

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS
ALL SAINTS GRAYSWOOD – 23 APRIL 2023

I ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev Fi Gwynn welcomed 25 people to the meeting and opened with prayer.

(i) Election of Clerk for the Meeting

Tracy Garland was proposed by Allen, seconded by Sarah and elected.

(ii) Election of Churchwardens

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

John McLean was proposed by Angela Wheeler, seconded by Pippa Hollins-McLean and elected.

(iii) Any Other Business There was none.

II ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(i) Apologies: Rev Chris Bessant, Jane White, John McLean, Pippa Hollins-McLean, Charles and Ros Webb.

(ii) Minutes of the 2022 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: 87 members of which 55 reside in the parish. Val has decided to stand down from this role, which she has held for over 30 years. Fi thanked Val for her hard work over such a long period of time. Diana Ramsden has agreed to take over as Electoral Roll Officer.

iv) Annual Report of the Council.

Our PCC had six full meetings in 2022 which all began with a reading and prayer and one short meeting where we adopted and signed the accounts. The November meeting was held via zoom to save heating costs.

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

It was agreed at our November meeting we would continue with the theme 'embedding Christ in the community' because Covid had continued to limit many of our plans during 2021. Fortunately during the year regular activities were reinstated including toddler and housegroup and coffee mornings, all have been well attended.

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. The church was promoted as a 'safe space' in July.

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

Phil Miller decided to stand down as LLM in September

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 are now affected by increasing energy and cost of living costs.

Covid restrictions affected services over Christmas but regular worship returned during the year.

The village supported the instigation of a community 'needs' database, a Platinum Jubilee celebration on the green and the Advents windows are now an annual event enjoyed by many.

The Log Book and Terrier are kept up to date and were available for inspection at the meeting.

Tracy Garland – PCC Secretary

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

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which have been independently examined by James Holland-Leader of Knox Cropper, Chartered Accountants. The accounts include the Trustees' Report which is the report by the PCC to the members of the church about the year ended 31 December 2022.

The accounts are required to conform to various accounting standards and so include many pages which are of limited interest to most people. I would say that most interesting pages of the financial statements are the Balance Sheet (page 9), the Statement of Financial Activities (page 8) and the notes set out in pages 12 to 18. The detailed statement of financial activities is set out on pages 20 to 21 and this is the closest to the treasurer's reports during the year.

In a nutshell, the PCC had net income of £112,717 for 2022, and assets of £165,739 as at 31 December 2022. We received a legacy of £156,023 in 2022 and it is easy to see that this has kept us afloat financially. £2,050 of the funds are restricted, which means that they can only be expended on costs related to the graveyard (they are sums received for the reservation of graves).

During 2022 we paid for the removal of the doves from the church and subsequent deep-cleaning of the church, (but received a grant from the Friends of All Saints towards this), the planting and removal of trees from the churchyard and the upgrading of the lights in the churchyard and the tower as well as the repairs to the church clock, but this was covered by donations and a grant from the Friends of All Saints. We also paid out £5,000 in additional grants as a first instalment of the tithing of the legacy. If the legacy of £156,023 and the extra costs are excluded, the outcome would have been a deficit of £12,828, which is roughly equivalent to £1,070 per month.

From the above it is apparent that we need to find ways of increasing the income of the church and to continue to try to minimise costs. We have now joined the Parish Giving Scheme and hope that this will enable us to receive gift aid claims more frequently and that it will be more flexible for members of the church to use. There is information about the Parish Giving Scheme on the tables, but please speak to Angela Wheeler or David Hutton if you have any questions or need help joining the scheme. Many of the PCC members, and my Mum, have now joined the scheme and have been pleasantly surprised by the ease of the process. David has asked me to mention that the purple and yellow envelopes will not change and the PGS system is confidential.

Another way of helping our financial position would be to leave a legacy to All Saints PCC

A "giving station" will be placed on the shelf just inside the main door to church, when the shelf has been refitted. It will serve as a reminder to visitors and people coming to services that we need their donations. It will also enable people to access the church website to look for information and to book places at events.

We have continued to do our best to keep costs to a minimum and David Hutton in particular has been monitoring our fuel use and taking steps to reduce wastage. The installation of LED lights in church and the new ones outside should reduce electricity costs.

I would like to thank David for his hard work in connection with regular giving and the tax claims from HMRC. Thank you also to Sarah Bennett who has also been working hard to reduce costs in the office by using recycled paper and avoiding unnecessary printing. Thanks are also due to the many people who have helped at fund-raising events, and indeed supported them by spending money and to the Friends of All Saints for their continued support.

Nicola Miller - Treasurer

(vi) Approval of the Accounts

Angela proposed the approval of the accounts, seconded by Vera 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 PCC has decided to use the Parish Giving Scheme to encourage and promote regular giving. Nicola gave an overview of this and information was made available.

(vii) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper is willing to continue as our independent examiner. Anthony proposed, Paul seconded and all were in favour. Tracy will write a letter of thanks. TG

(viii) Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

There were no major projects relating to the fabric of the building that needed to be undertaken

during 2022.

The clock was finally repaired in February, after we had had to wait some time for the contractor to obtain the necessary parts and to complete repairs on some more significant buildings, such as Big Ben.

In March the pest control specialists cleared out the roof void (removing over 20 bags of bird waste) and replaced the guard on the arrow slit window to prevent the birds from gaining further access.

We also had a high-level deep clean undertaken within the church, once the pest control team had finished. It has been noticeably quieter in services since the work was carried out.

The parquet floor was repaired where some blocks has become loose, although the PCC agreed we would not get the whole floor sanded and resealed at this time.

By way of encouraging the reduction of our carbon footprint we have had a bicycle rack installed outside the church and this has so far been used by a small number of people. Hopefully more people might make use of it as the weather improves.

Finally, the emergency lighting in the church and tower light were installed as the last part of the new LED lighting system and the external floodlights were changed over to LED lamps, which will reduce our energy use.

As always, 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 regular cleaning team who had to deal with the mess caused by the birds at the start of the year.

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 and John McLean, Churchwardens

(ix) Deanery Report

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

The Deanery Synod met on 18th May, 2022 and 16th November, 2022. Both meetings were face-to-face meetings, following relaxation of Covid guidelines.

The meeting in May had two main items for discussion. The outcomes were as follows:

- Criteria for bids to the Deanery Mission Fund for expenditure on Evangelistic Projects were agreed. Subsequently, Angela submitted a successful bid for funding to enable Grayswood School's Year 6 to attend 'The life of Christ' at Wintershall this coming July. (Unfortunately, due to problems with the bank mandate this still has not been paid to the school).
- Parishes were encouraged to share papers on areas of expertise/skills within their parish to help other parishes to develop (for example; Becoming an Eco-church and MyFundAccounting have been previously discussed)

Time was also taken to share how parishes had progressed with their MAP (Mission Action Plan)

The November meeting had the following outcomes:

- It was agreed that Subscriptions to the Deanery Fund would be on a voluntary basis this year.
- Further bids were invited from the Mission Fund
- A report from the Diocesan Synod was shared and it was noted that (a) the percentage for the Parish Share had decreased (from 2.5% to 1.5%) but Clergy & Laity stipends had increased (to 5% from 4%) (b) a new youth strategy, targeted at secondary school upwards, was being planned, with a view to recruiting and funding 24 youth workers, to be deployed to parishes
- The meeting was informed of the creation of Godalming Minster, an amalgamation of St Peter & St Paul's and St Mark's (Busbridge and Hambledon parishes), with effect from January 2024

The group also discussed the problems of 'volunteer stress' both in parishes and nationally.

Anthony Ramsden and Angela Wheeler - Deanery representatives

(xi) Election of Deanery Representatives

Anthony Ramsden was nominated by Jackie Holmes and seconded by Nicola Miller. Angela Wheeler was nominated by Jane White and seconded by Jackie Holmes. Both were approved by the meeting. Fi thanked them for representing the parish at the Deanery Synod.

(xi) 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 Sarah Hatherall-Good, David Hutton, Tracy Garland, Ailsa Guidi, Pippa Hollins McLean, Nicola Miller, Dian Mordin, 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. Pippa has served two terms and Nicola one term and both would like to stand

again. Pippa was nominated by Jane White, seconded by Angela Wheeler. Nicola was nominated by Angela Wheeler and seconded by Jane White. We have a nomination for Charlie Webb proposed by John McLean, seconded by Pippa Hollins-McLean. All were elected.

(xi) Sidespeople and Chalice Assistants

Previously sidespeople were elected at our APCM but under new Church Representation Rules, they are now elected by the PCC. Those who are regular sidespeople are:

Trish Bell, Allen Chubb, Daphne Bleach, Louise Cooper, David Hutton, Penny Glaser, Paul Heugh, Jackie Holmes, Emma Stopford, Brian Walker, Jane White and reserves, Di Cook, 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, Chris Hinton, Jackie Holmes, Dian Mordin, and Jane White.

(xii) Safeguarding Report

The diocese has rolled out to all parishes a 'Parish Dashboard' on which everything we pass as a PCC is noted, dated and has a renewal date, if we go over that renewal date then we are reminded and reminded and reminded again. It has been a work in progress and my thanks to Tracy who has worked with me reading through paperwork and entering data and sometimes having to rewrite information. Everyone now has a job description if they have a role (however small) in our church life. Training is still paramount to the diocese and although sometimes on not a happy subject the training is invaluable. Safeguarding is reviewed at every PCC meeting.

Safeguarding information is displayed throughout the church together with information and telephone numbers or email addresses if you need them. As I always say even though we live and worship in a beautiful part of the world bad things can happen to people, if you need anything then please just get in contact with me.

You may have noted the signs in and around our church stating that we are a "safe space". Safe space is a free and independent support service providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of this relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church in England and Wales or the Church of Wales.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can provide you with support.

Jane White - Parish Safeguarding Officer

(xiii) Report from Revd Fiona Gwynn

It is quite hard to look back as far January 2022 isn't it? Life moves on at such a pace that it can sometimes be difficult to remember what happened only last year.

We celebrated 120 years of All Saints in February and had our wonderful Platinum jubilee celebrations in June. Wonderful events that saw a welcome return to mass gatherings following the restrictions of the previous two years. With the Queen's death in September life took on a more sombre tone as many people grieved not just the Queen but the loss of so much during the pandemic.

Looking back through the Grayswood runner helped me to work out what had happened and will be a useful historical document in years to come.

Which brings me to my first big Thank you. Sarah Bennett, our Church Administrator really does do an amazing job. When she took the role over from Janet the runner was a single sheet of A4 and she really only had to chase the regular contributors. Now, not only does she have to chase the contributors every month, she also has the role of editor in order to fill the 4 sides of A4, especially on quieter months. On a personal level, she keeps me on track with all the legal aspects of the role, gently nudges me about upcoming things that might have slipped my mind and generally ensures that everything happens when it should. All of this whilst having a steady stream of visitors whilst she is in the office on Mondays and Thursdays. Thank you Sarah.

The next big Thank you must go to my Standing Committee, which is comprised of the church wardens Jackie and John, Tracy our PCC Secretary, Nicola our Treasurer and of course Elaine.

Without them we wouldn't have the thriving church that we do. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes cannot be underestimated. Elaine is currently taking some time out as her husband is unwell and needs additional support. Our thoughts and prayers are with her (you) and Eddie at this time.

The Standing Committee meet each month to make some decisions but also to prepare the agenda for the PCC meetings and this is my next big Thank you. To those who are on our PCC and to those who will be joining the PCC. These are the people who make practical decisions on behalf of you all.

One of the things I did at our first PCC meeting after the APCM last year was ask the PCC to write down their prayers for All Saints for the coming year. I put these in an envelope, sealed it, prayed over them and left them until I started writing this talk.

It was wonderful to read them, knowing that God had heard them and answered them, either with a yes, a no, or a not yet.

I chose the reading today (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) because I feel it is so apt for our APCM. We are all parts of the body of Christ, all with different gifts and talents, all with differing views, but all with a common understanding that Jesus is at the centre of everything that we do.

And here is my next Thank You – and it's to each and every one of you. I can't name all the different teams and rotas as we would be here a very long time, and I know that some of you are on more than one of them. For a small village church we have an amazing amount of things going on and an amazing team of helpers. Regardless of what team or rota you are on or aren't on, you are very much a part of the body of this Church and I offer you a huge and very sincere - thank you.

Having said that, the reality is that we do need more people to come forward and to help us. The pandemic has seen most voluntary organisation struggle to retain or to recruit volunteers and we are no different.

Most of our rotas have been depleted and some are being covered by too few on a regular basis.

When we pray shortly, I would ask that you open your heart and your mind to God's promptings to see if you are able to offer some time to one of the rotas, especially if you aren't on one.

We are especially short on the sidesperson rota, we need someone else to lock/unlock the church, we need people who are willing to do intercessions and the coffee and cleaning rotas are always delighted to have new members. Even if you could join the runner folders once a month it would be a great help.

Before I finish there is one final thank you I would like to make and that is to Valerie Digby who has been our Electoral Roll officer for over 30 years and who is now stepping down from the role. She has quietly and efficiently managed this very important aspect of the church and we are extremely grateful to you Valerie.

We are also delighted that Diana Ramsden has agreed to take on the role. Thank you too Diana.

"Now we are the body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it"

May God continue to bless us as we look forward to the year ahead.

(xiv) Any other business

Tracy thanked those who contributed to the Reports of teams and missions for 2022 and encouraged everyone to read a copy as it is a reflection of the work of All Saints over the previous year.

Fi thanked everyone and closed with the Grace – 11.40 am.

Signed

Date