting was most pleased to accept his offer and confirm him in this position.

7. Electoral Roll.

Neill Robb confirmed that the number on roll was 58.

8. PCC Report.

This was given by Harry Grove. *Copy on file.*

9. Submission and Adoption of the Treasurer's Financial Reports.

Jon Prior presented his eleven (11) page report and gave a more detailed of the four (4) pages which were circulated to the meeting.

Page 4: In/Out\_ Income had risen from £47,000 to £54,000: the value of our investments had fallen by some £69,000 (£510,000 to £470,000) though they had recovered subsequently.

Page 8: 'Giving' had fallen by some 8% though this was rising again: income from Fees had increased, though this was never predictable: we were most fortunate to have the backing of the Church Lands charity which could meet many of our larger bills: we had received some £2,000 from the Sponsored Walk to Santiago di Compostella undertaken by Kim and Rosie.

The £14,000 return income from our investments equated to 3½ % - good in the current circumstances.

Page 9: Expenditure\_ the fact that the boiler had broken-down had resulted in lower heating costs this winter(!) though this had been off-set by a new pump and a radiator repair: with our "Parish Share" we were resolved to 'break-even', the Benefice had actually been asked to pay less under the present calculations, we were targeting paying our previous figure of £22,000 which should be achievable.

JP expressed his grateful thanks for Mark Taylor's auditing of the accounts.

Inviting questions, Bonnie Harvey asked if the PCC were considering the use of a Card Reader to be used alongside the Collection Plate to receive offerings: this had been found convenient at other churches and had resulted in a rise in income.

Yes; the PCC are reviewing the costs associated with these devices and would consider this at their next meeting.

It was proposed LMc, seconded RP that these accounts be accepted; carried unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to JP for his work throughout the year.

#### 10.Fabric Report.

Since we were awaiting an overdue Quinquennial Report speaking to this matter would be delayed.

#### 11.Deanery Synod Report.

This was given by HG. *Copy on file.*

#### 12.Other Reports.

Bell Ringers\_MW. *Copy on file.*

Flower Arranging\_LMc. This was read to the meeting. *Copy on file.*

Pending\_ Music, Internet. These would appear on the church website. *Copies to be placed on file.*

Safeguarding\_ a report had been submitted by Natalie Baker (Safeguarding Officer). *Copy on file.*

Rector\_ RN having been officiating elsewhere that morning he had not been able to give his address in place of his Sermon so he read it to the meeting. *Copy on file.*

#### 13.Any Other Business.

i) KT spoke of the church gaining the Bronze 'Eco-Award' and how prepared we are to advance to the Silver grade.

ii) HG mentioned how profound the 'Away Day' at Holland House had been and, thanking RN and KT for the work they had put into its preparation, exhorted more to consider attending when next this was organised. He was able to provide transport if required.

#### 14.Wardens' Vote of Thanks.

Thanks were expressed to Rosemarie Buchan for her years of service to the church and its congregation; to Revs. Richard and Kim for their attendance to their duties; to Neill Robb for his hours of preparation and securing-away after services; to Janet Steele for being our "Head" welcomer; and to all who give of their time and labour to enable this to be a functioning church and not just a building located in Clent.

#### 15.Date of Next AGM.

The 2024 AGM would be held following Worship 4 All on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024.

#### 16.Date of next PCC Meeting.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, 7:30pm, at 'The French Hen'.

These meetings concluded at 13:03 with the saying of The Grace.