



MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday 21st May 2023 Parish Hall

1. Opening prayer.

Led by Revd Becky

2. Apologies for absence.

Linda Baker, Tony and Jean Mercer, Matthew Stone, Rosemary Fletcher,
Ven. Barney and Esme Hopkinson
Libby Poppleton
Pat Davidson
Katy Carter

3. Overview: Revd Becky.

Numbers remain lower in both congregation and volunteers. COVID is still having an effect although there were some 'returners' over the Christmas services. Nationally, many other churches are reporting changes in the way people worship. Harnham Free Church has closed in the past month. We need to continue to reach out to the local community.

Financial pressures are also an issue with recent increases in energy costs and falling income due to smaller congregations.

Joys –

- The continuing transformation of the hall; new members to the congregation; new hymn books.
- Special services have been well attended as have events such as the music evenings. We are using connections and contacts to expand our appeal.
- Advent talks on occasions had larger numbers attending than Sunday services – need to review whether weekday service provision needs to be increased.
- 1 new family now attends All Saints on a Sunday and Messy Church numbers are increasing.
- There have been an increased number of social events over the past year – thanks to all involved in these events.
- Hall bookings have increased despite several closures for the ongoing transformation and community links have improved.
- All Saints hosted an Arts Trail last autumn which was well received. It is being opened for private prayer for Ascension tide. It is the 170 year anniversary in 2024.

The 6 Priorities

- 1) Increased engagement with the Junior School and discussing the possibility of an After School initiative. There is now a full set of Foundation Governors.
- 2) Build on new and existing partnerships – good links with Harnham Community Network; Coffee and chat; Well-being walks; Harvest table; carol singing in the Riverside Hotel.
- 3) Build on the Harnham Hub idea.
- 4) Continue to review worship patterns and services.
- 5) Faculty to reorder the inside of All Saints with technology is being applied for.
- 6) Youth strategy – need to 'Grow Younger'. Messy Church numbers are increasing but it would be nice to develop stronger links with the congregation and encourage parishioners to attend. Review Pop Up Youth provision.

Parishioners were encouraged to pass their comments on to members of the PCC so their views are heard.

Jenny Collings thanked Revd Becky for all her effort and hard work.

4. Annual Parish Meeting: Motion and Election of Churchwardens.

Election of Churchwardens

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH WARDENS		
Name	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Charles Woodd	Stella Leigh	Ann McGarry
Robert Salkeld	David Patterson	Jacqui Brown

As there were no other candidates both were unanimously elected as the new churchwardens.

5. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022 and Matters Arising.

Removal of pews ongoing. Communion plate found. Portable sound system training took place- if anyone else would like to learn how to use it please see Revd Julian Poppleton. New sound system and tech for All Saints ongoing. No further questions were sent to Linda Baker. All other matters covered in Annual Report.

Amendment requested by Revd Julian Poppleton. Liddy Thomson is leading on the sound system use and training and he wished to pass on his thanks to her.

6. Report of the proceedings of the PCC: Mrs L Baker (LB absent)

Report can be found in the Annual Report.

Amendments requested by Revd Becky –

There is no single committee for Youth and Children now.

Messy Church helpers meet regularly to plan the next session.

Pop Up Youth should be included in the list.

Foundation Governor should be Foundation Governors

7. Electoral Roll report: Mr D Curzon.

Electoral Roll was last redrawn in 2022, this year it only has to be revised.

Total number of members in May 2022 – 156

Number of deaths since May 2022 – 3

Number of leavers since May 2022 – 3

Number of new members since May 2022 – 0

Current number of members in May 2023 – 150

Revd Becky asked that Welcomers, Church Wardens and Messy Church helpers encouraged non-members to consider joining. This can be done any ~~when~~ ^{time in} the year. Benefits include receiving weekly emails about church activities and services and being able to elect PCC members.

8. Presentation of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022: Mr M Fisher

In summary, income needs to increase as it is insufficient to meet routine expenditure. Ideally we need more people to give both time and money as most of the congregation are already giving as much as they can.

Page 4 – The figures look better than they actually are due to accounting practices. £118,000 has been transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds but this is transient. £120,000 has been invested into the hall building but future accounts will have to take into account ongoing depreciation (roughly £12,000 a year) so the £118,000 will rapidly be used up. The overall figures are worrying as routine income is now less than routine expenditure [£13,571].

Page 5 – Equipment and Furniture includes equipment for the Hall and the new sound system. Investments are down in part due to stock market falls and also used for Hall equipment. Current Assets are down because cash has been used.

Page 6 – Investments are down (item 4) as £100,000 has been used.

Page 7 – Gift Aid appears to have increased but this is due to a late claim. The £10,000 legacy for the hall project has not yet been received but has to be included in the 2022 accounts. £21,029 was a one-off payment for the Hall heating and associated work. Endowed Funds are down due to the war in Ukraine and issues in China but the market is very volatile and the current figures are better.

Page 8 – The sum of £78,550 has been used for the Hall

Page 11 – Direct away giving by the parish to charitable organisations have been reduced in the last couple of years due to the financial situation but parishioners' response to individual appeals has been very generous and overall the parish has given the equivalent of 5% of its income to charitable causes.

Page 12 – The Parish Share was paid in full in 2022 but this may not be possible in 2023 as the sum has increased to £71,900. It was not possible to pay it fully in 2021. The increase in Service Costs is due to the donation for the purchase of the new hymn books. Despite restricting the use of the heating in both churches, the electric and gas costs have increased significantly. Linda has been restricting the hours she works to 17 hours / week. [For information, Revd. Becky put a cap of 70 hours per month on Linda's hours for the hall and parish administration in 2019 and this has continued since.]

Page 13 – Hall rent has increased over 2022 despite the hall being closed for February and March for Phase 1 of the improvement works. "Loss of Income" grants were received in 2021 and 2022 but even without these grants, the hall still made a profit.

Vicky Poole, the external auditor, will sign off the accounts.

Michael expressed his thanks to Linda, David Curzon, Charles and Robert for providing information and

Father Michael Camp asked about the Warre Trust. Michael Fisher explained that it had been given to pay for the curate's wages but could be used for general purposes if a stipendiary curate was not employed. As Revd. Mike Badger is non-stipendiary the income from the Trust can be used.

Revd. Julian explained the use of the parish share – it covers the cost of salaries, pensions and training for stipendiary clergy and support and training for non-stipendiary clergy and licenced lay ministers. The Bishop and Cathedral are not paid for out of the parish share. The Diocese currently has a deficit of £1 million so is in the process of selling Church House.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner of accounts for 2023.

The appointment is currently on hold as Revd Becky is discussing with the current Independent Examiner as to whether they could become the next Treasurer. Once the Treasurer has been appointed, an Independent Examiner can be approved by the PCC.

10. Report on fabrics, goods and ornaments. Terriers for St. George's and All Saints.

St Georges – Terrier completed, does include the new hymn books. Doesn't include the Kneelers (question from Katharine Callard) or the improvements to the churchyards – Charles Woodd extended his thanks to Joanna Woodd, Kevin Clarke and volunteer Piers Mobsby.

All Saints – Terrier completed. One of the Commonwealth War Graves (Flight LT Lemon) now has a Galipoli award added.

11. Elections PCC Members (If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of seats to be filled each candidate is declared elected. Parish governance rules M9 (3))

3 members resigned during the year – Jill Tilley, Val Overton, Ann McGarry
Emma Wilson has completed 3 years and can continue for a further 3 if she wishes – has agreed

1. Emma Wilson (if she wishes to continue for a further 3 years)	nominated by Neil Turpin Seconded by Robert Salkeld
2.	nominated by and Seconded by
3.	Nominated by Seconded by

No other nominations were received so there was no vote.

Revd Becky requested that people consider joining the PCC as the parish needs a variety of views so all are represented. Nominations forms will be left in both churches. The current members are – Kate Mash, Jacqui Brown, Jenny West and Debbie Mussellwhite. Male parishioners are currently under-represented.

Kate Mash made several positive comments on being a member of the PCC in an attempt to encourage further nominations.

12. Elections for Deanery Synod

1. Neil Turpin	nominated by Inas Miles Seconded by Ann Patterson
2. Katy Carter	Nominated by Inas Miles Seconded by Charles Woodd
3.	Nominated by Seconded by

As there were only two nominations, no vote was required.

Revd Julian explained that the Deanery Synod covered all the churches in Salisbury and encourage cross parish working and support as well as the development of the Deanery plan. It involves attending three meetings a year.

13. Safeguarding.

Jacqui Brown reminded everyone that DBS checks are now required every three years, rather than every five so those who require checks will receive notification sooner than they may have been expecting. She is looking into how it is possible to arrange checks for those who do not have online access.

Many more roles now require a basic level of safeguarding training. Currently this is provided by the Diocese online but some members do not have online access or have accessibility issues e.g. font size cannot be increased for those with visual impairment. She will liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to see if it is possible to do a face to face training session and who would need to lead this.

Revd. Julian highlighted the fact that safeguarding was not just about physical abuse but also financial abuse. There was a need for everyone to look out for each other with an increasing number of financial scams around. The parish was recently approached about a grand piano donation this turned out to be a scam but other parishes and organisations had been caught out by it.

14. Questions arising from the Annual Report .

No questions or comments were raised. Electronic copies had been emailed to many parishioners in advance and paper copies were available in both churches last week. Revd. Becky asked that if people did have comments post meeting, they should email / contact Linda before the end of May.

15. 'Thank you's. Blessing and dismissal prayers.

Thanks were made to

- 1) Michael Fisher for his 20 years as Treasurer – a token and card were given on behalf of the parish. He will hand over the accounts once a new Treasurer is appointed.
- 2) All on the Intercessors, Readers and Welcomers (list attached)
- 3) All on the Committees
- 4) All the Clergy in Harnham – we are lucky to have such a wide variety of experience and worship styles. Revd. Julian and Revd. Mike. All the retired Clergy – some are able to be more active than others but all are prayerful and this is appreciated.
- 5) Mothers Union especially Katharine Callard
- 6) LPA's – Debbie Mussellwhite and Jean Mercer
- 7) Churchwardens – Charles Wood and Robert Salkeld
- 8) Linda Baker
- 9) All who give lifts and phone friends

Revd. Mike closed with a prayer and blessing.
The meeting finished at 12.29

Signed: - *[Signature]*

Dated: - 26 May 2024