



MINUTES OF ALL SAINTS' CHILTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 23rd APRIL 2017 AT 10.30am AND 10.35am RESPECTIVELY IN THE CHURCH

The Rector, the Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey was in the Chair and 32 parishioners were present, including the Revd Pam Rolls and Revd Jan Radford.

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting, which followed the morning church service, after a short break.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Mr Andy and Mrs Kate Wells, Mr Jeremy Sanderson, and Mrs Rosemary Rolls. (Apologies were also received, later, from Mr Steve and Mrs Jane Hale)
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Meetings The minutes of the last meetings had been circulated (with the other reports to be accepted) and were accepted unanimously and duly signed.
3. Election of Churchwardens. The Rector thanked Mrs Naomi Gibson for the 5 years she had served as a Churchwarden, and her lengthy service on PCC. Revd Pam Rolls presented her with a magnolia tree, as a memento from the members of PCC. Naomi thanked everyone for their help over the years, and felt her relationships with the members of the congregation had grown, in accordance with the morning's sermon, (on our mission statement), growing "wider, deeper, closer". Mr Alex Reich was also thanked for his service over 2016, and for being willing to serve again.

Mr Alex Reich proposed by Mr Philip Garner, seconded by Dr John Berry.
Mrs Yvonne Sanderson proposed by Mrs Susan Packer, seconded by Mrs Jacqueline Rickards.

They were duly elected unanimously.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Elections/Appointments
 - (i) Deanery Synod Representatives We are entitled to 3 representatives, to serve from 2017 to 2020.

Mr John Pigott and Mrs Sylvie Thompson were both retiring from this role.

The Rector expressed the thanks of PCC for Sylvie's hard work on the heating project. Although this had not gone forward at the present time, her groundwork

was an invaluable resource, which would be referred to when the heating was next reviewed. John had served on Deanery Synod for about 24 years, and was gratefully thanked for his enduring service.

There were no nominations for these three vacancies. If anyone felt inclined to offer for these positions later, they could be co-opted during the year. Meantime, our clergy would be representing us.

- (ii) PCC Members There were 3 vacancies for 3 years.
Nominations were:

Mr John Pigott	proposed by Dr Carina Lobley, seconded by Mrs Liz Morris
Mr Stuart Gibson	proposed by Mrs Carol Pigott, seconded by Dr Carina Lobley
Mrs Helen Brook	proposed by Dr John Berry, seconded by Mr Philip Garner

They were duly elected unanimously.

- (iii) Sidesmen The following were proposed to serve as sidesmen in the coming year, and they were accepted by the meeting

Dr John Berry	Mr Jeremy Burbage	Mr Phil Corbishley
Mrs Naomi Gibson	Mr Steve Hale	Mr Andrew Hayes
Mr Dave Kerr	Mrs Hazel King	Mrs Elizabeth Morris
Mrs Carol Pigott	Mr John Pigott	Mr Alex Reich
Mrs Audrey Slater	Mrs Yvonne Sanderson`	Mr Jeff Stopps
Mrs Sylvie Thompson		

The Secretary would check with Sylvie, if she was prepared to continue as sidesman, now she is no longer on PCC.

- (iv) Independent Examiner Jane Moreton, of Harwell, was prepared to continue as our Independent Examiner.

The Independent examiner was proposed by the Rector, seconded by Mrs Liz Morris, and accepted unanimously.

2. Prayers of Thanks and Commissioning

The Rector prayed briefly, giving thanks for those who had served All Saints' over the past year. Many members of our congregation served behind the scenes, in many ways that could go unnoticed. He prayed for those taking on new roles, to have enthusiasm in their service.

3. Receiving the Reports

The reports for this year (Minutes of Previous Meeting, Electoral Roll Report, Deanery Synod Report, Fabric Report, Annual Report (including the Finance Report), and the Financial Statements) had all been published on the Church website, produced in paper form in church, and reported on verbally during services as appropriate, on the Sundays

leading up to the Annual meeting. This had given people a chance to discuss the reports with those presenting them, after the services.

The Reports were subsequently approved unanimously.

The Rector thanked Gordon Cowan for up-dating the Electoral Roll. Gordon said it had been a very quiet year, with just one added, and two removed. The Rector noted with interest that about 10% on the Roll are non-residents.

4. Discussions, Questions and Tabling Resolutions

Mr James Bacon Initiated a discussion on outreach, having noted a net loss in numbers on the Electoral Roll. Were we fulfilling the Great Commission? Did we need an Outreach Team? Philip Garner visits homes on Chilton Field with a welcoming face, but could we do more? He was disappointed the possibility of a 10.30 service had been shelved, along with the idea of a service in the Community Room.

The Rector responded that the Electoral Roll was just one indicator, (and there was a financial benefit in it being low, as it affects the Parish Share). In fact, we probably have 120 regular attendees to services, with additional outreach contacts through Pastoral Care, Fledgelings, Holiday Club, Y-Club and Festivals, where we reach more than the 120 regular contacts; but we do need to bring them in to faith. Some might ask why, with the population of the village being doubled by Chilton Field, our congregation has not also doubled. There are many reasons for this. There is a predominantly younger generation on Chilton Field; there is the distance between us; they are not accustomed to church services, etc. Jonathan has a heart for evangelism, and is not complacent. We have done "Connect" (less structured, more informal, Sunday afternoon meetings at the school) for a time; and had one-offs (Easter Fiesta in 2016, Father's Day in 2017). However, he appreciated James' comments.

Gordon Cowan reminded the meeting that there had been 11 additions to the Electoral Roll in 2016, mostly from Chilton Field.

Carina Lobley pointed out the children we now have in church, who are not on the Roll but bring us their joy and vibrancy. She maintained our church is far from dying.

David Kerr also remarked on the Science and Faith project, which is very active.

Judy Burbage empathised with James remarks, as she and Jerry came to us when they first came to faith, but went away after experiencing the type of services we hold. They did return later when they experienced the love here. She was concerned that the changing patterns of service, week by week, did not help newcomers.

5. Rector's Remarks Jonathan continued the theme of his morning's sermon, on our Church Mission Statement. We are all called to get close to God, with the Holy Spirit in our lives, and to be committed, at the centre of church. From here, we should be reaching out to the congregation who are attending/seeking/growing in faith; then further out to those we have contact with outside church. First, to those who are not regular members of the congregation, but attend for festivals, etc. so we may know their names and faces; then out to neighbours we may not know at all. We are called to reach out to the World. (And we have our World Mission Group, doing just that)

The Rector then asked, how were we going to grow? Lunch clubs, Toddler clubs, Debt Counselling, Bereavement Support are means to meet people where they are, in their need. These people become the "crowd" and as we form relationships with them we can hope to share our faith with them. Posters may attract people to events, but it is mostly through personal relationships that they come to faith. The Church includes Fledgelings, etc. Could we do more to enable people to make the journey from the "Crowd" to "Commitment"? Can we reach single parents, addicts, workaholics, commuters, etc?

Sue Packer commented that ours is not a dying church, but a church of miracles. She came to the village 35 years ago, and started right outside church. Her first step was when invited to a house group, and it had taken a long journey to get to the centre. Our church is not dying, because God is in it.

Jonathan responded that it was wonderful that we are a welcoming church, but we do need to get people to come IN first. We do need to be in mission mode, especially as the Church of England itself is dwindling.

Revd Jan Radford added the information that she had obtained when doing the evangelism part of her course. There she was told that it is all about relationship. An example is the Alpha Courses. On a scale of 1 to 10, people join Alpha course because they are already interested in Christianity, and are at about 8 on the scale. On the other hand, the wider community is probably at -2 on the scale.

The Rector thanked all those working in Pastoral Care, especially Revd Pam Rolls.

Naomi thanked Jonathan, on behalf of the congregation, for all he does for us.

6. Closing prayer

The Rector thanked the secretary and treasurer for their work, and closed the meeting in prayer, at 11.25 am.

..... (Chairman)

Carol Pigott
(Secretary)