



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

held on **Wednesday 4th May 2022**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), two members of the Ministry Team and 20 parishioners.

The Rector welcomed parishioners. He spoke for a few minutes, remembering those who had recently died, particularly Terry Davies, Russ Mellor and Marilyn Darker. He talked about the many changes we have experienced over the last four years at St Mary's and the wider world and while constant change can make us very tired, we should embrace it, remembering that Jesus's ministry always involved changing something. We need a dynamic and strong church and Sean asked everyone to support our vision, quoting the hymn "Guide me O thou great redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land". He thanked Mark Sanderson for the new uplighters and for crafting the former riddle posts to make new display stand supports. He concluded in prayer.

The Rector opened the meetings at 7.15pm.

Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Freda Davies, Janet and Nick Nelson, Andrew and Allison Chalmers, Rosie Winyard, Sue and Bob Ryan, Tina and Peter Raddenbury. Elizabeth Walker, William and Judith Hazelton, Derek and Celia Glover, Caroline Pascoe, Tim and Pauline Waters, Pat Milnes, Ann Stirrup, Dene Eward, Peter Reynolds, Anne Morris and Pam Altree.

2. Churchwardens' Reports

The churchwardens' report was accepted and no questions were asked. The Rector thanked Bryan and John for all their work during the year.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Proposed: Sue Jones

Seconded: Bryan Jones

Unanimous

It was resolved to elect John Setchfield as church warden until the next annual meeting.

Proposed: Paul Eward

Seconded: John Setchfield

It was resolved to elect Bryan Jones as church warden until the next annual meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

16-5-23

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting**
Proposed: Paul Cummings
Seconded: Roy Milnes Unanimous
It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 12th May 2021 be accepted as an accurate record.
2. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
None
3. **Trustees Report**
The Report of the Trustees was accepted.
4. **The Incumbent's Report**
The incumbent's report was accepted. There were no questions for the Rector.
5. **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.
It was noted that the Action Plan, which is now ready, will be agreed by the PCC at its next meeting.
6. **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**
The report was accepted. As at 21st April 2022 there were a total of 128 members on the electoral roll, an increase of two since the last Annual Meeting held in May 2021. The Rector thanked Julian.
7. **PCC Secretary's Report**
The secretary's report was accepted. The Rector thanked Rachel for her work as secretary. There were no questions.
8. **PCC Treasurer's Report**
The treasurer's report and accounts were accepted.
Roy pointed out that the missing figure for 2020 at the top of page 8 is £53,067. There were no questions concerning any of the figures but a request for the accounts to be printed in a larger font was made.
The Rector emphasised that we are running a deficit and cannot go on like this. We must continue to state this fact as something must be done to increase our income. We cannot turn to the Diocese for help as it too is in severe financial difficulties. With its present rate of income and projected expenditure, it would be bankrupt in five years so therefore we need to be self-sufficient.
The treasurer added that after last year's appeal there was a small increase in giving, however, we are now looking at inflation. A donation 10 years ago would need to be increased by 25% to have the same benefit.
He added that the Parish Giving Scheme allows you to increase your gift with inflation each year should you wish and asked that we use this inflation linking facility.
The Rector thanked the ministry team for their work in carrying out weddings and funerals which brings the PCC fees (Item 2d in the accounts, totalling £9,775).
Paul Cummings stated that we have a reserves policy – to hold £70,000 as a minimum but while page 7 (unrestricted funds) is £127,000, we are spending more than we are getting in. We really need to balance our books.

Sean thanked Roy for his hard work. He commended him for pushing through the hard times including computer crashes. He also thanked the finance team.

9. 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.

10. Organisations' Reports including Inspiring Faith, Hope and Love Portfolios

The Inspiring Faith and Inspiring Hope reports were accepted and noted.

The Rector asked that everyone get behind Paul (Inspiring Hope), especially in the lead the church is taking for the town's jubilee celebrations.

The Inspiring Love report was accepted and noted. There was quite an ecological focus last year and the Arocha Silver Award achieved was remarkable.

A parishioner had asked a question concerning the running cost of heat pumps and felt the report was misleading. While heat pumps are currently very expensive to buy and install, with the price of gas likely to continue to rise and the cost of heat pumps likely to fall, he asked that the PCC reconsider changing the gas boiler to a heat pump every two or three years. This was noted.

A discussion about the need for heating the church took place. It was generally felt that it was important to keep the church warm as it is beginning to be used far more by the community who would not wish to meet in a very cold building, especially where babies and toddlers and the very old are meeting. It was suggested that if we can't afford a heat pump, we should ask the people using the church to contribute to the costs of installing one.

Inspiring Faith in Schools

An addendum concerning work in schools had been provided which included work at Ashfield Park and Walford in addition to Brampton Abbots School.

We continue to try get into John Kyrle High School but with little success. It is hoped that the new head teacher coming in September will offer new opportunities to engage with the school.

The Rector thanked Paul Mason.

The organisations' reports had been made available.

The Rector was delighted with the number of organisations and wide variety of opportunities people have to be involved in the life of the church.

He highlighted aspects from each report including the following:

- We are a Bereavement Friendly Church
- Cana Ministry (to wedding couples) is about making people welcome
- Christian Aid – there will be some activity this year after the difficulties of Covid-19 in 2021
- Commercial and Industrial Chaplaincy - The Rector emphasised Colin's plea to join him in this work.
- Flower arrangers – we were reminded of the Flower Festival in August
- The Rector offered his gratitude to the Friends
- Hospital – beginning to be seen as part of the caring staff of the hospital. Currently just three priests doing all the work – hopefully we can get lay people involved again.

- Messy Church and Youth Choir has recruited an enthusiastic group of children and their families who are becoming regular worshippers. The children are beginning to show enthusiasm for spirituality as well as messy activities. A huge thanks to Caroline who plans the sessions so carefully.
- Music – we owe Mark a great debt of gratitude for all the work into providing the music for our worship. Thanks too to Adrian and the choir.
- Special thanks to Terry Davies for his many years of leading the prayer chain. We look forward to this continuing with a new leader.
- The Ministry Team continue their work in the residential homes at Woodside, Ross Court and Bernard Hackett Court.
- Toast and Toddle has blossomed and is one of the successes of this church

Finally Alex Day spoke about Alpha (missing from the written report) where sessions have gone really well having moved from online back to in person. He thanked all those who have helped.

11. Election of twelve members to the Parochial Church Council

Proposed: John Setchfield

Seconded: Paul Eward

Unanimous

It was resolved to elect

**Janet Cooper,
Paul Cummings,
Paul Mason,
Roy Milnes,**

**Anne Morris,
Peter Reynolds,
and
Rosie Winyard**

to the Parochial Church Council.

12. Appointment of Sidespersons

A report was accepted which included the continuing changes of duties due to Covid-19. Pam and Terry Harding, Celia Glover, Margaret Gabb and Sylvia Greer have stepped down and were thanked for their service.

Proposed: Paul Cummings

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint

**Mr Gerald Altree
Mr Paul Cummings
Mrs Marian Francis
Mr Gerald Francis
Mr Julian Hallett
Mrs Jean Harrison
Mrs Judith Hazelton
Mr William Hazelton
Mrs Anne Hughes
Mr David Hughes
Mrs Susan Jenkins
Mr Peter Jenkins
Mrs Sue Jones
Mrs Judith Landau
Mr Peter Landau**

**Mrs Pat Milnes
Mr Roy Milnes
Mrs Janet Nelson
Mr Nick Nelson
Mrs Anne Remmington
Mrs Marilyn Reynolds
Mr Peter Reynolds
Mrs Susan Ryan
Mr Bob Ryan
Mrs Ann Stirrup
Mrs Gill Tipton
Mr Geoff Tipton
Mrs Elaine Weatherhead
Mr James Weatherhead**

as sidespersons.

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: Bryan Jones

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint David Bennett as Independent Examiner for the Accounts.

14. AOB

The Rector asked if anyone else wished to say anything before the meeting closed.

Margaret Mason thanked Sean and Tiffany, saying that we all appreciate what you do. A round of applause followed.

Colin Leggate asked what the future of our special prayers for Ukraine was to be. Suggestions of including the Archbishop's prayer for Ukraine or perhaps lighting a special candle at every public service were made. Further ideas will be welcomed.

After a blessing, the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Jones', written in a cursive style.

16-5-23