

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS  
ALL SAINTS GRAYSWOOD – 24 APRIL 2022

I ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev Fi Gwynn welcomed 30 people to the meeting and opened with prayer.

(i) Election of Clerk for the Meeting

Tracy Garland was proposed by Jackie, seconded by Nicola and elected.

(ii) Election of Churchwardens

Jackie Holmes was proposed by Jane White, seconded by Tracy Garland and elected.

John McLean was proposed by Tracy Garland, seconded by Jane White and elected

(iii) Any Other Business There was none.

II ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(i) Apologies: Rev Chris Bessant, Trish Bell, Greg Bleach and Jane White.

(ii) Minutes of the 2021 annual meetings. These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

(iii) Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Val Digby (Electoral Role Officer) presented the reported for the Electoral Roll had 30 members of which 56 reside in the parish. Fi thanked Val for her hard work in keeping the roll up to date.

iv) Annual Report of the Council.

Our PCC had six full meetings in 2021 which all began with a reading and prayer and one short meeting where we adopted and signed the accounts. Two meetings were held via zoom due to Covid restrictions, three meetings were combined and one was held in church.

We include in our agendas, at most meetings, a main item of particular interest or challenge in addition to covering routine matters.

In January our main item was deciding our focus for the year. It was agreed we would continue with the theme 'embedding Christ in the community'. Covid had limited many of our plans during 2020.

A quinquennial inspection of the building took place in January and the architect was pleased with the upkeep of the church and our documentation. A recommendation by the Diocese to work towards net zero emissions suggested electing an 'Energy Champion'. Phil Miller has undertaken this role and All Saints achieved a bronze award as an 'eco' church.

The PCC attended an online Diocese 'away day' event in May. This challenged our thinking and how we serve our community.

The license of Phil Miller as LLM was renewed in June.

Safeguarding is a standing item on our agenda. An annual self audit and action plan is completed with Jane, our safeguarding officer, and sent to the Diocese. All PCC members have undertaken Safeguarding training approved by the Diocese.

Anthony and Angela, our Deanery representatives keep us informed of any deanery matters we need to consider.

During the year we supported Grayswood School, Grayswood Nursery and our regular Missions. These missions are CMS, Skillway and Through Faith Missions and in our last meeting of the year we choose a charity we would like to support for the first quarter of the next year. It was decided to continue to support the work of Crossways Counselling as many people remain affected by Covid.

Covid restrictions continued in 2021 with a return to worship in July. Many plans and aims set out early in the year were put on hold. The Carol Service Christmas events, the reading of 'A Christmas Carol' the Christmas fayre were well attended and the village advent windows were enjoyed by many.

*Tracy Garland – PCC Secretary*

(v) Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish

The accounts show that the PCC had unrestricted funds of £47,468 and restricted funds of £6,924, giving total funds of £54,392 as at 31 December 2021. This is a decrease of just over £32,000 compared with the position at the end of 2020. The decrease is explained by the expenditure on the installation of the new lighting system, which cost a total of £35,000 (once the VAT rebate under the listed places of worship scheme is taken into account) and was financed by fund-raising in 2020. If the lighting project costs and the funds raised towards repairing the church cloak are excluded, so that we are only looking at recurring income and expenditure the PCC had a deficit of about £3,000 for 2021.

We are very aware of the financial pressures on everyone and so are doing our best to be as economical as possible. Fortunately, the Diocese is also aware of these issues and has not increased the amount we are required to contribute, although it remains by far our greatest regular expense. It is likely that fuel costs will increase significantly this year, indeed a large electricity bill arrived earlier in the year. I expect that our recurring expenses will exceed our income in 2022 by about £6,000.

We are grateful for the continued financial support of the congregation, the Friends of All saints and others who have organised and contributed at fund-raising events during the year.

We have had problems in our relationship with NatWest and so intend to change bank accounts in the near future.

The good news is that the PCC was a beneficiary of the Estate of Lady Lesley Lisle Lewis and we received a substantial amount in March. This has enabled us to pay for the cost of removing the doves/pigeons from the church roof-space and should also help to finance other projects. We also intend to give at least 10% of the legacy to other charity or good causes.

*Nicola Miller - Treasurer*

(vi) Approval of the Accounts

Daphne proposed the approval of the accounts, seconded by Angela and all were in favour. Our thanks were expressed to Nicola for producing the accounts and to David for managing the regular giving income and gift aid.

The fall in income was discussed. Suggestions expressed include providing a breakdown of the deficit/running costs, reference to the 'collection' during the service, encouraging direct banking and gift aid, promoting visitor giving with a visible contactless device, legacy giving.

(vii) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper is willing to continue as our independent examiner. Anthony proposed, Nicola seconded and all were in favour. Tracy will write to them and thank them.

*TG*

(viii) Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The major works to the fabric of the building undertaken during 2021 were the lighting improvements. The lighting in the church was replaced with a new LED lighting system, which allows us to vary the lighting according to the use being made of the building. The new system will be much more cost-effective and eco-friendly. It is also more welcoming when visitors come into the church, as some lights now come on automatically to highlight key points of interest in the building.

The clock stopped during the year and we had hoped to have it repaired by now, but this work has been delayed because of Covid and the knock on effect of delays to other work being carried out elsewhere. We hope that the clock will soon once again show the correct time more than just twice a day.

A Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken by our new Inspecting Architect, Anna Hummel, on a snowy day at the start of 2021. We were pleased that there was very little highlighted that required attention. One thing that was mentioned, however, was dealing with the pigeons and doves that have taken up residence in the roof void and are causing mess and a potential health hazard to those inside the building. Although this problem has not been dealt with in 2021, plans are underway to engage pest control specialists in the first quarter of 2022 to permanently remove the birds and clean up the mess.

Our sincere thanks go to the buildings and grounds team and others who ensure that our church building and graveyard look tidy and remain well-maintained. Special thanks also go to the cleaning team who have had to undertake more cleaning duties than normal between services to ensure that the building has been kept Covid-safe since we have been able to open up to in-person services again.

Finally we must thank the Friends of All Saints, who continue to support the improvements to and maintenance of the fabric of the church through their fundraising.

*Jackie Holmes - on behalf of the Churchwardens*

(ix) Deanery Report

Anthony Ramsden and Angela Wheeler represent the parish at the Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod met on 16th June, 2021 and 10th November, 2021. Both meetings were held via a Zoom link due to concerns about the transmission of Covid.

The June meeting considered the following:

- The election of Jacky Tickner (St Mary's parish) as the new 'Lay Chair of Deanery Synod'
- How to collate and share offers of help and support between parishes
- The transfer of the 'Nigeria fund' (£500) to the 'Prison Welfare Ministry' of Our Saviour's Anglican Church in Lagos
- The Archbishop's September talks and evangelistic courses to be held locally in September, 2021
- Upcoming training of parish leaders to enable them to run the 'Living in Love and Faith'(LLF) course-.  
In November the Synod considered the following issues:
- The progress of the 'Living in love and faith'(LLF) project
- The need to develop firms plans to decide how to use monies held by the Deanery Synod, in particular the mission fund
- The election of Ken Lindup as a Deanery representative to the Diocesan synod.
- A Deanery pilot scheme to explore how to share skills between parishes.
- The need for PCCs to prepare a Mission Action Plan for discussion at the next Deanery Synod meeting on 18th May 2022.
- An informal 'Parish Healthcheck', following the impact of the pandemic
- The introduction of the new 'Parish Safeguarding Dashboard'

*Anthony Ramsden and Angela Wheeler - Deanery representatives*

(x) Election of members to the PCC

On our PCC we have ex officio members – Fi and Elaine, our two wardens Jackie and John and our deanery representatives Angela and Anthony, and 9 elected members. These currently are Richard Everett, Sarah Hatherall-Good, Tracy Garland, Ailsa Guidi, Pippa Hollins McLean, John McLean, Nicola Miller, Jane White and we have one vacancy. They are elected for a term of three years and may stand for election again for further terms of three years. Richard has come to the end of his second 3 year term. Fi thanked him warmly for all his support, he will continue to lead the steering group. Tracy has served one 3 year term and would like to stand again, (proposed by Nicola Miller, seconded by Phil Miller). We have nominations for Dian Mordin (proposed by Pippa Hollins-McLean, seconded by John McLean), David Hutton (proposed by Jackie Holmes, seconded by Angela Wheeler ). All were elected. There remains one elected vacancy because John is now an ex officio member as church warden.

(xi) Sidespeople and Chalice Assistants

Previously sidespeople were elected at our APCM but under new Church Representation Rules, they are now to be elected by the PCC. Those who are regular sidespeople or on the list of reserves are:

Trish Bell, Allen Chubb, Di Cook, Louise Cooper, David Hutton, Penny Glaser, Paul Heugh, Jackie Holmes, Mary Holthouse, Elisabeth Holthouse, Brian Walker, Jane White and reserves, Daphne Bleach, Greg Bleach, Pauline Lamb, and Dian Mordin. We are most grateful to them all.

Our Chalice Assistants are appointed by the priest in charge with the agreement of the PCC and are under the Bishop's authority. They are Daphne Bleach, Allen Chubb, Richard Everett, Jackie Holmes, Dian Mordin, Vera Prangley and Jane White.

(xii) Safeguarding Report

As in previous years I feel very lucky that we live and worship in such a beautiful part of the world. But that doesn't mean that safeguarding is something that we can ignore. Our safeguarding policy is up to date and is also outside on the noticeboard. Our PCC members are required to undertake training and also where relevant be DBS checked. This year we were able to have a diocesan safeguarding meeting in person which was really lovely. Meeting people from other churches who also feel as if they don't do much in their role made me feel much better!! The job descriptions that were talked about at the last PCC meeting are just about ready to be rolled out. Once again, could I ask you that if you have a concern about anyone, it doesn't have to be about a child, please come and talk to me. My email address – a new one - is also outside if you feel that due to regulations you cannot talk to me. Your anonymity is guaranteed and a little piece of information may be the last piece of a puzzle for someone else.

*Jane White - Parish Safeguarding Officer*

(xiii) Report from Revd Fiona Gwynn

Having said much of what I wanted to in my sermon earlier, I am simply tying up a few loose ends here. Obviously, this report covers January – December 2021 so it means I have had to think back to what we did over a year ago!

Having managed much of 2020 on Zoom it was lovely to be able to resume services in the church, even though we had to sing behind masks for much of it.

Whilst some people moved away during this time we have managed to keep relatively stable numbers. The Church of England now counts regular attendance as once a month. And if everyone who attends once a month came on the same Sunday we would have a really full church. However, the pandemic has had a profound impact on our congregation and we do need to look closely at what we are doing and how we might need to change in order to build our congregation moving forward.

This may mean looking at the possibility of holding services other than at 10 am on a Sunday morning in order to attract more families. I am hoping that our newly elected PCC will prayerfully engage with what God is calling us to do in order to be open to change.

Whilst our church is about each of us doing our bit there are a few 'thank you's' that I feel need to be acknowledged. Firstly to Elaine and Phil who have shared leading the weekly worship with me.

Elaine will be taking May off to spend more time with her parents. And Phil sends his apologies, but due to the current situation is having spirituality issues and after a meeting with myself, it has been decided that he will take a sabbatical and hopes he will return in due course.

To the Church Wardens – Jackie and Anthony – thank you for all your support and hard work over the last year.

To Tracy our PCC Secretary who has taken on a very challenging role and made it her own very quickly and efficiently.

Likewise Nicola our Treasurer who has streamlined the way our banking system is working and together with Tracy is making Sarah's life much easier.

To Sarah, our administrator who despite having to work from home for much of the year has definitely kept me sane and has also made our website the envy of many.

To Valerie for quietly and efficiently managing the Electoral Roll.

To Jane who has the incredibly important job as our Safeguarding officer,

To David Hutton for keeping the heating set, the graveyard organised and so much more.

To Richard, who has made the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month a real treat.

To the Friends of All Saints,

And finally To all those who serve on the PCC, the Steering committee, the cleaning, coffee, flower, grounds, Sunday School, reading, sidesperson, toddler group and locking and unlocking rotas and to each and every one of you who attends All Saints and makes it the very special place that it is.

The church isn't about any one individual it is about us all working together to share God's love to all who live and worship here. I am excited to see what God has planned for us next.

(xiv) Any other business

Fi thanked everyone and closed with the Grace – 11.45 am.

Signed .....

Date .....