



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

held on **Tuesday 18TH March 2025**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

Present: Peter Reynolds (Vice Chairman), three members of the Ministry Team and 26 parishioners.

The Revd Preb Caroline Pascoe led prayers before the meeting began

The first meeting opened at 7.06pm

Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mark Sanderson, Melanie Mellor, Derek Glover, Hugh James, Pat and John Dazeley, Julian Hallett, Jean Harrison, Pauline Leggate, John Davies, Nick and Janet Nelson, Gerald Altree and Pat Milnes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 were accepted as correct and signed by the Vice Chairman.

3. Churchwardens' Reports

The churchwardens' report was accepted and no questions were asked.

The Vice Chairman thanked Bryan Jones and Mark Sanderson for all their work during the year.

4. Election of Churchwardens

It was proposed by Roy Milnes and seconded by Jane Rothery to elect Bryan Jones as church warden.

It was proposed by Bryan Jones and seconded by Roy Milnes to elect Mark Sanderson as church warden.

There being no other nominations, Bryan and Mark were elected as Churchwardens until the next Annual Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.10pm. The second meeting followed on immediately after.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Margaret Mason Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 21st May 2024 be accepted as an accurate record.

The Vice Chairman signed the minutes

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3. PCC Treasurer's and Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report showed how the work of St Mary's has continued throughout the vacancy. The accounts had been circulated and showed the church to be in a healthy position. However, there is likely to be significant expenditure on building repairs which will eat into reserves during 2025.

The treasurer also explained that Toast & Toddle had been given a grant of £600 for equipment which explained why their expenditure was higher than in previous years.

Proposed: Paul Mason Seconded: John Setchfield Unanimous

It was resolved to accept the Report of the Trustees and Accounts.

The Vice Chairman thanked the treasurer for all his hard work which is much appreciated.

4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

On 24th February 2025 there were a total of 123 members on the electoral roll following the full revision of the Roll. The next full revision takes place in 2031.

The report was accepted.

5. PCC Secretary's Report

The secretary's report which outlined the work of the PCC over the year was accepted.

There were no questions.

6. Safeguarding and DBS Officer's Report

The Safeguarding and DBS Officer's very comprehensive report was accepted.

The church was on top of all the requirements though new ones are coming in all the time. Without a Rector, the workload had been greatly increased and Judith had expressed her thanks to everyone for the level of co-operation.

Colin Leggate expressed our gratitude to Judith for keeping everyone safe.

7. Deanery Synod Report

The report of the Deanery Synod was accepted. There were no questions.

Rachel had outlined the scope of the Deanery Synod and explained that as a church we were in a very good position in comparison with many of the village parishes where they were struggling with small and ageing membership and a lack of funds. It was important that we support them as best we can.

Freda added that at the last meeting we had been given a pair of sandals to use as part of a project called Holy Ground. She will be looking at working on this after Easter. Rachel has details for anyone interested.

8. Report from the Vacancy Management Group

This was included in the Churchwardens' report.

The Vice Chairman highlighted some of the work of the Ministry Team and thanked them for all they are doing, not just services but the many life events taken care of.

Thanks were also expressed to Mark and Bryan for all they have done over the past year.

9. Hopes for the Future

Caroline had submitted a report which was accepted.

She drew attention to the Life-Link Chaplain and asked for prayers as the interviews take place on 31st March.

10. Vision Portfolios including reports of church groups**A Inspiring Faith**

There were reports from Altar Servers, Bible-a-month Club, Bible Study Groups, Baptism Ministry, Bell Ringers, Contemplative Prayer Group, GROW Youth Group, Messy Church, Music, Open the book, Prayers for a full ST Mary's, Ponder & Pray, Prayer Chain, Residential Communities, Sunday Kids, Work in Schools and Zoom Morning Prayer.

B Inspiring Hope

There were reports from the Inspiring Hope leader focussing on Remembrance, Just B, Christian Aid, Community Larder, Commercial and Industrial Chaplaincy, Craft Group and Mothers' Union.

C Inspiring Love

There were reports from Church Welcome, Churchyard Angels, Eco Church, Flower Arrangers, Fun, Food & Funds Group and Toast & Toddle.

11. Election of one member to the Deanery Synod to fill a vacancy

There were no nominations. There are currently three (Gerald Atree, Rachel Lewis and Mark Sanderson) out of four possible members who are now in the last of a three year term.

12. Election of twelve members to the Parochial Church Council

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: John Setchfield

Unanimous

It was resolved to elect twelve members to the Parochial Church Council,

Jean Brown

Roy Milnes

Paul Cummings

Anne Morris

Freda Davies

Peter Reynolds

Mike Donovan

Jane Rothery

Julian Hallett

Alun Thomas

Hugh James

Rosie Winyard.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts

Roy Milnes had ascertained that David Bennett was prepared to continue as Independent Examiner for the Accounts prior to the meeting. However, he would be retiring next year so this would be his last year.

Proposed: Bryan Jones

Seconded: Roy Milnes

Unanimous

It was resolved to appoint David Bennett as Independent Examiner for the Accounts.

14. Church Hall Report

Peter was pleased to report a healthy bank balance due to many lettings.
The report was accepted.

15. Report of the Friends of St Mary's

The Friends were thanked for their support of the fabric of the church. Church members were encouraged to join and forms were available at the back of the church.
The report was accepted

16. Organisations' Reports

Reports from the church's groups had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were noted and accepted.

17. AOB

Bryan Jones expressed his thanks to Mark Sanderson for his pivotal role during the Vacancy. He had worked tirelessly and was directly responsible for much of what has been achieved. Thanks were also given to him for his work on the new platform which was a huge improvement at the front of the nave.

Mike Heylings commented on the quality of the displays at the back of the church – he had not seen anything like them in any other church he had visited. Rachel brought attention to the panel showing how the PCC's donation to a Tanzanian student was being used.

Maragaret Mason asked if the PCC could increase its giving from 5% of its income to 10%. She asked that a date for discussion of this could be made known.

Peter Reynolds thanked the catering team, who provide so much at so many events.

The meeting closed at 7.36pm.