

Otley Parish Church.

Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025

Barry Milner opened the meeting with prayer

Present: Allan Boddy, Barry Milner, Glynis Milner, Tom Raper, Norman Barr, Rosemary Ellen, John Simkins, Reverend Aaron Kennedy, Jackie Hird, Martin Hird, Maggie Lolashvili

Present on line: Tony Pike

Resigned from PCC:

Reverend Stewart Hartley formally resigned from PCC on 28th April. The PCC expressed their thanks for Stewart's wise counsel at our meetings.

In Attendance: Jenny Liston (up to item 3)

1. **Apologies:** Eric Cairns, Maggie Lolashvili, Ken Dale
2. **Declaration of interests:** None
3. **Safeguarding:**
 - 3.1 Discussions with 'Restored' are ongoing.
 - 3.2 Jenny has circulated safeguarding questionnaires which have been well received,
 - 3.3 Other safeguarding issues – DBS checks-most volunteers are on the register but need to 'activate' their account each year which is causing issues when Jenny needs to check status.

There were some safeguarding issues raised by the recent Prayer Vigil, but Aaron completed a comprehensive Risk Assessment which addressed these.
4. **Minutes of March 24th meeting** – Approval proposed by Norman Barr, seconded by Aaron Kennedy, passed unanimously.
5. **Matters arising**
 - 5.1 Ken Dale and Des O'Hara are working on further ideas for a new church logo.
6. **Events**
 - 6.1 Holy Week / Easter services:

Maundy Thursday service was poorly attended, consider something different for next year.

The services around the Chevin Cross on Good Friday were excellent and well attended, around 100 people.

Messy Church was a great success, catering for 60 children and their carers. Thanks go to Katie Mayers and all her volunteers.

The choir-led service on Good Friday evening was well attended. Whilst that style of worship is not appreciated by everyone, we can all appreciate the hard work and rehearsal needed.

Easter Sunday service was a joyous celebration of the Resurrection.

6.2 There has been criticism of the timing of the regular Sunday services and Aaron put forward a list of suggestions to improve this:

- Set up completed by 10.10am
- Pre-service prayers for leaders/servers at 10.10am
- Gathering song to start promptly and end at 10.30am
- Hymns limited to 4 verses
- Bible readers not waiting to be called, but be waiting to the side
- Sermon to be 15-20 minutes
- Intercessions 3-5 minutes
- Extra assistant to serve those in seats at beginning of communion
- Requests for announcements for family matters to be made with 24 hours notice
- Announcements in family matters to be kept to 1 minute, total not to exceed 3-5 minutes
- Sunday Club leaders to choose 1 child from each of the Key Stages to feedback

Some PCC members expressed regret that such criticism had been received, and it was felt that intercessions needed a few minutes more.

6.3 Prayer Vigil – there had been issues with booking a space if someone had already reserved it. To be reviewed for ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ vigil

7. Finance

- 7.1. Total income from January to April for general use was £55,647, compared to spending of £65,541, a large deficit of nearly £10,000 but less than expected in the budget. See Tony’s report for full details.
- 7.2 Annual accounts will be presented to the Annual Meeting on 18th May.
- 7.3 The unrestricted funds which the PCC has set aside for designated purposes are in need of review. We have the Covid fund which has been used to purchase bus passes for Open House; the Gill fund which was designated for outreach; the Hindle fund which was designated for non-recurring expenditure. Tony suggested that the designations for these funds should be removed – proposed by John Simkin, seconded by Martin Hird, passed unanimously.
- 7.4 Tony reported that there is a fundraising directory available from the Diocese which could be consulted for suitable grants for youth work and the roof work.

8. Properties

8.1 Carbon Net Zero

8.1.1 The meeting with Irving Patrick Consulting had gone well with encouraging feedback.

8.1.2 Church heating control system – still to be decided.

Repair to Clerestory windows to be discussed with the church architect.

8.1.3. No movement at this time on Heritage aspects.

8.1.4 An overall long term plan for the use of all OPC buildings is required.

8.2 Report on the condition of the willow tree has been received.

8.3 Development of the vestries to be included in the overall project.

8.4 Security of the church during the school holidays is a concern. The use of stewards is not thought to be feasible. As we have had no recent incidents, we carry on opening the church in faith.

8.5 Tom has supplied the Fabric Report for the APCM.

9. Youth and Children's Ministry

9.1 Year 6 intervention – awaiting response from Heads of All Saints and Westgate.

9.2 Foundation Governor required for All Saints school when Allan retires.

10. Reports and correspondence received:

10.1 Barry was authorised to lodge comments on the retrospective planning request from the owners of the old scrap yard next to the Chestnuts for permission to demolish the buildings they have already demolished!

11, Community / Churches Together in Otley

11.1 Preparations for 'Thy Kingdom Come' special prayer time are progressing, full details to be announced. These include a Prayer Vigil in the vestry from Ascension Day to Pentecost, again using the 24/7 system.

11.2 Churches Together business meeting on Thursday.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Local to Global – Trish Merrick is to write an article for 'In Touch' about the charities we support. The Mayers will provide details about Kisiizi Hospital.

12.2 Change to format of one monthly service – still under consideration.

12.3 Tony's period of service on PCC will expire at the APCM. We pray that he reapplies!

13 Prayers at next meeting: John

14 Date of next meeting: June 23rd 2025

Barry closed the meeting with prayer.