

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners**

**10th May 2021 at 6pm via Zoom**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

**In attendance:**

**PCC Members:** Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM); Colin Aiken (CA); Keith Arrowsmith Oliver (KO); Tim Dudderidge (TD); Lisa Hillan (LH); Robin Kemp (RK); Revd Gordon Randall (GR); Revd Rachel Sturt (RS); Alan Armstrong (AA); Sarah Neish (SN); Matthew Bayliss (MB); Tori Hewitt (TH); Revd Lynn Power (LP); Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney (EG); John Vivian (JV); Jenny Lawrence (JL); Angie Briggs (AB)

**Parishioners:** Pippa Mills; Linda & Barry Watts; Sue & Jeremy Cunningham; Clive & Gill Muller; Anne Mason; Beryl & Ian Attwood; Chris & Ken Jackson; Dennis Milns; Tony and Joyce Willman; Graham, Julie & Thomas Howe; Kathy Norkett; Simon Stoodley; Bruce & Jane Nicole; Elizabeth Dain; Alison Parr; Robin & Jane Lees; Tim Littlewood; Sarah Broadbent; Wendy Burnhams; Liz Griffiths; Priscilla Inkpen; Robin & Sally Kemp; Joan Butterworth; David Willis; Clare Kirby; Ruth Randall; Rosemary Arrowsmith-Oliver

**PCC Secretary:** Philippa Penfold

**Apologies Received from:** Derek Gurney (DG); John & Sue Hubbard

**1. Bible Reading & Prayers**

The Vicar played a musical version of Psalm 121 and then read the passage. He then led the meeting in prayer.

**2. Election of Churchwardens**

The nominations were as follows:

Angie Briggs - nominated by Anne Mason and Joan Longhurst

John Vivian - nominated by Carol Williams, seconded by Pippa Mills

Tim Duddridge - nominated by Clive Muller, seconded by Ian Attwood

Alan Armstrong - nominated by Helen Walters and Liberty Nicholas

Keith Arrowsmith Oliver - nominated by Jennifer Arnold & Ed Pepper and

Sarah Neish – nominated by Gloria Wills & Ian Power

There is one vacancy at All Saints which can be filled during the year if someone comes forward.

The meeting expressed their thanks to Jenny Lawrence who is standing down as Churchwarden at All Saints for all her hard work.

There being no objections to the nominations, all those standing for election were **duly elected unanimously**.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**3. Vicar’s Report**

The Vicar had previously circulated his report prior to the meeting, which he then summarised for the meeting.

AM wished to give a big thank you to everyone for all the support during the past year through prayer and continuing support for each other. Thanks also to the ministry team, and to the administration team of Ellie and Philippa, who were now working from home. In particular thanks were expressed by AM and the meeting for Ellie’s grasp of the new technology to provide online service material. Martha Lloyd had also been an unexpected, but very welcome, addition to the team during the year.

During the year the parish had said goodbye to some significant people, including Margaret and Peter Bell, now settled in Kettering but still worshiping with POTR online. Also goodbye to Revd Joy Windsor who has moved to Horndean to continue her ministry. We were able to celebrate two special weddings, despite the lockdown restrictions – Tony and Joyce Willman, and Debbie and Charles Parker, which were particular highlights of the year.

Questions to the Vicar – none.

**4. Report on new Electoral Roll**

Currently 318, of which 24 are non-residents, which is the same as last year. Bruce and Jane Nicol, and Peter and Elaine Brown, have recently moved into the Parish. Both Bruce and Peter have applied for a ‘permission to officiate’ and so will soon be able to help with services.

**5. Elections to PCC**

New PCC elections have been held over to 2021 due to the current situation.

The meeting voted on the following PCC members, as follows:

* The Licensed Ministers of the Parish – Wendy Burnhams will be ordained soon, so will move into this category from her current role as representative of All Saints church;
* The Churchwardens – as detailed above
* Treasurer – Colin Aiken
* Deanery Synod members: Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney, Derek Gurney, Tori Hewitt, Matthew Bayliss
* Elected members, one for each church: Robin Kemp (St L), Lisa Hillan (HR). This leaves two vacancies for AS and St P, once Wendy becomes ordained

Thanks were expressed to all those who serve on the PCC, which can be a thankless task, but who have worked so hard during the pandemic.

**6. Financial Statements of Parish for period up to 31st Dec 2020**

The Treasurer (CA) had previously made the financial report available to parishioners. He gave a summary, and explained some details from the report.

Finances over the past year have been affected by pandemic and at the start it was difficult to know what the effect would be on the finances. A £10,000 grant from EHDC helped offset the loss of income, and at the end of year POTR were in a stronger position than at the start, so thanks to all for their financial support during the year.

CA thanked Tori Hewitt, the bookkeeper, for her help, support and guidance during the year.

Andrew thanked Colin for his work, and the detailed information provided to the PCC. He also expressed his thanks to Tim Sturt for his work as Stewardship Co-ordinator.

Questions to the Treasurer – none.

Andrew thanked all those who had contributed for their continuing generosity to the parish, particularly during ‘Generous June 2020’.

**7. Reports on Fabric**

St Peter’s – Sarah Neish reported that the repairs to roof and bellcote have been completed, and had been paid for from restricted funds. She also reported that much work had been done keeping in touch with congregation during the pandemic. Looking ahead it will be important to take forward this work of care and outreach, and care of buildings. Thanks to Revd Lynn Power for her focal ministry at St Peter’s.

All Saints – Angie Briggs reported that the sound system had been upgraded, and so far has worked well. Tiling on roof has caused a problem, which has affected the organ due to water ingress, but this is due to be repaired next week.

St Lawrence – Tim Duddridge reported that no substantial work has been carried out due to lockdown. There is a new bench outside the front of the church in memory of Ian and Judith Toombs. Emergency repairs had to be carried out when the vault collapsed in the churchyard. TD expressed his thanks to Simon Stoodley for attention to the church clock as it has been causing problems both losing and gaining time!

Holy Rood – Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver reported that the QI had been completed, which had highlighted various items which needed attention. Churchyard monuments that needed repair have all be done by K&S at no charge. A new TV has been installed for services. Work to roof and gutters is on going. Wall repairs to be done over the next year or two. Services have been well attended since coming out of lockdown despite booking requirements. Teddies has restarted although outside at the moment.

AM – currently working on a building strategy based on the QI reports, so that what needs to be done across the parish to be more cost effective and combined.

Questions – none.

**8. Report of the Deanery Synod**

This had previously been circulated. Due to lockdowns the Synod had not had many meetings so nothing further to report.

**9. Safeguarding**

Sally Kemp is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. There had been no safeguarding incidents during last year. The safeguarding policies are now due for review. A reminder to all PCC members that they must have a DBS check for their forthcoming year.

Many thanks were expressed to Sally for all her hard work on this important aspect of ministry.

**10. Appointment of Sidespersons**

Each local church has their own list of people who act in this capacity.

**11. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner**

CA proposed that Laurie Powell be appointed, agreed by TH, to act as our Independent Financial Examiner for the forthcoming year. **This was agreed by the meeting unanimously, and Laurie Powel is duly appointed.**

**12. The Future**

AM spoke to the meeting about the future in POTR, and spoke on two main topics – the Futures Group and the Deanery reorganisation.

The Futures Group - Following the pandemic over the last year we now need to look at what is important to keep moving forward as restrictions ease, including what hasn’t been missed and can be laid aside, and those things that we must always do. The PCC has commissioned a small group to look at the future shape of POTR – the Futures Group - comprising Elspeth Mackeggie-Gurney, Robin Kemp, Matthew Bayliss and Helen Waters & Martyn Edwards. RK outlined that the group had started with big survey last summer, with being one Parish as the main focus, as well as the rhythm of Sunday services and how the ministry team and our buildings can best be deployed. Online services has been a new opportunity due to the pandemic, and this is due to be carried forward. The group have also been looking at weekday groups and how they operate currently and in the future. The group have consulted widely both inside and outside the parish, and are currently conducting parish conversations with congregations at each church. Future questions to consider will be how we can join with other churches, and what resources do we need in our buildings. Recommendations will be coming in the next couple of months. Thanks to all those who have contributed so far.

AM – there has been much activity by members in the community. ‘Active in service’ is one of our straplines and it is important that we continue to provide an outward focus. Examples have included the Easter gardens, the advent windows, and the cairn outside St Lawrence Church. People are more important than just the buildings.

Deanery reorganisation - Pastoral reorganisations have become necessary due to the financial situation in the diocese. Many parishes are struggling to pay their Common Mission Fund, and now need to make cuts across the diocese. Some of these are centrally by selling diocesan buildings eg Old Alresford Place (still to be sold) and a cut in stipendiary clergy as this 80% of diocesan costs. 20-22 stipendiary clergy will go, some through natural retirements and other post moves but some will be redundancies. In the Alton Deanery, Revd Ed Pruen (Medstead, Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden) has already retired, and Revd Tony Pears will retire from the Northanger Benefice in October. These will not be replaced leaving Andrew and Gordon, plus Howard Wright and Yan Dubreuil as the only stipendiary ministry left in Deanery. New voluntary members who have completed their BCM (Bishop’s Commission for Mission), e.g. Philippa Penfold and Sarah Neish, will be able to help out. The parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden (BLS) will be joining with POTR over the coming year, but may need a stepping stone by forming their own parish which is then joined to POTR. It is in the early stages of discussion – so far there has been a joint PCC meeting, and some other small meetings (due to Covid restrictions). There will be four works streams under discussion at future meetings over the rest of this year – service patterning, focal ministry and teams of people, church schools (Bentworth School will be an addition to our current church schools), and governance

There were no questions from the floor.

AM thanked the parish for their support of each other during these past few months. Our vision is where God is leading us. Psalm 121 read at the beginning of meeting reminds us of this.

Jane Nicol asked for a vote of thanks for Andrew, Gordon and all the ministry team for all the work done during the pandemic, particularly with all the new technology. All agreed.

Tim Duddridge thanked the congregations coming into church and their forbearance with all the social distancing requirements. All agreed.

Thanks were also expressed to the churchwardens and administrators who made this possible.

GR closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting closed at 19.26