

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Andrew's Church, Sonning

Sunday 28th May 2023, following the 10.30am service

Welcome and opening prayers

Rev. Jamie Taylor welcomed those present (57 people were recorded as attending).
Jamie opened in prayer, particularly remembering those in the world persecuted for their faith.

Appointment of Secretary

Hilary Rennie was appointed Secretary for the meetings.

MEETING 1 – ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Jamie asked for any further nominations for Churchwarden (nomination forms having been made available in church in the preceding weeks and the election being properly advertised in accordance with Church Representation Rules). No further nominations were forthcoming other than the nominations received for Stuart Bowman and Liz Nelson. Jamie said that Stuart Bowman was unable to be present and had sent his apologies due to training for another cross-Channel swim.

A show of hands from those present was taken and those elected were as follows:

Stuart Bowman was elected as Churchwarden.

Proposed by: Bob Peters Seconded by: Alison Smyly Elected unanimously.

Liz Nelson was elected as Churchwarden.

Proposed by: Molly Woodley Seconded by: Ian Hutton-Penman Elected unanimously.

Church Representation Rules do not require Deputy Churchwardens to be voted in, but Jamie asked for a show of hands and Simon Darvall, Ruth Jeffery and Sue Peters were unanimously re-elected as Deputy Wardens.

Terry Hunt was also voted in on a show of hands as Deputy Warden in charge of Church Maintenance.

MEETING 2 – ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING

1. **Apologies** - Apologies were received from 17 people.

2. **Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 29 May 2022**

The minutes were amended to reflect the correct closing time of the 2022 meeting as 11.55am and were then approved by those present and signed by the Vicar as a true record.

Proposed by: Liz Nelson Seconded by: Sue Peters Approved unanimously.

3. **Matters arising from Minutes** - There were no matters arising.

4. Vicar's Report

Jamie referred the meeting to his Vicar's Report which had been circulated to all Electoral Roll members by email and copies of which were also available in church.

He thanked Bob Peters for his hard work editing the Parish Magazine and said how proud he was that the magazine had won another award for the eighth year in succession.

He thanked Alan Tinson for giving his time to maintain the Ark garden which always looks so well cared for. He also thanked Mike Judd, former manager of the University Farm, who was assisting Stuart Clarke with the churchyard upkeep.

Jean Tinson has been a server at the Wednesday 10am service for the last twenty years or more and has now retired. Jamie gave her a gift as a token of his appreciation for all her service.

Rachel Argent is standing down as Safeguarding Office after eight years of service to train as a teacher. Jamie thanked her for all her hard work with safeguarding and presented her with a gift by way of thanks.

Jamie then thanked the wardens, ministry team and Hilary in the office for keeping everything working well during his absence.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jerry Wood presented the Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2022. A copy of the Financial Statements had been sent to all Electoral Roll members with email addresses, had been placed on the website and they were also available in church. They have been approved by the Independent Examiner and will be filed with the Charities Commission following approval by the meeting.

He gave a brief summary of the accounts -

Pointing to the income and expenditure for operational activities in 2022 (middle of page 7), he noted a cash surplus of around £30k as opposed to just under £14k in 2021. However, in 2022 this included a very generous legacy of £25k. Without this, the underlying cash surplus would have been about £10k worse than 2021 but this is primarily a result of returning to full operations after Covid. A notable "in and out" in the year was the purchase of Bertie funded by more generous gifts.

At the year end, the cash on deposit in the bank increased to a very healthy £274k which, after the reserves that are currently set at £60k, gives over £200k which can be made available to support the ongoing mission and activities of the church. He stated that although we may seem a relatively well-off church and we are grateful to God for that, we are not immune to the inflationary pressures affecting everyone, especially on utilities, and things may not look quite so rosy this time next year

Not such good news was the poor performance of our investments in 2022 which lost nearly £34k wiping out most of the gains made in 2021. These are mainly held in ethical share portfolios managed for us via the diocese of Oxford. However, as this loss mainly affects the endowment funds and we can only use this money for narrowly specified purposes, the loss does not have a significant impact on our general activities, just on the bottom line in the accounts. (Page 5).

Finally, Jerry thanked everyone who makes regular financial contributions to the church. He invited questions on the accounts and there were none.

The accounts were then formally approved:

Proposed by: Jerry Wood

Seconded by: Liz Nelson

Approved unanimously.

6. Churchwardens' Report and Presentation of Terrier

The Churchwardens' report had been circulated to all those on the Electoral Roll via email and printed copies had been available in church. Liz thanked the many people who help in some form or other in the church – they are too many to list but she stated how much she appreciated all the help. She presented a gift to Caroline who in her response thanked everyone who had sent cards, texts, prayed for them all over what had not been an easy six months.

Liz then confirmed the Terrier was available in digital form for anyone who wanted to view it. She stated that it listed all assets of the church.

7. Safeguarding Report

There were no specific things to report, and the meeting was referred to Rachel's report in the APCM booklet.

8. Election of members to the PCC

Jerry Wood was co-opted onto the PCC to serve as Treasurer in December 2022 and his election required formalising at the APCM.

Following a show of hands, the result of the vote was as follows:

Proposed by: Liz Nelson Seconded by: Hilary Rennie Approved unanimously.

Terry Hunt was co-opted onto the PCC in October 2022 and his election required formalising at the APCM.

Following a show of hands, the result of the vote was as follows:

Proposed by: Thelma Hutton-Penman Seconded by: Molly Woodley Approved unanimously.

Kevin Wilson and Nicola Riley were nominated to stand as new members of the PCC.

Following a show of hands, the results of the votes were as follows:

Kevin Wilson was elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

Proposed by: Stuart Bowman Seconded by: Caroline Taylor Approved unanimously.

Nicola Riley was elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

Proposed by: Rachel Argent Seconded by: Chris West Approved unanimously.

PCC members retire by rotation every three years. Rachel Argent retired and did not seek re-election. Other PCC members' three-year terms are ending, and they were re-elected for a further three years following a show of hands as follows:

Alison Smyly was re-elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

Proposed by: Chris West Seconded by: Tsering Karalus Approved unanimously.

Helen Craig was re-elected to the PCC for a three-year term.

Proposed by: Terry Hunt Seconded by: Ruth Jeffery Approved unanimously.

9. Electoral Roll

There had been 10 new applications to the Electoral Roll during the revision prior to the APCM and sadly some members had either died or moved away. Jamie advised that the current electoral roll was

240 compared with 238 at the last APCM in May 2022. He signed the new Church Electoral Roll Certificate. The revised Electoral Roll was available to view at the meeting and had been available in church for the preceding weeks in line with Church Representation Rules.

10. PCC Committee Reports and Other Reports

The written reports forming part of the Annual Report were circulated in advance of the meeting by email to those on the Electoral Roll and copies were available in church prior to the meeting. Jamie invited questions on any of the reports. There were none,

11. Re-appointment of independent examiner

Jerry Wood advised that Banks & Co of Newbury had indicated their willingness to be re-appointed as the PCC's independent examiners. He asked for this to be confirmed by the meeting and this was unanimously agreed.

Proposed by: Jerry Wood Seconded by: Mona Marshall Approved unanimously.

12. Any Other Business and Closing Prayers

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed with the Grace at 11.55am

Signed: _____

Date: _____