

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT
3.15pm ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE RECTORY**

PRESENT: Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Mike Noakes (**MN**) (Warden), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden), Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jane Moggridge (**JM**) (Secretary), Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer), Russell James (**RJ**)

1. WELCOME

MM welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: There were no apologies

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the AGM and the Church Committee meeting held on 20th November 2024 were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Gartside Solicitors & Sandra Ireson Will

JF reported that the distribution of the monies from the estate of Sandra Ireson should be received during the first quarter of 2025. The Grosmont share will be paid to the Group Account which is overseen by Louise Minford. The total amount is not yet known but it was thought that there should be discussion with the other parishes as to the division of the money.

JF also reiterated that when the business was completed that there would be a get together with the other beneficiaries to acknowledge and respect Sandy's memory.

Action: JF/MM

(b) Ministry Area Update

KF reported that there had been no main meeting of the **MA** since our last meeting on 20th November 2024.

There had however been an emergency Zoom meeting about the Law Commission consultation paper relating to burial and cremation law in England and Wales, the main concern being whether the church in Wales should be able to transfer the responsibility for maintaining its churchyards and burial grounds to the Community Council or the County Council in the same way as in England. Since the Church in Wales has almost identical legal responsibilities and duties for burial grounds as the Church of England, it seems only reasonable that the Church in Wales should have similar rights.

The meeting almost unanimously agreed to the proposal and a letter had been sent to Alex Glanville. **KF** reported that she had not yet heard about the response to the letter or the Law Commission's consultation outcome.

The next full meeting of the MA would be on 18th March 2025.

Action: KF

(c) Organ

The total raised so far from several generous individual donations, two concerts, a grant from the Welsh Church Fund and Gift Tax reclaims stands at £15,081. David Wintle, who will carry out the work, will start after Easter. **JF** will consult with **MM** to ensure that she knows

the dates when the organ is out of commission and can plan accordingly. It was agreed that an article should be put in the next edition of the Link. **JF** to work with **RJ** on this.

Action: JF/RJ

Action: JF

(d) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that he had contacted Anthony Thomas by voice message. The outstanding issue is the parking for three cars in the Coach House garden. This is still under consideration and therefore there has been no further progress since our last meeting. **JF** to continue to monitor the situation.

Action: JF

(e) Church Committee Members

JM asked that consideration be given to involving residents of Grosmont, not necessarily regular worshippers, in the running of the church. She pointed out that the numbers on the Church Committee were low and that many members of the congregation were unable to take on physical tasks. She emphasised the need for more help. She had put this idea forward to **MM** who said that she had no objections. It was agreed that this matter should be brought up at the next Vestry Meeting. There was a suggestion that a group called Friends of the Church might be formed, with a representative on the Church Committee.

Action: The Committee

5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD

- The guttering had been cleared of vegetation except for the North Chancel Roof. JM Jets would be returning during the week of 10th February to complete this.
- The broken nave heater has been repaired and is operational.
- Smart Water identification has been applied to guttering lead flashing.
- A new "A" frame has been purchased and the damaged one repaired to function as a backup.
- The bonfire pile has still to be removed. A controlled bonfire will be arranged for the spring to clear both areas.
- The Church Maintenance plan is ongoing.
- The question of the archery equipment was raised, and it was decided that some of this could be removed from the Nave South Transept to give more room for storage. It was thought possible that during the work on the Town Hall the church might be asked to store some items, and it was agreed we should like to help. At the same time, it was agreed to look at what was stored on the roof in the Nave North Transept.

Action: MN/JF/RJ

6. SOUND SYSTEM

The Sound System was working better, and the faulty headphone had been replaced, however the Loop System was still faulty. It was agreed to turn it on again to see if the new settings had brought any change. The question was asked as to whether the system needed to be on all the time, but no one knew the answer. Further information would be sought.

There had still been no training for anyone using the system.

Action: KF

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (REPORT ATTACHED)

JF presented an analysis of cash receipts and payments for 2024 which has been submitted to the NMMA for verification by the Independent Examiner.

He reported that there had been "exceptional" receipts and payments this year alongside the routine items.

Under the routine church activities, it was reported that there had been a cancellation of two SO payments, but Gift Direct donations remain strong, and we have benefitted from Gift Aid tax refunds. Loose plate and other donations continue to come in and £664 had been raised for specific charities. The Parish Share continues to be a commitment with a 5% increase in 2025. Cash expenditure exceeded cash receipts by £2,518 in 2024.

The exceptional receipts and payments included the donations to the Organ Fund, a grant of £4,000 towards the cost of the East Window repair, costs for work on the lime trees and electrical work.

The budget for 2025 will include the cost of any major works. Once the Maintenance plan is completed this will become clear. The organ works will begin after Easter. **JF** reported that he had acquired a Tap and Go machine which will be installed in the Nave, and which should improve our donations. The monies from the Sandra Ireson estate should, as reported, be received in the first quarter of the year.

Action: JF

8. WARDEN'S REPORT (REPORT ATTACHED)

MW reported that everything was up to date ready for the take over in June when he would be standing down from the job of Churchwarden. He asked **JF** if he would let him have the Certificate of Insurance to put up in the porch.

Action: MN/JF

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

There was nothing to report. The Safeguarding Officer for the **MA** is Mary Heading. The Diocesan Provincial Safeguarding Officer is Colin Taylor.

11. MINISTRY MATTERS

1.Youth Work – Music Hall Youth would take place every 2nd Sunday of every month in Skenfrith Hall. It would be of one hour duration with children bringing own instruments and parents having time together over coffee.

MM reported that she was going into school once a month to take two assemblies and involvement in the choir.

2. Services – At present the pattern of services is:

Llanfair	9:15am – Morning Prayer (Every 2nd and 4th Sunday) 9:15am – Holy Eucharist (Every 1st and 3rd Sunday)
Skenfrith	9:15am – Family Service (1st Sunday) 9:15am – Holy Eucharist (Every 2nd and 4th Sunday) 9:15am – Morning Prayer (Every 3rd Sunday)
Grosmont	11:00am – Holy Eucharist (Every 1st, 3rd, 4th Sunday) 11:00am – Family Service (Every 2nd Sunday)
Llangattock	11:00am- Holy Eucharist (Every 4 th Sunday)

At Grosmont it is hoped to change the pattern to two Holy Eucharists and two non-Eucharist Services. This to give **MM** time to assist the Chaplain to the Deaf in Herefordshire when required and give her time for her own worship.

3. Online Zoom Service - **MM** has asked the **MA** that there be recognition of the online Zoom Services taking place. During the month two Morning Prayers and one Spiritual Communion take place over the three Sundays and on each Tuesday, there is a Morning Prayer. This is more than any other parish and means effectively that Mary has five parishes.

4. MM asked that Mary Heading should be put on the Zoom Service List.

5. The idea of introducing a Pilgrim Stamp for those visiting the church was raised. No decision was made.

Jill Bacon has offered the church a table tennis table. This was accepted with thanks.

12.AOB

- a) **JM** brought up the subject of publicity which was a bit random and asked that it could be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
- b) It was agreed that Certificates, candles, and baptismal presents to be sorted out for future services.

Action:MM/KF

- c) It was decided to look at significant dates i.e. baptisms, weddings, and funerals, so that these could be followed up with visits or some form of contact to acknowledge them.
- d) The question was asked whether the time had come to replace the chairs in the church was raised. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

13.CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 2.30pm at the Rectory.

At 4.35pm the meeting closed with the Grace.