



# Minutes

## Ministry Area Council

### 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 18.30-20.00 St Luke's Rhydyfelin

*These proceedings were recorded in full a copy of which can be made available for all members upon request.*

| Item                                   | Minutes                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Action |
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| 1. Introduction and Prayer             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
|                                        | Rachel opened and chaired the meeting & led in Prayer                                                                                                                                                                   |        |
| 2. Attendees and apologies for absence |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Attendees                              | Rev Charlotte, Rev Rachel, Trish Tazzini Lloyd, Elaine Rees, Keith Johns, Babs Minton, Ray Minton, Sheila Nurse, David Morgan, Helen Gulliford, Warwick Butler, Amber Baker, Neal Wood, Christine Godfrey, Ian Sandford |        |
| Apologies                              | Jeremy Heuslein, Karen Murphy, Andrew Sowerby                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| Absent                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Minutes of the last M.A.C.             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| Amendments                             | BM clarified two issues:<br>1. The position regarding the monetary value of the vicarage<br>2. What she meant regarding Saints days<br><br>RM item ii. Foodbank CIO it was a separate entity not a franchise            |        |
| 3. Proposer                            | Babs Minton                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| Second                                 | Rev Charlotte                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| 4. Matters arising from last MAC       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| i. M.A. Staff                          | CR has spoken to archdeacon re post. The advert is about to go out imminently. Timelines interviewing in December - at worst for Easter at best before Lent.                                                            |        |
| ii. Sale of St David's Church & Hall   | The church has been made redundant and needs to be emptied before the RB takes on responsibility. Fr                                                                                                                    |        |

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|                                       | <p>Michael is collecting the chairs 2 weeks on Monday &amp; will make a donation to the church for them. By the end of the month an open day will be arranged so people can come &amp; make donations for anything that they wish to take &amp; then by December it will revert to the RB relieving us of any responsibility.</p> <p>A valuation from Linnell's was made in October 2022 for the main church at £150,000; the land £15,000 &amp; the hall at £40,000, which is a combined total of 205,000. They also suggested a 10% discount if sold as a package so it would go on the market for 185,000. We have a list of interested parties and are hopeful for a quick sale.</p> <p>RM questioned what will happen to the graves. CR says the cemetery remains our responsibility &amp; is not part of the sale so we will have to ringfence some of the monies for their maintenance of the graves. Hoping that the buyers will work with us on this. RM also asked about the boundary walls &amp; CR agreed to check whose responsibility they are. ER said that when the same issue arose around the possible sale of St Gwynno's they were told that both were the responsibility of the church</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| <p>iii. The Vicarage on the Graig</p> | <p>CR spoke to James Laing who says that the RB doesn't have a policy re buying out part of the property so if we want to reclaim a percentage of the amount invested over the years, we would have to sell the vicarage. If we do that, we will have to withdraw our advert for a new vicar as they would have nowhere to live, so at the moment we are not in a position where we can recover those funds.</p> <p>BM said that there's no point a new vicar coming to a church that is not solvent. CR says it's not the church it's the MA &amp; that it's something we will need to talk about &amp; journey with next year. We are all in this together &amp; we will not let SJ go under as there is enough money in the MA, that we can all manage over the next few years until we start growing and are more financially solvent as an MA.</p> <p>CR confirmed that they recognise the 62% ownership and NW suggested that we then need to declare that interest in our accounts.</p> <p>BM requested a copy of the email so that they can reply to the charity commission.</p> <p>CR suggested that she should be the point of contact for the charity commission. BM clarified why they as trustees of St Johns they needed to clarify the situation. CR said that as trustees of the MAC she &amp; RM as treasurer needs to sign off on that as well. So going forward we can't really think about it as being St Johns.</p> |  |

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|                  | <p>BM pointed out that the SJ Trustee document has been taken from the safe &amp; no one is claiming to know where it is. CR agreed that was a worry.</p> <p>BM said that there remains a conversation to be had with the charity commission. CR asked to be kept in the loop as it could potentially affect the house that RC is living in BM pointed out that SJ themselves paid for the work done of the new kitchen and bathroom, or the fencing when Jude was there &amp; no one from the MA or other churches has paid towards any work, they will only pay for stuff if they own it, she says that SJ pay for stuff because they have a vested interest.</p> <p>This was apparently not the case with Maesycoed vicarage (IS) but BM said that when it was sold you didn't get the money either. RC responded that the principle is that SJ vicarage belongs to the MA now not SJ. BM agreed she understood that but that she still needs to respond to the charity commission who are asking for transparency &amp; CR agreed we should give it to them. We need to find the documents &amp; NW said that the RB should have those according to the land registry. CR says that we will continue with this each month until we get what we need and that we will demonstrate transparency.</p>                                                                                                                                 |       |
| 5.Finance report | <p>RM provided everyone with a copy of the finance report. St David's day to day fund is in deficit still as is Connect, which means that can't contribute to the Children's worker fund or the insurance which SC are paying in full now. That debt is likely to increase. Each Church Committee has been sent their own individual. This is just the central fund otherwise there'd be too much paper. Having lost foodbank our MA balance has nearly halved. From 400K to 200K. All the accounts that the old SC had are now closed &amp; reconciled so all the money is now in the central fund in one bank account, under one name apart from the RB CIW 9545 common investment fund the which are still in the SC account. RM is in discussion with them as the dividends will come into the new account now, only about £45 per quarter. If we need to sell these shares they will come to the MA. Moving onto next year, no budget has been set yet as we are awaiting news from Llandaff as to what our expected quota will be based on 3 priests but that won't come in until the following year £10,000 per clergy (30K) then based on attendance figures for 2019 &amp; this year. So unlikely to have a figure until next year. CR understanding is that they will take a snapshot of the figures from Feb 2019 &amp; Feb 2023. CR has calculated that our attendance figures have decreased by 39% for the MA, which</p> | RC/CR |

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|                                          | <p>should result in an immediate reduction in our fairer share Can RM presume that CR has the figures for that month for individual churches? Yes, as collated for the Archdeacon unless they ask us to verify again. RM suggested that we would need to work out the attendance for each church again rather than just divide by 7 or 6 which we be fairer per church. Finally, Ray asked that all expenses &amp; credits are submitted by the first week of January so that he can reconcile the accounts. Agreed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| <p>6.Matters for discussion/decision</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>New MA Logo.</b> We discussed that the new logo was to be more representative of who we are now. We asked for a designer to come with some designs based on the following criteria: we wanted a bridge; the colours black gold &amp; green. Multiple designs CR asked if anyone has a preference &amp; several suggestions were made before CR shared their preference &amp; their reasons why - the bridge which represents the bridge between the kingdom of God &amp; the kingdom of the world. We've changed the T in Pontypridd to be a cross because Christ is at the centre of everything in our town. From that we have our invitation Come &amp; see. Not representative of any "one" building. CR &amp; RC explained how each design could be adapted in various ways and colours for each season. MAC members contributed to the discussion pointing out various pros &amp; cons of some of the designs &amp; made several useful suggestions and concerns regarding cost of printing, the designs, the wording &amp; the colours, the building and the "Come &amp; See". CR &amp; RC responded to these and moved towards some of the changes and compromises they could make.</li> <li>ii. <b>Church Suite:</b> No longer fit for purpose without buying more modules costing significantly more. CR asked MAC if they would be happy for us to suspend the contract for Church Suite until we are in a better position financially to get the best from it. All agreed DD must be cancelled</li> <li>iii. <b>Adoption of Dignity Charter:</b> CIW has written this which we are part of &amp; would like to formally adopt. MAC agreed. CR also asked if the MAC would be happy for her to make standing orders for MAC and for the AVM – that we will always speak to one another with dignity and respect. Agreed.</li> </ul> |  |

- iv. **Appointment of new Lay Chair:** Ann has resigned & CR would like to formally express how grateful we are for doing such a brilliant job over the last 2 and a half years. After a recent hospital admission Ann decided that her failing health meant that she felt it was time to step down. CR has spoken to the bishop, there are no elections needed as it is the bishop's gift. Ann & I have been speaking to Esther Sowerby over the past year who has expressed an interest in taking over from Ann when the time came. with Esther is a former schoolteacher, she was chair of the board of Governors at Trallwn primary school and very active in our churches. Cr has come to ask the MAC if we put her name forward to the bishop to appoint, would we be happy to support her in this role all agreed.
- v. **Fairer Share** St Mary's CR is sketchy on details. CR put in our appeal which went to the board of finance, and it was partly upheld. CR is not entirely sure how much that is, the biggest benefit is that St Mary's building has come under the governance of Citizen church and as a result the congregation has reduced. So that's the part that has been upheld, CR doesn't know from when it was implemented, or yet what the financial impact will be she is still waiting for James Laing to confirm details but the second she has more information she will let the MAC know. RM expressed concerns that we will not receive a refund. We await the outcome of the part upheld
- vi. **Questions relating to information updates:** CR asked if the info updates were found to be helpful & are we happy to continue? Any questions. RM queried how they think they can do the figures for fairer share in 2024 based on figures from 2023. Good that they recognise single bank account. RC mentioned the Archdeacon's visitation, when they were discussing churches giving and that we as a ministry area after Citizen and St Marks Gabalfa have the next best in terms of giving which when you consider other wealthy areas in the diocese like Penarth & the Archdeacon is holding us up as an example to other churches. RC encouraged us with feedback from the Archdeacon that we stand out against other MA & we have a clear vision. It was also

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|                       | <p>acknowledged the extent of the work Ray does his incredible contribution &amp; how valued he is. Discussions around the growth in congregations in some of our churches &amp; some of the new initiatives. RM commented on the date of the next visitation it should have read 2024 not 23 &amp; next year they would like to take more MAC members BM asked if Citizen is still being planted or is the attendance stable now &amp; outside in. CR &amp; RC report that there are about 75 in regular attendance mainly families not students that outreach begins next academic year. We were encouraged by growth which is ongoing.</p>                                                                                       |  |
| 7. Health & Safety    | Nothing to report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| 8. Safeguarding       | <p>CR met with Safeguarding. DBS checks are processed by a third party &amp; not CIW and they are inundated. CR explained the process &amp; Module A is the big one. CR will meet with safeguarding officers to go through checklists to identify who needs a DBS. We're in the system &amp; beyond reproach. BM asked how she manages with those who she has identified that need one but who weren't able to apply as no code yet received. CR said that she has triggered everyone that has been reported to her as a team member. The flowchart provided by Safeguarding identifies those that need a DBS. If you are with a child for more than an hour, 3 times a week you must have one. This was thought to be strange.</p> |  |
| 9. Any Other Business | none                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| 10. Next meeting      | <p>10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024</p> <p>Closed with Grace</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |