

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE WITH ST. MARTIN**

**held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11.45am in St. George's Church**

**Present:** The Revd. Matthew Swires-Hennessy, Helen Kershaw, Dave McClelland, Val Parry and 87 others

**1. Apologies:** Ruth Arthur, Ann McClelland, Val Vibrans & Sheila Vogler

**2. The Minutes** of the meeting held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 had been displayed on the church's website, were taken as read, and after one correction, were agreed unanimously and signed as being a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**4. Annual Report Booklet for the period January - December 2022**

Printed copies of the Annual Report were available in church, and also online on the Parish website.

Dave McClelland read a brief report from the Property Committee

- The properties overseen by the property committee are;  
St George's Church & Hall, St Martin's Church & Hall, Ivy Road and Barnaby Road.
- Work has started in implementing the quinquennial recommendations. The first project is replacing the church ridge tiles which should start in June. Quotes are awaited for some stonework on the boundary wall. Another recommendation is to protect the stained glass windows with plastic coated wire mesh. This will be pursued later.
- Ivy Road is currently let out. The driveway is in a poor state and needs updating but a drain survey needs to be done first.
- A great many smaller jobs are undertaken by members of the congregation. Without this help it would be difficult to maintain all our buildings, and it also saves a lot of money. Similarly, the grounds are maintained by Brian Clarke and a couple of volunteers.
- Thanks are due to all members of the committee

## **Wardens' Reports**

Dave gave an update on ToNIC saying that good progress had been made in the last few months and a ballpark cost had been received. PCC will debate this at the next meeting.

Dave also pointed out that the good condition of St. George's hall was due to a diligent cleaning team who meet on Monday mornings, for around 45 minutes, to clean the hall and keep it looking lovely. A few more volunteers are needed to help. Please join if you can.

Finally, Dave asked everyone to pray for Matthew and Kate who are currently living on a building site; and had just had their internet connection cut for the second time! Please pray that any noise and inconvenience to be kept to a minimum.

Helen said it is a privilege to serve as warden and highlighted the following

- Reviewing last year and it is lovely to see many new members of our church but we also miss several valuable members who are now with our Lord.

- Following the Queen's death in September we opened the church for 10 hours a day, for 10 days for people to come and remember her and sign the Book of Remembrance and this was greatly valued by the people of the village. The Sunday evening vigil was a truly special moment.
- Thanks to a huge number of people behind the scenes, to all the paid staff and all the numerous volunteers who make our Sunday services and all events possible. Helen appealed for help in welcoming at 11am service and also with Brightstars on a Wednesday morning.
- Also behind the scenes are the various committees. Helen especially thanked Val as PCC secretary, and presented flowers to say thank you.
- Helen urged us to continue to pray for our church, for Matthew and the clergy, for Dave and Helen as wardens and especially to pray for wisdom and good decision making.

### **Safeguarding Statement by Hannah Brackenbury (Operations Manager)**

Poynton Parish Church has continued to comply with its duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda, and policies are reviewed and renewed annually.

The Parish safeguarding officers are Hannah Brackenbury and Catharine Maclellan. 10 DBS checks have been completed, with recruitment following the 'Safer Recruitment' procedures set by the Church of England.

PCC members, staff and volunteers have also been completing the required safeguarding training in accordance with the C of E safeguarding framework. This has been achieved both in person at our Growing in Service day in November, and virtually, using the online C of E safeguarding portal.

Following Hannah's report Matthew stated that anyone with any concerns about safeguarding (including historic abuse) should contact either a member of the clergy or the safeguarding team.

Matthew thanked Hannah for all her hard work with safeguarding.

### **5. Receiving the revised Electoral Roll: David Myers**

David stated that at the time of the last APCM there were 274 people on the electoral rolls. Since then, there have been 5 additions but 3 losses, so that currently the electoral roll stands at 276.

Matthew thanked David for his work in revising the electoral roll.

### **6. The Financial Statement: Peter Walker**

- Peter began by giving thanks to the Lord for his provision, and also all those on the finance team, as follows:

Shelley Huggert - Cash and envelopes at St. Martin's

Chris and Margery Truman - banking

Liam - processing payments

Geoff Smith - payments, and treasurer to the Friends of St. George's

David Coleman - approving payments

Ray Humphreys - payroll

Ruth Arthur - Gift Aid secretary

Brian Clark and Malcolm Wood who help manage our facilities

Previous treasurers Mike, Eileen and Chris Truman for their ongoing help and advice.

Peter summarised the financial report, (copies were available in church) highlighting the following:

- We have much to be thankful for despite the recent concern re Covid

- Regular giving - there have been some challenges, but the number that give faithfully and generously is a great blessing. Thank you
- Challenges - inflation is rising. Despite budgeting for price increases our utilities had an overspend of £7000. In total, there was a £29K deficit over the year, although much of that was discretionary, and included paying for large projects such as new lighting system for the graveyard, upgrade in kitchen facilities in the church hall. and various improvements for both Ivy Road and Barnaby Road.
- Outlook for 2023 - despite the challenges, there is lots to look forward to. There are further expensive repairs, as well as the ToNiC project, but we are incredibly fortunate to have large reserves.
- How can we help? - please pray for the church, pray for giving, help with the team.

There were no questions.

**7. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Peter proposed that we appoint Wyatt & co to be the auditors for our accounts next year. Helen Kershaw seconded this, and it was unanimously approved

### **8. PCC Membership.**

The number of places on the PCC is determined by the church representation rules. We currently have the maximum numbers of 15 lay members + 5 Deanery Synod representatives, giving a total of 20. The PCC and SC have considered a proposal to reduce the number of elected places. The proposal is to elect 3 people a year for a term of 3 years thus reducing the PCC members to 9. If approved today, it will not be adopted until next year.

Matthew proposed the motion:

“The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (acting in accordance with Rule M15 (8) of The Church Representation Rules 2020) resolves to vary the number of elected Parochial Church Council members: reducing the total number to 9, electing 3 per year from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024.”

Dave seconded it. It was agreed unanimously.

### **9. PCC Election**

There were 5 places on the Deanery Synod for 3 years:

- Hannah Brackenbury Proposed by Michael Batty, Seconded by Valerie Vibrans
- Les Hutchinson Proposed by Linda Bell , Seconded by Jenny Cooke
- Susan Coleman Proposed by Elizabeth Walker, Seconded by Valerie Vibrans
- Gill Golding Proposed by Val Parry, Seconded by Dave McClelland
- Helen Kershaw Proposed by Andy Holden, Seconded by Linda Bell

There being no other candidates coming forward, the above named were duly elected.

There were 5 places available on the PCC for 3 years:

- Bizzy Bowles Proposed by Dave Brackenbury, Seconded by Carys Lesley
- Susan Coleman Proposed by Elizabeth Walker, Seconded by Valerie Vibrans

- Margaret Goode Proposed by Alan Ashton, Seconded by Susan Warrington
- Vivienne Metcalfe Proposed by Jeanette Wood, Seconded by Elizabeth Markham
- Val Parry Proposed by Joyce Corlett, Seconded by Joan Roberts
- Andy Holden Proposed by Andrew Kershaw, Seconded by Stephanie Rookwood

There being no other candidates coming forward, the above named were duly elected.

Matthew thanked all who have served and those who continue to serve as members of the PCC and prayed for them. The next PCC meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### **10. Vision: Matthew Swires-Hennessy**

Matthew gave thanks to the staff team, clergy and readers and others as we share leading and preaching week by week, in particular Jennie who joined us this time last year.

John Briggs is about to celebrate 60 years since his ordination, and although retired, has spent the last 15 years at St. Martin's but now wishes to step back from responsibilities there. Matthew encouraged everyone to pray about what to do next.

#### **11. AOB**

- **Friends of St. George's - Susan Warrington (Chair)** Susan invited anyone to join the Friends outlining their aims of helping preserve the building of St. George's, developing facilities and supporting appeals (e.g. a significant donation was made when the lych gate needed renovation work). There is an annual programme of events, including the AGM which will be held on the first Sunday of June, and includes lunch. Application forms were available.
- **Colin Rookwood** - Colin reminded us that there are many people in Poynton who do not attend any church, especially as people move into the new houses being built. He suggested that we, as a church, do 'prayer walk' around the new housing areas, and reach out to these new communities and visit with a "welcome pack", encouraging them to join one of the churches of Poynton.

Matthew then closed the meeting in prayer.

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Chairman