

ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH, GLASTONBURY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

Held at St Ben's Church on 22nd May 2022 at 12 noon

- 1. Opening Prayer and Welcome :** the Vicar welcomed us, and extended a particularly warm welcome to those attending from the wider parish.
- 2. Members Present and Apologies**
Present: Chris Craig, Philippa Chapman, Roger Parsons, Liz Pearson, Arwen Van Westerop, Sandra Booth, , David Chapman, Meig Lambert-Shiels, David MacGeoch, Frances Pugh, Margaret Morris, Di Grenter, Brian Low, Evelyn Low, Iona Eveson, Patricia Huddleday, Claire Crumpton.
Apologies: Rita Farrow, Helen Roper.
- 3. Minutes of the last Meeting of Parishioners to Elect Churchwardens on 20th May 2021**
The minutes were approved unanimously by the meeting.
There were no matters arising.
- 4. Appointment of Churchwardens.**
Liz Pearson and David Chapman were unanimously elected as Churchwardens, to take office officially at the Archdeacon's Visitation in June, which the Vicar encouraged us to attend to support them.

There was no further business, so the meeting closed at 12.13pm.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Held on 22nd May 2022 at 12.15pm

- 1. Opening Welcome** by the Vicar

- 2. Those present and apologies for absence**

Present: Chris Craig, Philippa Chapman, Roger Parsons, Liz Pearson, Arwen Van Westerop, Sandra Booth, David Chapman, Meig Lambert-Shiels, David MacGeoch, Frances Pugh, Margaret Morris, Di Grenter, Brian Low, Evelyn Low, Iona Eveson, Patricia Huddleday, Claire Crumpton. **Apologies:** Rita Farrow, Helen Roper, Diana Greenfield.

- 3. Minutes of the last APCM, held on 20th May 2021.**

Approved by the meeting without corrections, to be signed by the Vicar.

- 4. Annual Report**

All the reports had been received in writing and circulated before the meeting, and the Annual Report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

- 5. The Financial Report** was taken as read and accepted by the meeting. The Vicar noted that David Chapman would like to shed this responsibility, and we all wished to thank him for his hard work.

- 6. Fabric Report:** David Chapman apologised because the Terrier was not available for presentation, although the Inventory is checked. The meeting accepted the Terrier in principle on the assurance it would be taken to the first PCC after this meeting. Arwen commented that it is a problem that the meeting is signing off something we have not seen, but the Vicar assured her it would be brought to our next PCC meeting.

David C offered some explanations of the Fabric Report. The floor is our greatest concern and its problems have absorbed much of the PCC's time during the year. Ivor's role in dealing with this was handed over to the new churchwardens and the PCC secretary. Unfortunately the mediation meeting we had hoped to attend was repeatedly delayed, although we have now finally had that meeting. We were asked to hold this issue in our prayers. We hope that our floor will be repaired in this coming year. More positively we have now appointed a new church architect, Michael Vaughan, and we have a Quinquennial report with items requiring attention in 2022: damp by the servery, small leaks in the roof, and problems with rainwater goods.

- 7. Questions and Points for Discussion about any church matter.**

Nothing was raised.

- 8. Elections and Appointments**

The Vicar observed that we are short in numbers on our PCC, although we have some very committed members who have supported the Church through these difficult times. Therefore it would seem to be a good idea to pass a resolution allowing PCC members to stand for two consecutive three year terms. It was proposed “that this meeting set aside any previous resolution that no representative of the laity on the PCC may hold office for a continuous period of more than 6 years,” and this was unanimously agreed by those present.

i) Election of parochial representatives of the laity to the PCC (to fill four vacancies).

Chris Craig explained he does not wish to serve on the PCC for another three year term just now as he feels he needs a year’s sabbatical, although he is very happy to continue as our Eco Church rep. DM said he was sure the Deanery would value Chris’s input.

Di Grenter and Iona Eveson were both unanimously elected as lay representatives.

ii) Appointment of Readers to the PCC

Those present approved the continued appointment of Philippa and Di to the PCC. *{A reader can only be a member of the PCC if he or she is on our Parish Roll and also is approved as a member by the APCM.}*

iii) Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

MOTION: Those present approve the appointment of MHA Monahans as Examiner. Proposer: David Chapman; Seconded Liz, and approved unanimously.

7. Vicar’s Jottings.

David thanked everyone for their continued love for St Ben’s Church and for God. It seemed to him that Sunday numbers are becoming more and more irrelevant in our post-Covid era, and what matters more is what’s happening outside the services, and that our church is a flourishing community.

David particularly wanted to thank Claire for her work in the garden and her amazing knowledge of plants, and all the links with St Ben’s School and with others in the community her work in the garden has brought us. He wanted to give a special thanks for the beautiful yellow rose Claire has planted in honour of his late brother. David also gave a special thanks to Liz and her Thursday lunch team, with its wonderful sense of fellowship among those who come to this meal. Thanks also to Chris for all his work on Eco Church, which he will now have more time to continue.

We now offer a variety of services on three out of four Sundays, with the Celtic service led by Diana being particularly successful. We also celebrate our continued links with the URC Church. David offered a special thanks to Philippa and Di, our Readers, to Michelle, Pamela, and Robin. On 3rd July we will welcome Kieron as our new training curate. Kieron will live in our community in Pendragon Park, and he will be with us fulltime for three years.

This September David will be giving up the role of Area Dean, and he is looking forward to being able to immerse himself in the benefice, in the hope he will see more of us. Unfortunately in the Deanery there are very much reduced numbers in the congregations and we are facing a reduction in paid ministers from the present 7.5 to 6.

David noted that ministers are now encouraged by the Church of England to offer the shared cup at communion. We are all invited to give our feedback to the clergy team, in writing if we wish, letting them know our individual, personal feelings about this.

David concluded with the thought that St Ben’s continues to be a beacon of hope, light and prayer in the community. We are amazed at how many people wish to come here and sit quietly. This church is also a beacon for the school, especially in the “Open Book” venture, and has been a support to Piers in what has been a very challenging time over the past year.

8. Closing Prayers: the meeting ended with prayer.

The meeting concluded at 10 to 1, and was followed by lunch.