

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MIDSOMER NORTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, SUNDAY 15 MAY 2022 at 11-40

APOLOGIES

Taken as for the Meeting to Appoint Churchwardens

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 30 May 2021, having been posted on the church web site were taken as read. Carol Moore proposed that they be accepted as a correct record, seconded by Beth Davies and with all present in agreement, they were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 90 names on the electoral roll

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Ann Munton read out her report as follows

Safeguarding News

August 2021 – New Parish Safeguarding Officer appointed

January 2022 – New Church of England Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework adopted

The main changes brought in by this new framework are:

- DBS checks to be carried out every 3 years instead of every 5
- Safeguarding Foundation training required by PCC members and those requiring a DBS check for their role
- Domestic Abuse training required by PCC members
- Safeguarding Basic Awareness training required by anyone who holds a role in the church
- The Safer Recruitment process for paid and volunteer roles in the church is now mandatory (formerly advisory)

Safeguarding Review

Number of safeguarding referrals in the last 12 months	0
Number of safeguarding agreements in place	0

DBS checks carried out this year	10
DBS checks due but not yet carried out	0

Training Course	No. of people completed training	No. of people still to complete training
Safeguarding Basic Awareness	8	Approx 30
Safeguarding Foundation	7	10
Domestic Abuse	4	8
Safer Recruitment	3	0

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is booked for Train the Trainer training so that she can be authorised to deliver face to face training.

With the exception of training requirements the PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance as evidenced by the Parish Dashboard.

Father Guy thanked Ann for taking on this most important role of parish life

APPROVAL OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

No questions were raised regarding the content of the Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF THE 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

John Shears reported that loans had been repaid and also the cost of the sound system had been covered.

2022 will be a more difficult year with income reducing and expenditure increasing.

John Shears thanked Kay and Dave Harvey for their help. Kay looks after the Fabric Fund and administers the Fees account.

Guy reiterated John's thanks to Kay and Dave

ELECTION OF ONE DEANERY SYNOD MEMBER TO SERVE UNTIL 2023

This vacancy had arisen due to the resignation of Colin Tincknell early in 2022.

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Term of office
Hilary Denning	Beth Davies	Carol Moore	2022 -2023

ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Broughton and Heather Hill were willing to stand for re-election. Les Martindale was retiring after 34 years on the PCC. During this time he had served in various capacities, Deanery Synod representative, Churchwarden and latterly as an 'ordinary member'. For many years he had been the Treasurer for the Fabric Fund.

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Term of office
Robert Broughton	John Shears	Sally Curtis	2022 -2025
Heather Hill	Kay Harvey	Jane Astill	2022 -2025

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Harvey had agreed to act again in this capacity. The secretary proposed and Les Martindale seconded the appointment. All agreed to this.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

Alan Gregory was retiring from this post after seven years. Pat Clynes was willing to carry on in this capacity. Carol Moore had agreed to take on the position from Alan. Proposed by Beth Davies and seconded by Andrew Broadhurst. All agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Beth gave her report

It's my pleasure to say a few thank yous on behalf of us all to people who have given such valuable time, effort and talent to the smooth running of our church and who because of Covid were for much of last year limited in what they could do

The magazine once again started being edited and printed by Linda Broadhurst and then delivered to houses by her team, those of us who deliver the magazine find people are always looking forward to receiving it, thank you Linda, thank you all.

Rob Broughton was able to get a team of workers to clear weeds from the footpath and car park, David Harvey has been cutting the grass by the hall and Pat Marriott keeps the flower beds under control, all of which make a huge difference to the first impressions people have when they come to church whatever the occasion, thank you all.

As always, the flowers in church have been looking so beautiful, many thanks go to Sue Holley who organized the rota and made sure everything was in hand especially at festival times, it is a shame that this year she feels she must resign from that role but we say a big thank you to her for the valued time and work she put into it but we can assure you we shall do our best to continue to keep her standards up with flowers in church. We give a big thank you to all the flower arrangers for the pleasure you give us.

Towards the end of the year the Social Committee were at last allowed to organize events for us, we really are grateful to this small band of people who always give us such happy events with the bonus of raising funds.

We must also give a big 'thank you' to Carolyn Wroe who ensures our church hall is spick and span and who takes all the bookings, she is one of those people who works tirelessly in the background, and no one knows she's been there!

Last but by no means least a huge thank you to my fellow church warden Carol (Moore) whom it has been such a great pleasure to work alongside for another year. With the ups and downs of Covid regulations it was at times a struggle but whatever we were faced with we tackled it together. With Carol's experience of being a church warden for some years she's nearly always got the answer to what's been done in the past which helps us plan for the present and the future. Thank you, Carol, for being a real 'Pal', I shall miss being a warden with you but look forward to new beginnings.

Carol then delivered her final report as Churchwarden

First of all I would like to thank Beth Davies my fellow church warden for all her help and support throughout this past year. She has been reliable and done such a lot to enable the church to run so

smoothly. Thanks Beth for running off the news sheets each week, for helping to keep the gardens surrounding the church and hall tended and getting a group organised to regularly ensure the weeds are kept at bay. I have appreciated your loyalty and reliability.

Huge thanks are due to our Treasurer, John Shears, there is always plenty to do, and it is difficult for him when his computer decides not to work. Thanks also to Kay who looks after the fabric fund and fees account. David Harvey has acted as our independent examiner, so thanks to Dave too. This is the area of church life that people tend to shy away from so it is good that we have people who understand what the finances are all about.

Now that we are almost back to normal with our services we have to thank our sidespersons, sacristans, coffee makers, both on a Sunday and on a Tuesday. Pat Clynes continues to organise the cleaning rota, and the rota for the washing and ironing of all the beautiful linen as well as being deputy church warden and I know she does lots of other unseen duties. You are a little treasure, Pat!!

Margaret Whatley our organist, and Geoff Miles our choirmaster give us enormous pleasure with their wonderful talents on the organ and providing our choir with beautiful items to sing. Thanks to both our organists and our choir members for making our services come alive.

We have a first class Administrator in Liz Casson. She beavers away in her small office providing all the administrative work Guy requires. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Liz and her work is always second to none. She deals really well with the public, undertakers, hall hirers and everyone she comes into contact with. Thank you Liz!

Thanks to Robert Broughton who keeps the church web site up to date not only posting the weekly newsheet and the magazine but also adding news & pictures of church events.

What a surprise it was when we were told that we were having a curate, and we were all delighted to meet Philip Hopper, the gentleman who came to morning services with his bag on his shoulder and sat very quietly in our congregation for a few weeks. Philip has fitted into St John's very well and I know is a great support and confidant to Guy. Thank you Philip for all you do and especially for working so hard when Guy lost his father and at Easter.

We are indeed so fortunate to have Guy as our Vicar. He has settled very well into his role, it is hard to remember life at St John's without him. His smile is infectious and his warmth and love to us all is tangible. Your ministry amongst us is truly precious. Personally, the service on Easter Sunday was extraordinarily special. I felt a real presence and the whole service was uplifting and joyful. Thanks also to dear Kate, who I know, supports and strengthens you each day. Our good Lord certainly answered our prayers for a new Vicar in bringing the Scott family here to lead and embrace us all. Thank you Guy.

Father Guy responded

I am very aware that at an Annual Meeting like this, it is very easy to repeat things – what with two sets of minutes, the Annual report, the Financial report, and other reports we should receive, it can all become a bit much and we lose sight of the fact that we are discussing 2021!

So, trying not to repeat myself or others I wish to make the following remarks.

It has been a joy to welcome Philip as our Assistant Curate. I know he has appreciated your welcome and support, and I value his support as a colleague and friend. He brings many gifts to the life and worship of our community, and I hope he is able to use and develop them to the full, so that we and Philip may flourish. We look forward to his Ordination as a Priest on Saturday 25th June 2022 at Bath Abbey.

The COVID pandemic continued to interrupt our lives and worship during the year. Restrictions re-introduced and then relaxed. Infection rates seemed to soar and then slowly decline. Yet you, the worshipping community here, remained faithful and gathered for worship whenever possible, observing social distancing and mask wearing when requested. So, I take this opportunity to say

“thank you”. Thank you for your faithfulness in worship and witness throughout the year. It has been most encouraging. And if the occasion arises, invite those who haven’t returned to consider so doing, or invite someone you know to join us in prayer and praise.

I would also like to thank you for your generosity, especially in giving. Despite all that we went through, weekly and monthly giving remained at a consistent level enabling us to pay our Parish Share in full and meeting all our bills. So, “thank you”. However, the year ahead, with the cost of living going up at a worrying rate, is likely to be more challenging than the year before. The rising bills you face at home, we also face as a church, as a worshipping community. I know it is challenging, but can I ask you to be as generous as possible in your giving, as we face God’s future together.

As faithful and generous Easter people let’s encourage one another as journey into the future, whatever it may hold, sharing God’s hope and love.

Guy then asked if anyone had any matters they wished to raise.

John Blatchford said he was concerned about the lack of young people in church nowadays and wondered how this could be tackled. Guy responded saying this was a problem in many churches as things have changed so much over the years. Many events and activities are now available on Sundays in which families can participate. Philip is building connections with the school.

Guy said the Quinquennial Inspection done in 2021, by Emma Green our church architect, showed that the church building was generally in good order with regular maintenance being highlighted as an important factor.

Robert Broughton said he would welcome any contributions of news and church events which he could put on the church web site.

The meeting closed at 12-25