



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

**Present:** The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), five members of the Ministry Team and 36 parishioners.

*The Rector welcomed parishioners and opened the meeting with a verse from Psalm 126*

*"Those who sow in tears shall reap in songs of joy. Those who go out weeping. Bearing the seed will come back with shouts of joy bearing their sheaves with them".*

*He talked about the evidence of God at work through people and how the people work together for the good of all. He read the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 which describes the variety of gifts of the Spirit. We are the body of Christ and individual members of it.*

*He concluded in prayer.*

*The Rector opened the meetings at 7.10pm.*

### **Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Pam Altree, Edward Barnaby, Andrew and Allison Chalmers, Paul Cummings, Mike Donovan, Dene Eward, Jean Harrison, Judith and William Hazelton, Anne Hughes, Pat Milnes, Andrew Morris, Peter Reynolds and Rosie Winyard.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were accepted as correct.

**3. Churchwardens' Reports**

The churchwardens' report was accepted and no questions were asked.

The Rector thanked Bryan Jones and John Setchfield for all their work during the year. He thanked John for all his work in seeing the reordering of the church through - as the report stated – the project is finished. As John is standing down this year there will be a presentation to him in due course.

**4. Election of Churchwardens**

It was proposed by Derek Glover and seconded by Paul Eward to elect Bryan Jones as church warden.

It was proposed by Bryan Jones and seconded by Rachel Lewis to elect Mark Sanderson as church warden.

**There being no other nominations, Bryan and Mark were elected as Churchwardens until the next Annual Meeting**

*The meeting closed at 7.15pm.*

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

### **1. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Proposed: Nick Nelson    Seconded: Paul Cummings    Unanimous

**It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.**

### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Nick Nelson asked that a prominent space for prayer be available in the church for visitors.

### **3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

The report was accepted. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 there were a total of 132 members on the electoral roll, an increase of four since the last Annual Meeting held in May 2022. However, several names had been removed due to death or moving away and the actual number of new names was nearly 20, representing the significant growth in our congregations over the last year. A full revision of the Roll takes place in 2025. The Rector thanked Julian.

### **4. PCC Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report which outlined the work of the PCC over the year was accepted. The Rector thanked Rachel for her work as secretary. There were no questions.

### **5. PCC Treasurer's and Trustees Report**

The treasurer was pleased to report a healthy set of accounts. His report and accounts were accepted. The Rector thanked Roy for his work as treasurer.

Proposed: Bryan Jones    Seconded: Mark Sanderson    Unanimous

**It was resolved to accept the Report of the Trustee.**

### **6. Safeguarding and DBS Officer's Report**

The Safeguarding and DBS Officer's report was accepted and the Rector thanked Judith for her work in fulfilling this very demanding role.

The Diocese has a "dashboard" scheme for parishes to show their level of competence in safeguarding. St Mary's has reached the median level (well in advance of the Diocese's current expectation) and there are no areas needing to be addressed as a matter of urgency. One of the challenges we now face is that of the strict safer recruitment process for all volunteers.

All PCC members also need to undertake safeguarding training at a basic level while those with greater responsibility need to complete the next level of training (most have done this). DBS applications are no completed online but to date, this has not speeded up the process and the initial form filling still has to be undertaken by Sean or Judith.

### **7. Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery representatives were grateful to Paul Connell from Walford for sharing his report with St Mary's. The Rector thanked the Deanery Synod reps. Members had nothing to add.

**8. The Incumbent's Report**

The incumbent's report which included news from all three parishes of the benefice and details of the many the demands on the ministry team. The report was accepted.

**9. The Curate's Reflections**

Tiffany described her journey so far in Ross. Her report was accepted.

Mark expressed thanks to both Sean and Tiffany for all they do on behalf of all the Parish.

**10. Vision Portfolios**

**The Inspiring Faith** report was accepted and noted.

**Inspiring Hope** report was accepted and noted. Paul Cummings spoke to his report. It is important to find the right balance in putting the church at the heart of the community and the prayer needs of the church.

The Community Hub idea is continuing as an online source of advice. Some of the other initiatives in this area are not being taken up by more than one or maybe two people, e.g the Tuesday Job Club and Thursday Warm Space.

**The Inspiring Love** report was accepted and noted.

**Inspiring Faith in Schools** – this was covered under Brampton Abbotts Primary School and Open the Book in the general organisations reports. An additional aspect of this, covering older children is the concept of a **LifeLink Chaplain**.

A leaflet had been distributed describing a scheme whereby a LifeLink Chaplain might be appointed to work in the Ross Parishes and the Ross & Archenfield Deanery. The scheme would involve John Kyrle High School which is supportive of it and allow for a full-time chaplain (non-ordained) to work alongside students and their communities. 60% of the funding would come from the Diocese with a further 40% from parishes in the deanery including St Mary's. Caroline Pascoe and Mark Sanderson answered questions on the scheme.

**11. Election of four members to the Deanery Synod**

Proposed: Bryan Jones	Seconded: Paul Eward	Unanimous
<b>Gerald Altree</b>	<b>Rachel Lewis</b>	<b>and Mark Sanderson.</b>

**12. Election of twelve members to the Parochial Church Council**

Proposed: Bryan Jones	Seconded: Gerald Altree	Unanimous
<b>It was resolved to elect to the Parochial Church Council,</b>		
<b>Janet Cooper</b>	<b>Paul Eward</b>	<b>Anne Morris</b>
<b>Paul Cummings</b>	<b>Julian Hallett</b>	<b>Peter Reynolds</b>
<b>Philip Dazeley</b>	<b>Roy Milnes,</b>	<b>and</b>
<b>Mike Donovan</b>	<b>Melanie Mellor</b>	<b>Rosie Winyard.</b>

**13. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts**

Roy Milnes had ascertained that David Bennett was prepared to continue as Independent Examiner for the Accounts prior to the meeting.

Proposed: Roy Milnes                      Seconded: Paul Cummings                      Unanimous  
**It was resolved to appoint David Bennett as Independent Examiner for the Accounts.**

**14. Resolution to amend Church Representation Rule M8 (1) (c)**

There are new regular worshippers who have joined St Mary's but did not join the electoral roll until it was too late to be elected to the PCC. In order to allow such candidates to be eligible for election to the PCC in the future it was felt appropriate to amend the rule stating that PCC members must be on the Electoral Roll for at least six months.

Proposed: Rachel Lewis      Seconded: Bryan Jones  
 the meeting voted in favour with two abstentions and none against  
**It was resolved to amend rule M8 (1) (c)** which states "A person is qualified for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod or PCC if his or her name is on the roll of the parish and, unless he or she is aged under 18 at the date of the election, has been on the roll for at least the preceding six months", to **"A person is qualified for election as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod or PCC if his or her name is on the roll of the parish and, unless he or she is aged under 18 at the date of the election"**.

**15. Organisations' Reports**

The organisations' reports had been published prior to the meeting.

Sean commented on many. These included:  
 Altar Servers, Bell ringers, Bereavement Support Group, Bible-a-Month Club, Bible Study Groups, Brampton Abbots Primary School, Church Hall Committee, Church Welcome, Commercial and Industrial Chaplaincy, Community Food Larder, Flicks in the Sticks, Flower Rota, Hospitality, Hospital Chaplaincy, LEAF Youth Group, Messy Church, Mothers' Union, Music, Open the Book, Prayers for St Mary's, Ponder & Pray, Prayer Chain, Residential Communities, Sidespersons, Social & Fundraising Group, Sunday Kids, Toast and Tiddle, Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting.

Verbal reports were given on behalf of the Friends of St Mary's and Daily Morning Prayer Zoom.

**The Rector asked if there were any other comments**

Pauline Leggate asked if the APCM could revert to being held in the hall due to difficulty in hearing what was being said.

Philip Dazeley expressed his thanks for the welcome he had received when coming to St Mary's for the time following the closure of Christchurch.

*The Rector pronounced the Blessing and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.*