

St Mary the Virgin, South Baddesley

Minutes of the Annual Parish and Parochial Church Meetings Tuesday 26 April 2022, 7.00 pm

Present: Bernard Atkinson, Joss Cavell, Rob Cavell, Valerie Codling, David Codling, Penny Dent, Jim Eden, Richard Elliott (Chair), Pam Hughes, Lynda Leen, Pat Mennie, Simon Newham, Rachel Prophet (Secretary), Cynthia Rolfe, Nicolas Walford, Maureen Ward, Andy Ward, Gordon Wynne. (18).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Election of Church Wardens

With Andy and Pat willing to serve for a further year, this was proposed by Richard, seconded by Lynda and unanimously accepted by all present.

The Annual Parish meeting was then declared closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (“APCM”)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard opened the APCM with a reading from Acts 8 vs 26, drawing from it the importance of listening and trusting. He reflected on this time as one of positive growth in the church.

2. **Apologies** for absence were received from Leo Gibb and Christine Atkinson.

3. Minutes of the last APCM

Approval for these was proposed by Pat Mennie, seconded by Bernard Atkinson and, with a show of hands, unanimously accepted by all.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Reports

Reports were distributed before the meeting.

Lynda summarised her Children and Family report, in which she thanked the congregation and was delighted to highlight Mia’s Beaulieu Abbey scholarship and forthcoming confirmation and baptism of two children.

Richard thanked Lynda, echoed by all, for everything she has done with the children in the year, and particularly for making this Easter Sunday’s activities as enjoyable and successful as they were.

Pat drew attention to two items in the annual statement; the 2021 positive balance against 2020's negative result, largely due to the proceeds of the 2021 summer Fete, cancelled in 2020 by Covid lockdown. She highlighted the "healthy" balance in Buildings Fund, much needed for work pending approval, including Church heating.

Questions on the financial report were invited.

Jim questioned, what he saw as, excessive parish contribution by a comparatively small parish church. (Simon's comments later in the meeting pick up this point). Details of how this is calculated were not available. Richard said it was an accepted part of Church governance. He added there had been a positive response to St Mary's need to reduce Parish Fund in 2020.

Richard thanked Pat for all her work as Treasurer.

Richard invited comments on the various reports, and with none raised, they were accepted.

6. Elections

6.1 PCC Members

Richard said that the PCC had welcomed Rupert van den Bogaerde (Rupert) a recently co-opted member of the PCC and already actively contributing.

He said that Rupert, within the Roper Curzon family and recently appointed Pylewell Estate Manager, has expressed the Estate's desire to engage more with the community and the church, and the family's wish for the Church Fete to continue to be held at Pylewell Park.

6.2 Deanery Synod Representative

All were unanimously in favour of Leo's much welcomed continuation in this role, which was proposed by Richard, seconded by Pat.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Pat advised that John Graves has agreed to continue to act as St Mary's independent examiner.

8. Any other business

Safeguarding. Richard welcomed Nick Walford, who has recently taken on the role of parish Safeguarding Officer. Nick introduced himself and asked for all Safeguarding enquiries to be sent via the new email address:

safeguarding@boldrebenefice.com. Richard thanked Nick for the work he is doing, especially in supporting St Mary's commitment to Safeguarding.

9. Closing Statements

Vicar: Reflecting on the message of Richard's opening reading, Simon spoke about the "positive signs" he saw for our parish and churches. The welcome of new PCC members; a new Parish Safeguarding Officer and St Mary's PCC Secretary; the growing cooperation across the Benefice; the progress of the Children/Family Worker to provide support across the 3 church schools which is about to be advertised; Simon's time in school every half term and class visits to church; closer links between the Pylewell Estate and the local community were all positive signs. Simon praised everyone for what they had achieved. He described the children and youth work, led by Lynda, at St Mary's as the most alive in all the churches. He spoke of the financial generosity from St Mary's (and in the context of Jim's concern raised earlier) gave reassurance that the money from St Mary's helped provide local churches and communities -some in desperate need- with things we take for granted. He concluded that St Mary's was making a difference, and its contribution signalled a healthy church.

Turning to services and committees after Richard's retirement on 26 June, Simon confirmed that services will continue every Sunday at St Mary's with Gordon (who will lead one service a month), Felicity, Lynda and Simon contributing regularly and others possibly supporting as needed. On the latter, Simon hoped that some of those Licence holders, coming to his "thank you" tea party in May, would be willing to support the regular team at St Mary's.

Simon is to chair St Mary's PCCs and APCM.

Simon's final words were for Richard. Reflecting on a remarkable contribution, he thanked Richard for his professional skills, his calm and reliable presence in the team and, above all, his giving so graciously and so generously.

Parish Priest - Richard's Closing

Richard described his last 5 years as transformative. He applauded the positive response of everyone during the Covid lockdowns, which had given continuity for church through the pandemic.

He briefly touched on Faculty applications: completed (Flagpole) and in progress (Commemorative Plaque and Heating). He was committed to exploring practicalities of Ground Source Heating and submitting a detailed application.

In closing, Richard spoke of his gratitude to many but took this moment to say a special thank you to those who have "helped his ministry week in and week out" over the 5 years, namely Andy, Maureen, Pat, Leo and Gordon. He was enormously grateful to each and thanked them for their tremendous support.

10. The meeting ended with The Grace