

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST MARY KIPPINGTON**

Held on Sunday 15th May 2022 in Church

The Vicar, Rev Mark Brigden was in the Chair and 38 parishioners were present

1. Welcome

Mark welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer

2. Apologies

Sharon and Roger Fishwick, Rosemary Creed, Joan Miller, Ian Campbell, Alan and Jennifer Chart

Throughout the meeting Mark lit a candle and wished to remember those members of our Church who were no longer with us.

A candle was lit in memory of Dorothy Ashpitel and thanks given for all she did for the life of the church.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Mark thanked Brenda Ross and David White for all they have given over the past year as Churchwardens. We are grateful that they are both willing to re-stand for election.

Proposal for David White

Proposed: David Green

Seconded: Andrea Green

Proposal for Brenda Ross

Proposed: Len Ross

Seconded: Stephen Day

There being no further nominations the congregation were asked to raise their hands to show approval.

Mark invited Brenda and David to go to the front of the church to pick up their staves as a symbol of their position held and declared them duly elected. They will be officially confirmed into office in June by the Archdeacon.

A candle was lit in memory of the life of Les Bennett and thanks given for all he gave to enrich the life of our fellowship.

4. Minutes of 2021 APCM

4.1 The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed that the minutes be accepted.

Proposed: Glynn Hicks

Seconded: Avril Hunter

Approved

All in favour

4.2 Mark invited questions regarding matters arising, but there were none.

A candle was lit in memory of the life of Angus McLeod and thanks given for all he gave to enrich the life of our fellowship.

5. Election of PCC

5.1 On behalf of the church, Mark wished to record our appreciation for Graham Roper's time on PCC, which had been cut short. Keith Evans and Lorna Arduino had also completed their term on PCC and were stepping down. Mark thanked them for their time on PCC.

Two nominations had been received for PCC - John Worth and Lisa Stroud

Proposal for John Worth

Proposed: Chris Saunders

Seconded: Stephen Day

Proposal for Lisa Stroud

Proposed: Jean Day

Seconded: Caroline Howe

There being no further nominations, it was unnecessary to hold an election. Mark invited the congregation to show support for John and Lisa's membership of PCC. A prayer of blessing was said and thanks given for their willingness to stand.

6. Trustees Annual Report

The report had previously been circulated to the meeting.

6.1 Mark wished to express thanks to everyone who helped in the production of the report. He then invited questions but there were none. The report was duly accepted.

A candle was lit in memory of the life of Graham Roper and thanks given for all he gave to enrich the life of our fellowship.

7. **Electoral Roll**

7.1 Mark thanked Zoe Anderson for her management of the Electoral Roll - as well as her management of our gift aid. A copy of the roll (names only), is held at the back of the church in the quiet corner. An updated list has now been published - there are 133 names on the roll.

7.2 Mark invited questions but there were none.

A candle was lit in memory of the life of Joan Wolfgang and thanks given for all she gave to enrich the life of our fellowship.

8. **Parish Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Report**

8.1 The report had previously been circulated and questions were invited, but there were none.

8.2 Mark highlighted that, as with all churches, safeguarding must be an utmost priority. We are grateful for all our safeguarding officers and a significant thank you to Wendy Pritchard who is our PSCO at Kippington.

For those on our roll who have suffered the death of a spouse - a candle was lit in memory of Philippa Saunders, the wife of Chris Saunders.

9. **Churchwardens' Report**

The report had been circulated previously and questions were invited. There were none and the report was duly accepted.

For those on our roll who have suffered the death of a spouse - a candle was lit in memory of Bill Martin, husband of Rosemary Martin.

10. **Fabric Report**

10.1 The report had been circulated previously and questions were invited. There were none and the report was duly accepted.

10.2 Thanks were given to Keith Evans for preparing the report and to those mentioned in the report for giving assistance over the last few years. We are grateful to the committee for all their work in managing the care of the fabric of the church.

A candle was lit for those members of our fellowship who have lost family members.

11. **Financial report and presentation of accounts**

The financial report had previously been circulated. Mark then handed over to Chris for a presentation.

11.1 Chris expressed gratitude that in 2021 our donations exceeded our spending. We had been able to give more financial support to the Diocese. However, this was mostly due to government grants which had been received during the year and a reduced Parish Share (as we are now part of a Benefice).

11.2 Our Charifund units had grown by £7,000, but this was £4,000 less than last year.

11.3 Restricted fund grew. Thanks to Janet Eilbeck and her plant sales which had contributed to this.

11.4 The meal delivery scheme has more than £3,000 in the fund. As the need for this has now stopped, contributors will be asked how they would like these funds used.

11.5 It was highlighted that although we are currently meeting our needs via regular giving, our giving via the plate was down on last year and we have lost some regular planned givers. Our spending was less last year due to the church being closed due to COVID, but going forward it is hoped that normal practices will be reinstated, but this will, of course, increase our operating costs. 75% of our costs were made up of three main items: running the church and centre and our Diocesan offer.

11.6 Chris set out how the Diocesan offer is calculated and how it affects us. It should be noted that the Diocese will have less funds, due to lower giving in the parishes.

11.7 Chris thanked everyone who is part of the planned giving scheme, but highlighted that we are dependent upon a small number of donors who give a large part of our monthly income. Chris welcomed people joining the scheme, even if they could only offer £5 per month. Every donation was gratefully received.

11.8 Going forward we are unlikely to receive any further grants from the government and now need to spend on upkeep items that have been missed. Additional costs going forward include streaming costs.

11.9 Utilities: These costs are a looming threat going forward. Our current fixed price deals end in January and since these were fixed, electricity prices have doubled and gas tripled. If this is the case going forward our bills may increase by £12,000 per annum. Chris is continually looking for good deals to possibly switch to - whether to go for a fixed rate (which may ultimately be higher), or a variable deal which can be hard to plan for. The Finance Committee is looking into this.

11.10 Chris ended his presentation by confirming that our key messages haven't changed: we need to ensure that we cover our costs and that the Diocese may also need help. Please do consider joining the planned giving scheme. He also explained how the church can receive additional funds via Easyfundraising, and encouraged people to join. Additional funds could also be raised by Amazon Smile.

11.11 Mark thanked Chris for his work as Treasurer and especially at what was a very difficult time for him personally.

Questions were invited on the report, but there were none. The report was duly accepted.

12. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

12. Mark was pleased to confirm that Philip Wood had once again offered to stand as our Independent Examiner. Mark thanked Philip for all of his efforts over the last year and for his willingness to stand again.

It was proposed that Philip Wood be our Independent Examiner

Proposed: Chris Saunders

Seconded: Amanda Eyre

Approved

14. Sides Team

14.1 Mark thanked David Green for leading the Sides Team over the year and invited him to come forward.

14.2 David thanked everyone on the team. He wished to give particular thanks to Geoff Gyte and Norman Shepherd who had decided to step down following many years of service. David invited anyone to join the team. It is not onerous and for most people, it is only one Sunday a month.

15. Thanks and going forward

15.1 Mark wished to thank everyone who enabled the Church to operate. It is essentially a voluntary organisation and everyone who helps is vital to its running. Mark highlighted all of the different roles which enable the running of the Church and thanked everyone who took these on. The Church belongs to and is all of us.

15.2 After COVID, there is a reality we need to face. There is a significant drop in the 10.30 adult attendance figure - a marked decline from the high 50s to the low 40s. This is happening across the Diocese. The impact of COVID has affected the rhythms of life, including public worship. People have found it difficult to return to attending church. We need to try to revert to what the church was like in 2019 - stabilise before we move forward.

15.3 Mark asked everyone if there was one new thing the church could think about doing, or if there is something we have not done for some time, but could try again? If anyone had suggestions, he would welcome them.

15.4 Going forward Mark would like us all to consider:

- new leadership for our Sunday evening youth group
- involvement of the congregation in our charitable giving
- strengthen our relationship with Kippington Road residents and the Road Association
- building up the church in the parish
- looking at what we can do as a Team Ministry
- continue growing links with our baptism families
- try and reverse the decline in general giving.

15.5 Mark invited anyone who would like to consider helping with any of these to speak to him, Brenda or David.

16. AOB

16.1 Brenda asked everyone to give our thanks to Mark - he has acknowledged the contribution of so many people who have furthered the work of the church, with one important omission. Mark's commitment and enthusiasm has enabled us to thrive through the pandemic. Brenda asked us all to show our appreciation to both Mark and Karen for everything they do.

Meeting closed with a final hymn and the Grace at 11.45pm