

B. MINUTES of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held at St Andrew's Church, on Monday, 24 April 2023.

The meeting was held at St. Andrew's Church. 45 church members attended. Papers relating to the meeting had been published on the Church Website, and paper copies made available to parishioners on request prior to the meeting.

The Rev'd. Ian Birkinshaw, Rector, was in the Chair and Peter Aspin attended as PCC Secretary.

1. Rector's Report:

The Rector began his Report by saying how his personal recollection of 2022 broadly fell into three chunks, "starting with a season of struggle, followed by a summer full of excitement, leading to an autumn of digging deep". He reminded us that we were still living in the shadow of Covid 19 with relaxed rules but more of us becoming sick! This meant planning and replanning of services and activities presented a real challenge as people were forced to isolate at the last minute. So, whilst some activities continued in a 'stop start' manner others, such as online Daily Prayer continued until November 2022.

He thanked all those who had contributed to the Reports being presented at this year's APCM. The Reports provide a comprehensive picture of life at All Saints and St. Andrew's over the past year, representing a huge amount of faithful mission and service in the name of Christ.

Ian reminded us that sadly, throughout the year, we faced the loss of some dear brothers and sisters in Christ; Chris Bell, Jean Radford, Audrey Cullwick, Ken Bradbury and Shirley Shearsmith. He said that all of them are remembered with deep affection by us all.

In concluding his annual Report, Ian stated that there was never enough space to include a full list of thanks to the people who have served us faithfully in official and unofficial roles. He said he hoped they know that the church is grateful to them, and grateful to God for them, especially those who have steered us through challenging times, or stepped in to rescue an impossible situation. He especially thanked those who pray for him as he continues to count it a privilege to serve as Rector here.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies of absence were received from fourteen parishioners.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 April 2022:

Andrew Coombes proposed and Chris Clarke seconded that these Minutes be accepted. This was agreed unanimously and signed as a true record by the Rector.

4. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll:

The Electoral Roll Officer, Alison Walters (Parish Administrator) presented changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual meeting. A copy of the Roll was made available for inspection at the meeting.

Alison reported that following this year's revision the Roll currently stands at 209, an increase of 9 on the previous year. The changes that have taken place include 20 new people joining the Roll, 6 leaving and 5 deaths.

6. Annual Report and Accounts 2022:

6.1 Presentation of Annual Audited Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022

Andrew Coombes, Parish Treasurer, presented the financial statements reviewing the past year and linking financial plans for the future. He began thanking all those who handle cash flow on a weekly basis. In particular, he expressed his thanks to Andrew Bevington, Assistant Treasurer, who in particular manages the staff payroll and Jackie Blanshard, who manages and banks money weekly.

The presentation was delivered using a number of slides covering three sections: a) 2022 Results; b) 2023 and Beyond; and c) Summary.

a) 2022 Results

Financially the Parish ended up with a small surplus of approx. £3,380 and also put £7,000 away into 2023. Crest View funding is now finished.

The Treasurer was keen to point out that as a result of all the Mission and activity outlined in the other APCM reports produced for this meeting, we should celebrate 2022, embrace 2023 but consider carefully how we are going to sustain this in 2024. Overall, we were in a good position. Specific Funds (Restricted) are in good order, Expenditure is currently under control, and Reserves in a good place. However, as reported last year, our key area for action remains the need to address how we sustain our current situation.

b) 2023 and beyond

Looking forward, the Treasurer suggested key themes that will present challenges to us:

- Our Regular Giving – remains steady, but will need to increase markedly over the next few years;
- Building income - from new groups and/or sources will help;
- Expenditure – when will costs stabilise? Inflation is still +10%, energy to fall ..., what will the real living wage be for 2024?
- Balancing support - from Reserves / long term financial security versus sustaining our mission to enable growth.

2023 Budget

The Treasurer displayed a chart showing the Income and Expenditure breakdown for the Parish. Once again, he emphasised that of the approx. £250,000/year income received, £150,000 comes from Regular Giving (plus Gift Day, Gift Aid) and that this is the foundation we need in order to sustain the mission and activity of the church. A further slide showed the sources of income that make up the 2023 Support and that we have sufficient funds to 'support' for two more years. Once again, he stated this emphasised the need to:

- continue to encourage new givers;
- consider all our Groups for contributions;
- seek alternative approaches to meeting our day to day expenditure.

c) Summary

- We are blessed with generous giving.
- We need do some 'special' things to grow our income to enable us to sustain our Mission.
- The effect of high inflation has resulted in a £20,000 gap in our finances.
- We need to maintain our fundraising for the Outreach project.

The Treasurer concluded his report by stating that we are in a good, overall position^[SEP] and can maintain our mission for a couple of years. However, the continuing theme remains: 'Carry on with Mission, capture some extra income, grow our giving and pray'.

The Rector offered his thanks once again to Andrew for his clear presentation of our financial situation. He expressed his grateful thanks to him and his team as they lead on the day by day management of our finances, and help us understand the needs and actions therein. Although questions were invited from the meeting, none were offered. The proposal was therefore made to accept the Finance Report as presented: Proposed by Judy Lindsey, Seconded Julia Stainforth and unanimously agreed.

6.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner: In recording our grateful thanks to the current Independent Examiner, Rachel Hillman, the Treasurer confirmed that she was willing to continue in this role. It was therefore proposed by Janet Stephen, Seconded John Farrall, that she be re-appointed. Agreed unanimously.

6.3 Annual Report & Accounts for the PCC including our mission activities for the year ended 31 December 2021: The Rector advised the meeting that the Annual Report & Accounts was presented and adopted by the PCC at its last meeting in March prior to the APCM.

The Independent Examiner, Rachel Hillman, signed the document on the 16 March 2023. As there were no further questions raised by the meeting, acceptance was proposed by Heather Wraight, seconded by Karen Fritz that the Report be accepted. This was unanimously agreed.

6.4 Supporting reports - PCC Working Groups Annual Governance Report and Deanery Synod Report: The Rector thanked the Chairs of the Working Groups for writing the reports and acknowledged all the work that goes on. Ian invited questions but none were raised. Acceptance of all the Reports was proposed by Jackie Aspin, seconded by Keith Blanshard. Agreed unanimously.

7. Report of Regular Church Activities in the Parish

The Report had been circulated in advance and contained information of many different groups and organisations that operate in the Parish. The Rector thanked everyone who contributed to the reports which presented a varied and vibrant picture of renewed and continued activity within the Parish. No further questions were raised. The proposal was therefore made to accept the Report as presented: Proposed by Andy Bevington, Seconded Chris Clarke, and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

8. Election Nominations:

8.1 Parochial Church Council elections: With an Electoral Roll total of 209, the Parish may elect up to 15 members this year.

A summary of changes taking place this year include:

Jonathan Leach standing down following a 6-year term. Peter Aspin standing down from Deanery Synod. Elizabeth Barker changing from elected lay member to Churchwarden at St. Andrew's Church.

There were no members eligible for re-election for a second 3-year term this year. This resulted in 6 continuing members, leaving up to 8 places vacant.

Four new nominations for PCC membership were received as follows:

- Mr Alan Adamson: Proposed by Juliet Wright, Seconded Sue Street
- Mr Peter Aspin: Proposed by Chris Clarke, Seconded Carey Simon
- Mrs Wendy Smith: Proposed by Janet Stephen, Seconded Heather Wraight
- Mrs Juliet Wright: Proposed by Alison Walters, Seconded Jackie Aspin

As the number of candidates (4) did not exceed the number of seats to be filled (8), all the candidates were duly declared elected.

The Rector thanked Jonathan Leach for his service to the PCC over the past six years, he also expressed his thanks for Jonathan's continuing work as Chair of the Building & Fabric Working Group.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business tabled before or at the meeting.

In closing, Keith Blanshard wished to have recorded a 'vote of thanks' for all our Clergy and Staff Team, especially for their leading and service to the church during this past year.

Thanks were duly offered by clapping!

The meeting was closed at 8.30 pm following a time prayer.

The Rev'd. Chris Park, Associate Minister
Chair