

Sandal Magna

Annual Parishioners and Parochial Church Meetings

22.05.2024

Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at St Paul's Church, Barnabas Rooms at 7.30pm

Opening welcome and Prayer - Revd Hannah Smith

Meeting of Parishioners

1 Attendance and apologies:

Present

Alex Hull, Sylvia Slingsby, Phil Asquith, Linda Asquith, Roger Parker, Nigel Brook, Andrea North, Anne Brough, Pam Taylor, Helen Gill, Julian Gill, Margaret Arnold, John Arnold, Rose Lee, Brian Pratt, Anne Pratt, Mike Keeton, Caroline Rountree, Nick Drayton, Ruth McCallum, Hannah Smith, Neale Clark Lynne Finn, Julian Finn, Liv Clark, Viv Buckley, Tracey Taylor Thomas, Mark Taylor Thomaas, Chris Peace, Fran Peace, Catherine Tweedle, Teddy Foster, Sarah McCulloch, Olivia Clark, Neale Clark, Liz Parker, Graham Parker, Elizabeth Cowton, V Dray, Jackie Gabriel, Mark Buckley, Jo Jones, Angie Goddard, Vickie Lord

Apologies

Stephen Francos, Anne Francos, Liz Moreton, Craig Orr, Stuart McCulloch, Gerard K. Jones, Margaret Walker, Cath Moxham, Judy Hull, Laura Truter, Sarah Cutts.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 10.05.2023.

These were approved as a correct account.

Proposed: Nigel Brook

Seconded: Phil Asquith

Abstentions: None

All in favour

3 To disappoint the 6-year rule concerning the appointment of Church Wardens for this year - 2024-2025. (This is done in order that our wardens may serve for more than 6 years.)

Questions and objections were raised regarding the six year rule - Hannah clarified that this was just disappointing this rule for one year and after the explanation, objections were withdrawn and all were in support.

Proposed: Rose Lee

Seconded: Tracey Taylor Thomas

Abstentions: None

All in favour

4 Appointment of Church Wardens - nominations

NOMINATIONS

NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Andrea North	A Newby	F M Peace
Craig Orr	LE Finn	JA Finn
Brian Pratt	Andrea North	J Woodcock
Julian Finn	Julian S Gill	Alex Hull

Proposal: To elect the four Churchwardens proposed.

Proposed: Lynne

Seconded: Julian

Abstain: None

All in favour of the four church wardens being elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Present

Alex Hull, Sylvia Slingsby, Phil Asquith, Linda Asquith, Roger Parker, Nigel Brook, Andrea North, Anne Brough, Pam Taylor, Helen Gill, Julian Gill, Margaret Arnold, John Arnold, Rose Lee, Brian Pratt, Anne Pratt, Mike Keeton, Caroline Rountree, Nick Drayton, Ruth McCallum, Hannah Smith, Neale Clark Lynne Finn, Julian Finn, Liv Clark, Viv Buckley, Tracey Taylor Thomas, Mark Taylor Thomaas, Chris Peace, Fran Peace, Catherine Tweedle, Teddy Foster, Sarah McCulloch, Olivia Clark, Neale Clark, Ann Parker, Graham Parker, Elizabeth Cowton, V Dray, Jackie Gabriel, Mark Buckley, Jo Jones, Angie Goddard, Vickie Lord

Apologies

Stephen Francos, Anne Francos, Liz Moreton, Craig Orr, Stuart McCulloch, Gerard K. Jones, Margaret Walker, Cath Moxham, Judy Hull, Laura Truter, Sarah Cutts.

2 Minutes of the APCM held on 25.05.2022

These had been shared prior to the meeting and no amendments were made.

Proposal: To agree the minutes as a correct record of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 10th May 2023

Proposed: Nigel Brook

Seconded: Phil Asquith

Abstentions: None

All in favour

3 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

4 Report on the Proceedings of the PCC and the Annual Review for 2023

The report of the proceedings of the PCC is included in the Annual Review. There were no questions on this.

5 To receive reports on the Financial Affairs of the Parish including:

- Independently examined accounts of the Parochial Church Council.
- Independently examined statements of the funds and properties of the Parochial Church Council.
- Budget for 2024 - has been accepted by the PCC
- Gift Aid
- Appointment of Auditors

Andrea North, the treasurer, provided copies of the financial reports prior to the meeting and carefully commented on the meaning of the various sections of the report, she highlighted key points and explained discrepancies with predicted spending.

Income - There was a big increase in planned giving in 2023 almost in line with pre covid. One off donations were also increased. We are always grateful for legacies they contribute significantly to our church.

It was clear that giving had increased.

Expenditure - Again Andrea took the meeting through key points clarifying that it does not include the Spring.

Andrea stressed that we constantly aim to keep costs down eg smart meters have been installed. We were able to pay for all repairs during the year - there were a couple of major expenditures eg £1,800 for concrete at the back of the church for the shed. Rewiring was also

a big item, otherwise repairs were relatively minor. Andrea responded to a query by explaining a line on depreciation of items and the need to be saving to replace these. Some expenditure carried out in previous years were paid for in this year.

We were able to fully pay the Parish Share of £80,000 for 2023 and maintained charity giving to Cross project, CMS (Catherine Lee in Taiwan) and Mara Project. Despite setting a negative budget for 2023 we actually spent £7,000 less than our income.

Andrea was very adept at answering questions and queries emphasizing that she would be happy to take questions after the meeting too. Her full notes are available to anyone who would like to consider them in more detail. We try to keep 3 months running costs as recommended by the Charity Commission (£28,000).

The large legacy was unrestricted and so we are approaching how to spend this prayerfully.

Brief comment was made on the Budget for 2024, again answering any queries and questions.

Estimated total income for 2024 is set at.....£164,500

(NB Expenditure wages increased due to 5% pay rise. Maintenance cost have risen

Parish share has risen to £84,500 -we are aiming to pay it! - Hannah explained this is our contribution to the Diocese and that it covers the cost of a Vicar, support by Diocesan Officers in Safeguarding, Legal advice etc and also it is an investment in parishes that may be less well-funded than ours in poorer areas.)

£16,444 is the predicted shortfall and may need to draw on reserves.

The financial reports had been ratified by the PCC prior to this meeting.

Opportunity was given for queries to be raised: all were answered

Hannah pointed out the need to celebrate that we set a negative budget last year and yet we ended the year on a positive budget.

Nigel spoke about Gift Aid -thanking all for giving generously. There was a 10% increase in giving which was also reflected in gift aid - there was even an HMRC payment for interest on payment lost!!! Payaz machine brought in £1200+ in 2023

Proposal: That the accounts as presented be accepted.

Proposed: Andrea North

Seconded: John Arnold

Abstentions: None

All in favour

Appointment of Auditors:

Proposal: That Joliffe Cork should continue as the auditor of the PCC Accounts.

Proposed: Viv Buckley

Seconded: Nigel Brook

Abstentions: None

All in favour

Hannah Thanked Andrea for a wonderful job throughout the year and in giving such a comprehensive report and ably answering questions. Also thankyou to Nigel for his work with Gift Aid and assistance in setting budgets.

The meeting showed appreciation in the normal way.

6 All other reports:

The Annual Review has been available on the website and copies were available at the meeting.

Hannah commented that this is a really encouraging report and shows how much God is doing through the people of the parish. There were no questions, but some comments.

Proposal: That we accept the reports as an accurate record of the work of the parish

Proposed: Linda Asquith

Seconded: Neale Clarke
Abstentions: None
All Agreed

7 Election of the Deanery Synod Representatives:

NOMINATIONS

NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDER
None put forward currently		

Mike Keeton will continue as Deanery Synod Rep

8 Election of the members of the Parochial Church Council:

Hannah thanked Rosalyn Lee, Viv Buckley and Jean Foster, who are standing down from the PCC commenting on lengthy service over many years..

Five members of the PCC have come to the end of their term and the following proposed re-election has been received.

Re-elections:

NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Liz Morton	G Kiely Jones	Linda Asquith
Margaret Walker	Rose Lee	Jonathan Woodcock
Neale Clark	JA Finn	LE Finn

Two new members were proposed to take the place of those standing down:

NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Elizabeth Cowton	Jean Foster	Christopher Cowton
Linda Asquith	Elizabeth Moreton	Caroline Rowntree

9 Parish Life

The Spring - Jackie on behalf of The Spring shared a few insights - calling it an amazing place. Huge improvements to the kitchen and washing up area were very welcome. There had a number of charitable events in 2023 eg Coffee morning for Breast Cancer. Activities are held in the building eg Marshall Arts Club. There are 80 volunteers. Thankyou to you all for supporting the Spring in so many different ways. There was huge thanks from everyone for being there and providing amazing food.

CAP - A few words on CAP's work within the Parish from Nick and Vivienne Drayton who manage the CAP Debt Centre, explaining that CAP's aim is to end poverty.

Nick and Vivienne explained common reasons for debt and CAP's crucial role in helping people with unexpected life happenings that lead to debt. Crucially opportunities are always taken to share the gospel. Vivienne also mentioned the CAP Money Course which Cath had run at the Spring with support from Vivienne. They hope to repeat this soon.

Thankyou to Nick and Vivienne for this amazing work.

Youth Project - Every Good Work Phil explained his role working with two other churches and two other Youth leaders in Wakefield. A youth group has begun in Portobello thanks to regular volunteers. The Gospel has been talked about to over 1,000 secondary children since January. The youth leaders are working with The Cross Project in schools. They are aiming to start an Acorn Course - exploring faith by looking at how Christians serve others and why they do this.

Schools - Julian shared about links with our local Church School - Sandal Castle and gave a small insight into how the Church contributes.

There are over 600 children speaking 20 different languages in the school. There are 5 governors from our fellowship who contribute willingly of their time. Hannah takes regular assemblies. PCC agreed to fund POP UK which was an amazing opportunity to have local

families in Church. We are involved in interviews, celebrations of Christmas, Easter. Whatever we can do to share the love of Jesus in the school.

All children going up to High school are to receive a 'It's Your Move' book by Scripture Union and Phil will lead sessions on transition up to senior school. 8 other schools have now responded to also have the books for their children including Walton Primary where Phil will also go in and lead a session.

Children's work - Sadly Laura couldn't be with us at the last minute, but Hannah shared that things are going well with her area of responsibility. We have increasing numbers of children registered to be part of Sunday School and more volunteers. The Toddler Group on Wednesdays at PCF is going well and also Make Lunch - which runs on Wednesdays during school holidays to provide a meal and activities for families that may struggle for food during these times. We run Make Lunch with TLG a Christian Charity and now work with regular families.

Portobello - Sarah works in Portobello with families and the work is going from strength to strength. Sarah is a bundle of energy and good at applying for bids such as 'our year for Wakefield' - people come into the centre and grow in confidence, friendships are made and some wonderful activities are done.

10 AOB

None

Closing words by Revd. Hannah.

2023 was Hannah's first full year as Vicar here and she is loving being here and feels it is the right thing to be here.

She shared again our Vision - 'Home, Hope, Hands.' Hannah reminded us that we already embody this vision in so many ways, but that we want to do this more.

Home - People feel at home with us - at both our churches, the Spring and PCF. We want more people to feel at home with us and for all of us to go deeper in knowing God as our home. Jesus says 'abide in me' - make yourself at home in my love.

Use prayer to make people feel at home, ask people if you can pray for them.

Hope - If we know Jesus is alive we can always have hope. We live in a world where there is often little hope and we need to communicate and live out hope.

Hands - we don't bless with words we bless with actions. We were challenged to open our hands to what God wants US TO DO.

LET'S CELEBRATE ALL THAT HAPPENS IN OUR PARISH.

This is a year of Team - Phil has joined and Lizzy our curate will be arriving soon. Hannah also shared our aim to employ a Children's Team Leader - someone who will take some of the role with Children and Families that Sally did previously. This is part of why we have a small deficit predicted for 2024 - to employ someone in this role. Hoping to do this in the next few months. Please pray for the right team and the cohesion of that team. Each of us has a role in that team. What does God want you to lay down and take up? Hannah thanked all of you for all that we do.

Hannah took a special moment to recognise those who we have lost during the year and are thankful for them and grateful for all that they did in the Parish.

We had a moment of stillness to recall something that God has said to us and to pray about it.

Hannah Closed in prayer and then we all said the grace together.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Closed at 9.10