

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MIDSOMER NORTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2023 at 11-35

APOLOGIES

Taken as for the Meeting to Appoint Churchwardens

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 15 May 2022, having been posted on the church web site were taken as read. John Shears proposed that they be accepted as a correct record, seconded by Robert Broughton and with all present in agreement, they were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 91 names on the electoral roll

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Philip Hopper proposed that the Report be accepted, this was seconded by Carol Moore

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There were no queries in respect of the 2022 Accounts

Margaret Marshall proposed and Beth Davies seconded that the accounts were accepted.

ELECTION OF TWO DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS TO SERVE FROM 2023 to 2026

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Term of office
Hilary Denning	Beth Davies	Kay Harvey	2023 – 2026
Carol Moore	Pat Clynes	Kathy Sinkins	2023 – 2026

ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Term of office
Linda Broadhurst	Kay Harvey	Carol Moore	2023 – 2026
Sally Curtis	Sue Holley	Geoffrey Miles	2023 – 2026
Kay Harvey	Margaret Marshall	Timothy Marshall	2023 – 2026
Ann Munton	Pat Marriott	Lynn Powell	2023 – 2025
Lesley Garvey	Sally Curtis	Geoff Miles	2023 – 2024

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Paul Justin had agreed to replace Dave Harvey in this role

The appointment was proposed by Andrew Broadhurst and seconded by Les Martindale

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

With Pat Clynes becoming churchwarden, there some discussion regarding the necessity of having two deputies.

The general opinion was that we could manage with one assistant for the time being. As Carol was willing to continue as assistant, she was proposed by Hilary Denning and seconded by David Winter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following is a precis Father Guy's report. It was printed in full in the June 2023 magazine.

At our APCM, we look back on the last year, reviewing our finances and receiving various reports. We rightly thank all those who have contributed to the life of our worshipping community, often doing those things we so easily take for granted.

Whilst it is good to take stock and look back, we also ought to look forward. So, with that in mind, I would like to make some observations.

It is good to see this sacred space, this Parish Church being open for the community beyond our worshipping community. I believe this Parish Church is a community resource open to everyone. In offering this space for these concerts and services we are encouraging many more people beyond our worshipping community to come in and enjoy this space.

It is good to hear our bells rung on a Sunday again. An important witness to the community at large – that the church is here and alive, and they are calling us to prayer and worship

With Philip's past school experience and his eagerness to engage with our schools. I believe we are now building good relationships with four schools in our community.

These are challenging times for the Church; nationally, at Diocesan level, at Deanery level, and for every Parish and Benefice. The Diocesan financial situation we are facing is difficult. More resources and advice for parishes will be available in the autumn,

We are all called to witness to our faith in our day to day lives. When possible, Philip and I have visited those in need or who have asked us to visit them.

We are all asked to care for God's creation. I am really encouraged by the way we are helping the environment by re-using and recycling where possible.

The natural environment in our care is also important, and I am heartened by the willingness of those who help maintain our closed and open churchyards, in finding ways of setting aside areas to 'grow wilder' and encourage natural diversity.

I hope we will shortly join the Parish Giving Scheme, which our Diocese will be promoting, which saves Treasurers a lot of work, because the scheme claims the Gift Aid on donations monthly, allowing Parishes a regular income and cash flow.

The numbers of families coming for christenings and weddings are encouraging, and our funeral ministry is building well. These occasional offices, as they are known, are important ways for us to connect with our wider community and show them God's love and welcome.

With the observations I have made, I am confident we have the green shoots of emerging hope. With that hope in mind, we step forward into God's future as a modern catholic worshipping community seeking to be inclusive, intergenerational, diverse, caring for creation, and striving to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Father Philip's report was printed in full in the September 2023 magazine

Over the past year local Primary Schools have made educational visits to the church. Feedback has always been positive and we look forward to building on the links being made.

Following a protracted absence, we now welcome the whole of St John's School, pupils, parents/carers and staff to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the academic year in church

Our relationship with St John's School is enhanced by weekly visits where we lead Collective Worship.

Mindful of our need to work with older children, Guy and I have signed up to an initiative that supports churches that wish to develop youth work with 11-16 year olds. The Launchpad initiative is being piloted by 5 diocese and we are very grateful to have been selected to participate. Over the coming months we will explore ideas and receive support.

We are especially pleased that our school will be participating in our Patronal festival on 18th June when Bishop Michael will join us. They hope to provide artwork, intercessions and song to our service.

Hilary's Report

In the first full year after Covid, I think it is fair to say that the momentum of St John's has picked up pace again and we have once more enjoyed the many and varied strands of our church life which allows me to say some thank yous. Guy and Philip, with solid support from Kate, Jim and Tony provide a strong framework which underpins all that we do and we are grateful for their thoughtful and well prepared acts of worship, their inspiration and their general willingness to get behind anything that we undertake. Guy and Philip are establishing good links with St John's school and it was heartening to welcome other local schools holding their carol services here last year. Thank you both on our behalf for your enthusiastic and committed mission both in church and the local schools

Thank you so much to John Shears who is stepping down as our Treasurer. It is very easy to underestimate how hard a job it is being a Church Treasurer and John was flung into the deep end of this difficult job. Grateful thanks also go to Dave Harvey for being our independent examiner again this year. Thank you Kay for looking after the Fabric fund, Fees account and Stewardship, you have done a wonderful job this year.

I would also like to thank Ann Munton for her hard work as Parish Safeguarding Officer. She makes sense of all the Safeguarding information which seems never-ending and puts it into plain English. I cannot overstate how grateful we are to her for this important and time consuming job which she fulfils quietly but with great determination. Thank you Ann

Hilary reiterated the thanks which Guy had made to all who keep church life running smoothly.

Last but not least I would like to thank Beth. This last year has been a learning curve for me and Beth has been the steady hand on my shoulder. Her long experience of St. John's has given her an almost universal knowledge of the workings of the church and everyone in it or so it seems to me. As well as her Churchwarden duties Beth also prints the weekly pew sheets, organises the intercessions rota and does many other unnoticed but necessary jobs. Thank you Beth for your reliability and steadfastness. We wish you joy in the future Beth and thank you very much for everything you have done for us here at St. John's.

Beth's report

On behalf of you all it's my pleasure, with Hilary, to thank those of you who have given much time and talent towards the smooth running of our church.

I would like to start with a big 'thank you' to Rob Broughton who runs our church web site. He immediately updates it with any news or events as they come along, the site has quite a regular following and it's good to know new people or visitors to the town can see what we get up to. Rob also runs the church gardening group. Twice a month he, with his small band of helpers keep the footpaths and beds around the church tidy and they also managed to put time into the open churchyard, especially in the unused badger sett area and the path, thank you Rob very much. David Harvey mows the grass around the hall, so a 'thank you' to David as well.

We must also give a grateful 'thank you' to Linda (Broadhurst) for continuing to edit our parish magazine which we all look forward to receiving each month and also many thanks to the people who distribute them.

I would also like to say a huge 'thank you' to the two members of staff who look after our hall and administration. Carolyn Wroe does a wonderful job of keeping the hall clean and tidy as well as taking all the bookings and she works in conjunction with Liz Casson who now keeps the hall bookings money intake up to date. Liz does all the paperwork in connection with funerals, weddings and baptisms let alone Safeguarding records and the many enquiries she gets from people trying to locate graves in the churchyards which she has mapped out in detail and on top of that any task that any of us, especially Fr Guy ask of her, they are both real gems.

The Social Committe are a very special small band of people who keep coming up with wonderful ideas for our entertainment and enjoyment and there's always food to go with it, they make it look so easy to produce but I can assure you much planning and time will have gone into ensuring everything goes well. Thank you so much.

And now a huge 'thank you' to Hilary who took on the responsibly of being a church warden for the first-time last year. She threw herself into the roll with such enthusiasm it was a job to keep up with her at times but I feel very privileged to have shared this responsibility with her, because of her business knowledge she has immediatly known how to tackle problems from turning out cupboards together to sorting out broken down boilers and leaky roofs and she's done most of the work on hopefully getting us set up for cash free donating. I really have enjoyed sharing this responsibility with you Hilary and wish you lots of luck for the coming year, and I wish you and Pat much happiness sharing this responsibility together

The meeting closed at 12-30