

St Thomas Wells with the Horringtons

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Wednesday 29th March 2023

There were 45 people present; 19 apologies were received.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (VESTRY MEETING)

1. Revd Claire Towns opened the Meeting with prayer.

2. the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 6th April 2022 were proposed by Charlie Sutton, seconded by Alan Butt Philip, unanimously approved and signed.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations had been received for the role of Churchwarden:

- Judy Penhaligon – proposed by Joanna Birkett; seconded by Chris Stilton
- Chris Jenkins – proposed by Caroline Maycock; seconded by Clifford Fountaine

There being no other nominations, and having indicated that they were willing to serve, Chris and Judy were elected unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Neil Watson, whose term of office was completed. Neil thanked all those who had supported him over the past 5 years.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. The Minutes of the APCM held on 6th April 2022 were proposed by Anne Minns, seconded by Megan Hewson, unanimously approved and signed.

2. Margaret Hendy informed the Meeting that the Electoral Roll now stands at 168.

Four names have been removed – Rosamund Hawkins, Shirley Jones, Helen Muspratt, Marion Burton (who have died).

Seven names have been added – Stacey Canfield, Lydia Collins, Michaela Cross, Valerie Forrester, Malcolm Harding, Gillian Warmington, Roger Warmington.

Claire thanked Margaret and Caroline for their work on the Roll.

3. Reports

Reports had been distributed before the meeting.

- The Parish Church Electoral Roll
- The Annual Report of the PCC
- The Independently Examined Financial Statements – Fiona Rorbye was unable to attend the Meeting. There were no questions about the Financial Report.

It was agreed that the level of Planned Giving has dropped, and it was important to encourage this Giving to cover our monthly costs. The large legacy (some of which has already been received, enabling us to repay the outstanding debts on the Church extension) will be for capital projects, rather than for the day-to-day running of the Church.

All repairs to the Church have been recorded in the log Book.

Fiona was thanked for her hard work. It was noted that a Finance Team will be drawn up to support Fiona once all the money from the legacy has been realised.

- The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Report – Claire thanked Chris, Neil and Judy for the management and maintenance of the Church and the Church Hall.
- The proceedings of the Shepton Mallet Deanery Synod – the biggest issue for the Deanery is the deployment of clergy in the future. Our Deanery is not expected to lose clergy in the next 5 years, but plans have to be drawn up in the light of recent changes. This includes the future of the Chewton Mendip Benefice, following the retirement of Howard Latty. It is proposed that a half-time Interim Priest be appointed to cover this Benefice.
Claire thanked Judy, Alan and Gill for being the Synod Representatives for the past three years. It was agreed how important it was to have St Thomas's represented in the future.
- The proceedings of Christians Together in the Wells Area – Claire thanked Linda for representing St Thomas's.

All the Reports were unanimously accepted.

4. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council

There are three vacancies for a term of three years.

The following nominations had been received:

Hamish Redman – proposed by Alan Butt Philip; seconded by Chris Jenkins.

Megan Hewson – proposed by Sheila Baker; seconded by Iona Baker

Mike Tolley - proposed by Judy Penhaligon; seconded by Neil Watson (Claire informed the meeting that Mike Tolley was our link to the Wells Foodbank, and also had agreed to support Joanna as her deputy Safeguarding Officer)

Having indicated that they were willing to stand, they were unanimously elected.

Claire thanked those whose term of office on the PCC had ended.

5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

The following were elected to serve a three year term:

Judy Penhaligon - proposed by Neil Watson; seconded by Chris Jenkins

Gill Tucker – proposed by Judy Penhaligon; seconded by Caroline Maycock

Sally Beazley – proposed by Alan Butt Philip; seconded by Hamish Redman.

6. To appoint an External Examiner for the Financial Statements of the PCC

Thanks were record to Michael Webb for all his work as our Financial Examiner. Alan Butt Philip proposed that he be appointed for the coming year. This was seconded by Hamish Redman, and unanimously approved.

7. Comments and Questions

- CTWA Lent talks – Ann Edmonds expressed her disappointment at the small number of people attending the Lent Talks on 'Mission'. It was agreed that maybe more advertising would be helpful, and suggested that in future, these events could be 'zoomed'.
- Neil thanked Claire for all she has done over this past year.

8. Chair's Closing remarks

As ever, I begin with THANKS - to all of you who make our life together work – whether in 'up front' or 'behind the scene' roles, those who lead, and those who support. Last year, I listed groups and activities, as well as naming some of you. I'm not going to repeat that list. It's there on pages 6-7 of the Report, but please hear a resounding heartfelt thanks to so many who give in so many ways.

2022 – quite a year!

The spire falling; the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and our events around that, which were a joyful success (if that's the right word to use).

We launched our free Wednesday lunches for families during August – so much generosity from people - time, talents and money.

The spire went back up in august!

Crafty Church was launched at Harvest, and is now a monthly feature.

September – following the joys of the Jubilee came the sad loss of our Queen. It was hard for me as I was away on holiday, but you, as I knew you would, ran it admirably, offering a Book of Condolence, services, and the streaming of the funeral – so thank you all for that.

October – the PCC had a facilitated Away Day, when we looked at our Values.

VALUES – these help us to determine our priorities for spending, eg our Legacy. We have already received a small amount of this money to pay off the loan for the Community Room project.

There are five measurable Values. You haven't got the full document as yet, but I have produced a summary for tonight. Take this away with you. Copies will be available in Church from Sunday, and there will be a presentation one Sunday.

Once again, thanks to you all.

Let's stand and say the grace.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Following this meeting, a short PCC meeting was held to allocate the following:

Chris Jenkins (Vice Chairman) – proposed by Christine Baron; seconded by Ian Ames-White

Fiona Rorbye (Treasurer) – proposed by Judy Penhaligon; seconded by Joanna Birkett

Ian Ames-White (co-opted for the coming year to support the decisions re the Legacy) – proposed by Gill Tucker; seconded by Joanna Birkett.

The position of PCC Secretary is currently under discussion.