**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MIDSOMER NORTON**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

## HELD IN ST JOHN’S CHURCH, SUNDAY 30 MAY 2021 at 10-45

**APOLOGIES**

Taken as for the Meeting to Appoint Churchwardens

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 11 Oct, having been posted on the church web site were taken as read. Robert Broughton proposed that they be accepted as a correct record. David Moore seconded the proposal and with all present in agreement, they were signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

None

**APPROVAL OF THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*Report*

No questions were raised regarding the content of the Annual Report.

*Accounts*

The accounts were also accepted without any questions being asked.

Guy said it had been a difficult task for John having to get used to the Diocese of Bath & Wells spread sheet which now has to be used by all PCC treasurers. He thanked John for all the time and effort he had spent coming to terms with the system.

John thanked Kay & David Harvey for the support and help they had given him.

**ELECTORAL ROLL**

There are 98 names on the electoral roll

**ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

There were five vacancies

a. Three to serve 2021-2024

b. One to serve 2021-2023

c. One to serve 2021-2022

The following had been nominated and had agreed to serve the terms of office indicated if elected

As there were no other nominations, the five nominees were elected with all present agreeing.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nominee  | Proposer | Seconder | Term of office |
| Pat Clynes | Colin Tincknell  | Angela Fitch | 2021 -2024 |
| Margaret Marshall | Kay Harvey | Ann Munton | 2021 -2024 |
| David Moore | Tony Daniels | Michael Fitch | 2021 -2024 |
| Sally Curtis  | Margaret Marshall | Geoff Miles | 2021-2023 |
| Heather Hill | Hugh Pountney  | Ann Munton | 2021-2022 |

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

David Harvey had agreed to act again in this capacity. John proposed and Carol seconded the appointment. All agreed to this.

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS**

Alan Gregory & Pat Clynes were willing to carry on in this capacity.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Beth gave her report

It is my privilege and pleasure to say a few thank you’s on behalf of everyone to those people who have given of their time and talents towards the smooth running of our church since our last APCM in October 2020.

A big thank you to our treasurer John (Shears)who has the difficult task of running our accounts which aren’t always made easy for him because of the demands of the way the accounts have to be presented and of course a thank you to David (Harvey) who audited the accounts. And a thank you too to Kay (Harvey) who runs part of the accounts for John and for doing the gift aid claiming and who is now taking over running the Fabric Fund from Les (Martindale) who has run that account for all the time we were fund raising for the church’s huge restoration, we are very grateful that she has agreed to take this account over.

We thank Margaret (Whatley) our organist and Geoff (Miles) who both had to adapt to playing for our restricted services and to Geoff and his choir for singing hymns while we aren’t allowed to.

Thank you to the sacristants and servers who once we could be back in church again had to adjust to Covid restrictions and also thanks to our two deputy church wardens Pat (Clynes) & Alan (Gregory), sides people, readers and intercessors who valuably contribute so much to our services.

We thank our church cleaning team who have ensured the church is Covid safe and clean and we also thank Angela (Fitch) for ensuring our brass is so beautifully polished. A thank you should also go to the small team of people who look after the church and hall grass and flower beds plus the ‘reserve team’ who are always so willing to help with the occasional extra job.

A huge thank you goes to Linda (Broadhurst) for continuing to produce the magazine during lock down and therefore keeping us all in touch and for also doing the printing and collating for the distributors to deliver.

Another big thank you goes to Gary (Lewis) for ensuring we stayed within his Risk Assessment guidelines so that we could come back to church and also for being our Safeguarding Officer, on top of that he has kept our web site up to date. Gary has started to hand over the web site running to Rob (Broughton) to whom we are also incredibly grateful for taking this on.

We were so pleased when we were able once again to have flowers in church and we thank Sue (Holley) and her team for the beautiful arrangements they do for us each week.

We appointed a new person to run and clean our church hall, which because of Covid rulings was not allowed to be used for some time but now the regular users are returning. Carolyn (Wroe) has settled well into the role of running everything there, for which we are very grateful.

Another big thank you should go to our administrator Liz (Casson) who in the background runs all the paperwork and communications for the churchyard, funerals, weddings and baptisms and generally being of huge assistance to Guy, I don’t know how we would manage without her.

In normal times we would be thanking bell ringers and the social committee who because of Covid haven’t been able to give of their talents but we really hope to see them all back in action as soon as restrictions are lifted.

And now but by no means least a huge thank you to my fellow church warden Carol (Moore) who with her knowledge of being a church warden for several years and also covering the vacancy, has guided me in the role of being a church warden and with whom it is a real pleasure to work alongside.

Thank you Carol.

Carol then delivered her report

First of all I want to give my very sincere thanks to Beth as my fellow Churchwarden. Since Beth was appointed Churchwarden at the last APCM she has really put her all into it and has been enormously helpful. She has continued sending out the Service each week during lockdown which I know you all appreciate. She also prints the news sheets for each Sunday. Amongst the many other things, she helps keep the gardens around the Church tidy and often arranges the flowers in the Lady Chapel. Beth is always willing to help with anything that needs doing and is loyal and reliable.

Thank you Beth, it is a pleasure to work with you.

After a long wait because of the pandemic and a hiccup at the Diocese, Guy’s Induction on 10 December was very successful, considering the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Guy has had to work with the challenge of a Lockdown and it has been an extremely difficult start to his ministry here. He decided to keep the Church open for services on a Sunday and to open the church for private prayer on a Tuesday morning followed by Holy Eucharist at noon. As part of the Covid restrictions, not only were members of the congregation asked to sit 2 metres apart, but also restricted from lingering as they left the church. Social events were not permitted and that is still the case. Despite that, Guy has found ways to contact people and introduce himself. It has been an enormous pleasure to work with Guy since his arrival on 10 December last year. He has slowly and meticulously come to grips with all aspects of life at St John’s.

Everyone enjoys Guy's warmth and love as he preaches to us each week. Easter Sunday was amazing when he and Kate took the service together. Thank you Guy for the great work you are doing here amongst us and it is a joy that from time to time Kate can take part in the services.

The Covid restrictions are due to be lifted in 3 weeks’ time and plans are already well advanced to resume social activities when we will have more opportunities to meet Guy.

Father Guy responded

I would like to begin by thanking you all for the welcome Kate and I have received from you all. For the hamper awaiting our arrival at the Vicarage. For the Jasmine to go in the garden and the cut flowers for our new home. It hasn’t been straightforward because of the COVID 19 restrictions on our lives, but we are finding our way around Midsomer Norton, Clandown and Clapton and we look forward to getting to know you all without masks!

As Government restrictions and guidelines are eased and things are opening up, we perceive the time is right to look at the worship we offer on a Sunday. Following conversations with Carol and Beth, your churchwardens, the Standing Committee of your Parochial Church Council, and with the support of the PCC, we feel that we can reinstate the Said Holy Eucharist at 8.00 am every Sunday. We also feel the time is right to move the 9.30 am Parish Eucharist back half an hour so that our worship begins at 10.00 am on a Sunday morning.

There are various reasons for introducing this change. Firstly, research shows that the optimum time for a Sunday service is 10.00 am; this change may help us as we seek to encourage young families and children to join our worshipping community. The parish where I was previously Incumbent introduced this change and we began to see families and children attend far more regularly. Secondly, within your Parish Profile the Parish Questionnaire asked, “if you could change one thing?” A number of responses clearly indicated that they would like a later service time. And thirdly, the time between the end of the 8.00 am Said Eucharist and the beginning of the 9.30 am Parish Eucharist leaves very little time for the Priest to prepare or to gather their thoughts before the next act of worship.

With this modest change in time, it is my hope and prayer, that this will help and encourage us to “open up” and become more accessible to young families and children. It may also help us in our outreach to the wider community and in our desire to be inclusive and open to all. There is also the opportunity to offer different kinds of worship on a weekday or Sunday evenings as we explore together ways in which we may broaden the range of our worship of God, and so attract more people to journey with us as we share the story of God’s love for us and for the world.

Following conversations with Fr. Jim, Fr. Tony and Kate, and with the announcement today of Philip joining us as Assistant Curate, I hope we can all model a vision of shared ministry. All of us have gifts to offer. We all have strengths and talents that when pooled together can enable us to embody the vison of an inclusive and open church, honest with each other about our faith, and seeking to serve our community.

So, let’s encourage one another as we journey with God into the future.

The meeting closed with The Grace 11-10