

**MINUTES OF PCC MEETING ST JAMES CHURCH
BULKINGTON
Tuesday 21 November 2023**

Present:

Rev Charles Higgins (CH), Rev Rob Griffiths (RG), Rachel Cooper (RC), John May (JM), Sue Turner (ST), Rachel Partridge (RP), Graham Nuttall (GN), Anita Anthony (AA), Christine Evans (CE), Vicki Buckley (VB)

1. Opening prayers

2. Apologies

None

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Minutes of meeting held on 19.09.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 19.09.23 were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair. (Prop. CE; Sec. ST)

5. Matters arising

(a) Bell Restoration update

The bells are expected to be returned to the church on 27.11.23. The 2 new bells will be blessed at the communion service on 29.11.23. On 04.01.24 the Bishop of Loughborough will dedicate all the bells after which time they can be rung again.

The bells will be available for people to see in church on 28.11.23 before rehangng work commences.

PCC discussed possibility of seeking media coverage of the whole event.

(b) Quinquennial Inspection

GN has received a list of approved inspectors. He is making enquiries to find out regarding location and likely cost before making a recommendation to PCC.

(b) All Souls Service and (d) Christmas Services

Covered in Vicar's Report

6. Vicar's report

CH began by thanking everyone for their support during his absence on paternity leave. He commented on the success of the Harvest and Remembrance Day services. He asked for his thanks to be passed on to the WI for hard work on Remembrance Day.

The church had been represented at the "Lights switch on" in the village – distributing cards with details of Christmas services/events on. CH urged everyone to distribute the Christmas Service cards to as many people in and around the village as possible.

The All Souls Service on 19.11.23 had been well attended – thanks to RP, May Davis and others for preparing and serving refreshments after the service (refreshments kindly funded by Hacketts).

CH informed PCC that local groups and the schools would be holding Christmas services in the church.

Christmas stars will be available for people in time for the arrival of the Christmas tree in church.

7. Financial update

GN had produced a comprehensive report, which is appended to these minutes.

PCC noted that final part of this year's Parish Share is being paid – this is the earliest date on which this has been achieved for some years – PCC thanked GN for his work. It was noted that the Parish Share would increase for 2024 as detailed in the report.

GN informed PCC that money from the 100 Club would be paid into the Development Fund this year, as it will not be needed as part of parish share as in previous years.

GN shared a link in respect of a new noticeboard for the church. Members asked to consider with a view to discussing

at next meeting. GN said that this would be a good example of an item that could be purchased with money from fundraising ventures now separately accounted for.

8. Safeguarding update

Nothing to report.

9. New Years Eve/ Epiphany

RC added this item to agenda. New Years Eve falls on a Sunday this year – CH confirmed that there would be at least one service on that date.

RC asked about the possibility of adopting the “Epiphany Chalk” blessing and distribution. PCC discussed the issue and was happy to support introducing this.

10. PCC meetings 2024

16 January

19 March

12 May (APCM)

21 May

16 July

17 September

19 November

11. Closing Prayer

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 7.45 p.m.