

Annual Parish Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting
12noon, Sunday 22nd May 2022

Annual vestry meeting

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies.

Johnny welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened in prayer.

2. Minutes of 2021

There were no questions as a result of the Minutes. The Minutes being accepted as a true and accurate record was proposed by Sue Haward and seconded by Chris Redmond. Agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising: none

4. Parish Charities

Chris explained the two parish charities: Edgells which funds the allotments and Cooper Cole which exists to help people with fuel costs. After being dormant for many years, the majority of the Cooper Coal charity had been used over the winter of 2021/22 to help the local community with energy bills.

5. Election of Church Wardens.

John Wigginton and Sue Haward have agreed to stand for a further year.
John- proposed by Sally Minett, seconded by James French
Sue – proposed by Pauline Pearson, seconded by Liz Warwick.
This was unanimous by those that were present.
Jeanna then offered prayers for the churchwardens.

The Vestry meeting closed at 12.30.

APCM

1. Minutes of 2021 meeting.

These were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Sue Haward, seconded by Jenny Bracey. Passed unanimously.

2. Matters arising: none logged.

3. Election of PCC members.

Johnny asked for a record of thanks to be noted for Andy Birmingham who has been on the PCC both as a member and latterly as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for 13 years. Thanks were also expressed to Barbara Ball for her service on the PCC, as she reached the end of her three year term and is not seeking re-election.

Angela Chapman sought re-election for a second term – proposed by Sally Minett, seconded by Paul Wigginton.

New members admitted to PCC are John and Emanuel Itoji. Passed unanimously. John Wigginton prayed for them as they joined the PCC.

In addition to the election of PCC members, Johnny expressed his thanks to Di Birmingham as she stands down from leading the welcome team, handing over to Helena Redmond.

A new PSO has been identified and this will be taken to PCC at the first meeting.

4. PCC report.

This has been available on the website for a period of four weeks. It was proposed by John Hussey and seconded by Kevin Wren. Passed unanimously.

5. Electoral Roll

David Pearson presented the ER figures. It currently stands at 183 which is up 12 from last year. We have 14 new members on the ER and have lost two members as they have moved away. Just over half of those on the ER are resident in the parish.

6. Finance Report.

Chris Redmond brought the financial report summary. There is currently a surplus in the General Fund of £29K. It was £59K but the PCC had agreed a £30K transfer to the Building Fund. The church is in a financially strong position at the moment, but we have challenges ahead as we seek to pay off the loans for the annexe. Continued giving is key. Chris thanked all those who give regularly during the year and encouraged all who can to Gift Aid. We have agreed to pay a £50K parish share this year.

In the last year we held 5 weddings and 39 funerals.

Johnny offered grateful thanks to Chris for his faithful and sacrificial service in preparing the accounts for us.

The accounts were proposed by Pauline Pearson and seconded by Babs Moore. Passed unanimously.

7. Churchwarden's Report.

St. Paul's

We had some vandalism to the West windows (fortunately not the stained glass ones) last year, this has been restored and paid for by our insurance company.

Damage to the roof in late 2019 caused water damage to the paintwork on the archway to the bell tower. The roof has since been fixed and the paint was restored earlier this year, again paid for by our insurance company. The roof however is in need of further repair, with woodpecker holes in the bell tower and missing slates, particularly on the south side. The porch also needs some restoration.

On the plus side we have employed a new gardener for St. Paul's who is doing a great job for us in keeping the graveyard and surrounding area neat and tidy. We also have the payback team, who do sterling work keeping on top of the nettles and brambles, and the car park has been upgraded, even to the point of having parking spaces marked out.

We would like to put on record our thanks to David and Pauline Pearson, and Vivian and Barbara Ramsey who do so much in the stewardship and care of St. Paul's, and also to Jane Roberts who has taken on the flower arranging at St. Paul's since the passing of dear Noel. Her arrangements are just beautiful.

St. Peter's

Obviously the biggest thing that has happened in the last year has been the opening of the annexe and the reconfiguring/smartening up of the lobby area.

We have taken on a new cleaning company to help us keep on top of the larger area that we now have to keep clean, which is essentially Grace with backup!

Sadly the pandemic meant that the proposed refurbishment of the old kitchen didn't happen, but this is on the radar for the near future, along with the toilet blocks in the old school house.

The installation of Hive in both the old schoolhouse, main hall and at St. Paul's has made our heating bills far more controllable and efficient. Installation of CCTV at St. Peter's and new lighting in the car park and worship area are all thanks to John and Mandy. Massive thanks to them both for all their hard work behind the scenes bringing us into the 21st Century!

All fabric, goods and ornaments are present and correct.

Our thanks are due to so many people who help out at the drop of a hat when I call, volunteer on our church teams and generally help keep our church running. You know who you are, as do I, and I thank you so, so much.

8. Election process for Churchwardens

Johnny asked the meeting to consider a special resolution proposed by the PCC: *'that the parish adopt the national church default position and have no limit on the length of service for the role of churchwardens.'* Wardens must and would continue to be re-elected every year. Currently our church policy is that the maximum period without a break should be 9 years. A resolution passed at this meeting will not take effect until next year. This recommendation was agreed unanimously at the April 2022 PCC meeting.

Babs – I have always wanted this change. Some people are gifted in administration and it takes a while to learn the ropes. It makes no sense to then cut the service short just because of a time constraint.

James – We wouldn't be having this discussion if the current wardens couldn't do their job, but we want to keep them because they are so flipping good.

The resolution was proposed by James French and seconded by John Taylor.
Passed with one abstention.

9. Vicar's Report

This is available on the church website.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiners

No change is recommended.

11. AOB

Ken Grist asked what the Building Fund loan situation was. Chris and Martin agreed to talk to him about it after the meeting.

The meeting closed in prayer at 12.47pm.