

Minutes of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting,

Sunday April 3rd 2022, held in Church House, Milborne Port

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Nicki Edwards (NE), as the Benefice had been in Vacancy since September. The meeting followed the 10.30 Eucharist service held in St John's Church, and was preceded by the Meeting of Parishioners (see vestry book in Church cupboard).

Those present: John and Margaret Barker, Elaine Ennis-Bunt, Harold Clarke, Mary Clothier, Patricia Dawson, Alan and Pat Elliott, David Grant, Ben Grundy, Robert (RH) and Jacquie Hall (JH), Jenny Hill, David and Anne Johnson, Chris and Sheila Lockyer, Brian and Lesley McConnell, Sue Morgan, Christine Porter, Anne Salkeld, Graham (GS) and Janice Sharpless, Clare Silk, Anthony and Naomi Thorp, Brian and Barbara Tindale, Frank Wright

Apologies were received from: Chris and Diane Barrett, Robin and Anne Bawtree, Neil and Anne Briggs, Frank and Gill Coley, Tone Higgins, Trevor and Felicity John, Peter and Linda Mumford, Richard, Liz and Will Redman, Jenny Sherwood, Susan Wales, Rachel Willetts, Caroline Woodall

Minutes of APCM April 25th 2021: These were accepted and signed by NE as a true record of the meeting with no amendments. In her absence, Susan Wales was thanked for taking the minutes for both the APCM and the PCC meetings throughout the year.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Reports:

- a. **Electoral Roll:** GS reported that there were 114 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, comprising 96 from Milborne Port, 8 from Milborne Wick, and 10 who are non-resident. NE thanked GS for his work on maintaining this and also for his work on the church's website. He was happy to continue in this role and was duly re-elected with all those present in favour.
- b. **Church Wardens' Annual Review:** NE's annual Church Warden's report can be found in the book of Reports that had been distributed to parishioners by email prior to the meeting, and also on the Church's website. In this report, she highlighted the challenges that the Parish has faced over the last twelve months, including as a result of the continued CoVid pandemic, but most notably because Rev. Sarah Godfrey left us in August 2021 to take up a new post in Lyme Regis, thus leaving the Benefice in a period of vacancy. However, NE was pleased to report that Rev. Godfrey has settled well into her new role. NE expressed her gratitude to everyone who had supported the Parish during this time, particularly as numbers attending regular worship had been maintained, thus making the Parish an attractive proposition for potential applicants to the position of Priest-in-Charge. She also thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the Benefice Profile, and that, by working together as a Benefice, it is hoped that we will be able to appoint a new Priest-in-Charge after interviews that are scheduled to be held on May 26th to be in position by September. NE continued by thanking Revs Ayres-Harris, Barrett, McConnell and Wright for their unstinting commitment in providing the Benefice with the regular pattern of services to which it has been accustomed, and this was duly followed by appreciative applause from all those present. NE was also pleased to report that there was evidence that the Church has continued to work together with the wider community – for example in supporting the new 'Foodshare' initiative and the Spirit of Milborne Port; and attracting people, both young and old, to the Easter Garden event, the November Remembrance Day service, and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. NE continued by thanking Ronnie and June Goodman for the conscientious way in which they keep the church building a clean, CoVid secure and welcoming place for worshippers and visitors alike; and to Robert and Jacquie Hall for the exceptional amount of time that they both devote to the church in their various roles. JH then provided a brief résumé of the Fabric report as included in the Annual Report and Accounts. 2021 saw the final areas of Hoggin removed and a porous tarmac surface laid on the main west path and apron in front of the west door with chippings rolled in. The path had been re-laid along the north side of church as in previous phases, and all other paths had been covered in chippings. The Parish Council contributed £6000 and the PCC £3000 to meet the cost of this work. Essential lead work on the tower roof was completed as specified in the Quinquennial report at a cost of £1500. The 5-year electrical survey failed due to out-of-date consumer units. These had to

be replaced, together with several other faulty circuits (such as the repairs to the floodlights) resulting in a total cost of £2755. The central heating boiler failed in December and eventually *Heatwave* rectified these faults at a cost of £1570. Ronnie and June gave notification in August that they wished to move out of St John's cottage, which they had as a benefit in kind in return for their verger duties. The cottage has now been refurbished ready for letting at a cost of £3000. Tenants are now in the cottage, paying £850 per month of which we receive £720 pm through Dorset Lettings. This will contribute to the salary now paid to the Goodmans in lieu of accommodation. There had been particularly high routine maintenance costs from the *Ebound* alarm system and for fire extinguishers, totalling around £1300.

- c. **Financial Report and Accounts:** the 2021 accounts were prepared in accordance with the PCC accountability handbook. RH presented an overview of the accounts, which had been approved by the PCC on 22nd March 2022, and which had been independently examined by Martin Freeman. The complete set, together with a comprehensive report by RH, was made available for all parishioners to peruse, and which had been sent to all parishioners via email in advance of the meeting. The accounts will be submitted to Bath and Wells Diocese Board of Finance in due course, in line with statutory requirements. In his précis, RH emphasised that the finances had done remarkably well considering the impact of the pandemic, although the lack of yellow envelopes and cash collections had impacted receipts. The St John's General fund was depleted by £7450. However, the situation was ameliorated by extraordinary receipts of some £3250, which are detailed in his report. RH thanked all those involved in the very successful Gift Day, which raised over £8000 inclusive of Gift Aid, and also to the Events Committee for organising the successful Summer Fete, which raised £2746. Looking to the future: the continuing impact of the pandemic, rising energy costs and, for various reasons the decline in income, will exert pressure on the church's finances. NE thanked RH for his work in maintaining the finances in good order in exceptional times, and for presenting the report in such a viewer friendly way, and also for the additional work involved in making payments to those members of the clergy who are taking services and offering pastoral support during the vacancy. NE reported to the meeting that RH had informed the PCC that he wished to stand down from his role as Treasurer and to search for a replacement as he had completed nine years in this position and it was having an adverse effect on his health. NE asked those present to think and pray that a replacement may soon be found.
- d. **Reports from Committees:** These were presented in booklet form, and available to read either on the website, or email or by hard copy. There were no questions.
- e. **Inventory and Log Book Terrier:** These had been checked and updated by NE and JH and were signed by 2 members of the PCC.
- f. **Vicar's Report:** As we are in vacancy, this had been covered by the Churchwardens in their reports.

Elections: There were three vacancies due to resignations. Ben Grundy was moving away although happy to continue as Church House Treasurer. He was thanked by JH for his conscientious care for Church House finances. Mrs Barbara Tindale and Mrs Lyn Harrison had tendered their resignations. Susan Wales had agreed to continue as a member of the PCC (previously co-opted). She was proposed by Naomi Thorp and seconded by Anthony Thorp. Richard Redman had agreed to continue as a member of the PCC (previously co-opted). He was proposed by Jacqueline Hall and seconded by Susan Wales. NE asked those members present if anyone would be willing to stand. After the meeting David Grant offered to stand. He was proposed by Robert Hall and seconded by Jacqueline Hall. There were therefore two vacancies and four people whose three-year election was completed but who would need to be co-opted at the next meeting as their presence on the PCC was very necessary: Anne Salkeld, Trevor John, Graham Sharpless and Robert Hall. The posts of sides-people can be set by PCC at the next full meeting.

Appointment of External Examiner: Martin Freeman had not yet been approached but it is hoped that he will continue in this role next year.

Other Matters of Parochial or General Church Interest: Dates of Future Meetings of PCC: 17th May

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1 pm.