

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

ALL SAINTS GRAYSWOOD – 27 APRIL 2025

I ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev Fi Gwynn welcomed 20 people to the meeting and opened with prayer.

(i) Election of Clerk for the Meeting

Tracy Garland was proposed by Jane White, seconded by Di Cook and elected.

(ii) Election of Churchwardens

John McLean was proposed by Jackie, seconded by Tracy and elected.

Diana Ramsden was proposed by Jackie, seconded by Tracy and elected.

Fi thanked Jackie for all her years of commitment as CW and presented flowers and a gift from the PCC.

(iii) Any Other Business There was none.

II ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(i) Apologies: Rev Chris Bessant, Daphne and Greg Bleach, Richard Everett, Pippa Hollins-McLean, John McLean, Pauline Lamb, Dian Mordin, Chris Hinton.

ii) Minutes of the 2024 annual meetings. These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

(iii) Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Diana Ramsden (Electoral Role Officer) presented the report for the Electoral Roll, which was a full revision this year: 73 members of which 42 reside in the parish. Fi thanked Diana for her work on the full revision of the roll.

iv) Annual Report of the Council.

Our PCC had five full meetings in 2024 which all began with a reading and prayer. It was agreed at our January meeting the focus of the year would be 'Building hope in God alone' as this reflects the aim in the church development plan to reach out to the local community. The Parent/carer and toddler group has been well attended so have the monthly coffee mornings at the club and weekly home group.

During the year we supported Grayswood School and our regular Missions. These missions are CMS, Skillway and Crossways counselling 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 Christians against Poverty as many people remain affected by increasing energy and living costs.

Christmas and Easter services were well attended, with an increase in numbers from 2023. The first family and children's service celebrated Advent and was very popular. These family services will be held every couple of months. Our Harvest service this year was followed by a paella lunch and a pet service was very popular with 20 dogs and a snake in attendance!

The village continues to support the community 'needs' database and the Advent window returned with the theme 'follow the star'.

Safeguarding is a standing item on our agenda. The Diocese safeguarding 'dashboard' is kept up to date with Jane, our safeguarding officer, and meets all the Diocese targets. 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.

Our logbook and terrier are kept up to date. Risk assessments are reviewed annually.

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 2024. It was a fairly uneventful year financially, we had no significant unbudgeted the expenses and our income from normal sources, such as regular donations, gift aid claims and collections, were as expected.

The accounts show that the PCC had a deficit of £678 after depreciation charges. I have prepared a simplified of the income and expenditure statement from which it can be seen that there was a deficit of £18,702 (equivalent to about £1,500 per month) if we ignore investment income, donations and legacies. This shows that the parish is dependent on these sources of funds to keep afloat financially. We were extremely fortunate to have received significant legacies in recent years, but we cannot expect to do so again. Joining the Parish Giving Scheme has removed a lot of the administrative burden of dealing with gift aid claims from David Hutton and gives people the option to increase their regular giving each year without the bother of changing standing orders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Hutton for his hard work in managing the regular giving and gift aid claims. Also thank you to Sarah Dowd for her work in the office and efforts to keep spending to a minimum.

Nicola Miller - Treasurer

(vi) Approval of the Accounts

Charlie proposed the approval of the accounts, seconded by Jackie 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.

(vii) Appointment of Independent Examiner

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

(viii) Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

2024 was a quiet year as far as the church building and Fabric was concerned, with no major works or repairs carried out. The Fabric remains in good order and most of the works recommended in the 2021 QI report for the following 5 years have been carried out (with the next QI Inspection due in the next 12 months). The online Terrier is complete and the graves reviewed and documented – for which thanks are due mainly to Sarah and David Hutton.

In February we temporarily moved one of the back pews to the North Transept and created a 'Play and Pray' area for children at the back of church with toys and colouring table. This has proved popular with children and parents alike.

As always, our sincere thanks go to the buildings and grounds team, cleaning team and others who ensure that our church building and graveyard look tidy and remain well-maintained.

Finally we must as usual 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 continue to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod. This year they met on 15th May and 6th November. Member opinions were canvassed to determine whether meetings should be held two or three times a year and the majority chose to stay with two meetings a year.

In May the Foundations in Ministry course was introduced, which encourages lay participation in Ministry. PCCs were requested to identify and encourage potential participants for the course. Prayer requests were requested from each parish so that parishes could pray for each other's specific needs.

In November PCCs were encouraged to study and discuss census data, detailing the deprivation data for their own parishes. In turn this data was presented to our PCC. Applications to the Deanery Mission Fund for evangelistic projects were again encouraged.

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, two wardens and our deanery representatives Angela and Anthony, and 9 elected members. These currently are David Hutton, Tracy Garland, Pippa Hollins McLean, Nicola Miller, Dian Mordin, Jane White and Charlie Webb (2 vacancies). They are elected for a term of three years and may stand for election again for further terms of three years. David, Dian and Tracy have come to the end of their three term. Dian has decided not to stand again and Fi thanked her for her contribution to the PCC. David and Tracy are willing to stand again. Jackie is willing to be elected as PCC member having served as CW since 2011. David was proposed by Di Cook, seconded by Vera Prangley and elected. Tracy was proposed by Allen Chubb, seconded by Pauline Lamb and elected. Jackie was proposed by Jane White, seconded by Charles Webb and elected. (2 elected vacancies remain). Fi thanked Jackie for all her years of commitment as CW and presented flowers and a gift from the PCC.

(xi) Safeguarding Report

It is a privilege to be the Safeguarding officer for our small parish, we have a wonderful people on various teams who are always willing to take on training where needed. Thankfully our parish doesn't flag up many issues which makes my life so much easier.

Thanks as always goes to Fi, Elaine, Tracy and Sarah.

Jane White - Parish Safeguarding Officer

(xii) Report from Revd Fiona Gwynn

I don't know about you, but this second reading from John 20. 19-42 generally leads me to focus on Thomas, the doubting disciple who needed to put his finger in the marks of the nails before he would believe. And I do that because I completely understand why he would want proof – I'm sure if I'd been there, I would have done the same.

But this story isn't just about Thomas – it's about all of those fear-filled disciples, trembling behind that locked door, and wondering what it all means.

This story is about each one of us: trying to live a life worthy of our Lord and Savior; struggling with doubt, sometimes weighed down with fear, and constantly falling short of what we know he expects from us.

And this story is also about how Jesus comes to us, in the midst of those doubts and fears, sin and guilt, to offer each one of us that simple word of grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

"Peace be with you," says our risen Lord to us all.

This reading is about the peace which surpasses all understanding; the peace which the world cannot give; the peace that can only come from our crucified and risen Lord; and the peace that comes when we most need it.

I wonder, can you think back to a time in your life when you felt as though you truly disappointed God?

Now, imagine Jesus showing up at that very moment, and saying to you: "Peace be with you." That is what Jesus does for each one of us, time and time again. It is what the miracle of Easter means.

But this reading is also about the ways in which we are called to share that peace and that joy, with a world so filled with doubt and fear. Jesus did not join his disciples in the upper room simply to celebrate his resurrection with them. He also joined them to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to send them out into the world to continue his mission. "As the Father has sent me," Jesus said to them and to us, "so I send you."

Which is why it is important for us as we come to the APCM that we look back and to see where God has been working in the lives of us at All Saints. To acknowledge all the good things that he has done through us and to be open to new ways of sharing the good news of Jesus to those who have yet to know him, or who are struggling with their faith.

Apologies if I miss anything – we are looking back at 2024!

Easter was slightly earlier last year and Elaine led the lent group on Jesus and calling – the road to Easter and Richard gave a dramatized reading of **The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe** on Palm Sunday. We had our **Maundy Thursday meal in the OJ room** and a soggy Good Friday meant we didn't start our service on the green but came straight into church. **Easter Sunday** was a wonderful celebration as we introduced the lighting of candles from the Paschal candle. May saw a good turnout of volunteers who tackled clearing the church yard.

June saw the children from Grayswood School go to **Wintershall**, kindly paid for by All Saints as part of our outward giving.

September saw our second **Pet Service** which was well attended.

In October we gathered for a **paella harvest lunch**, kindly cooked for us by John Mclean and the Friends of All Saints laid on a fun **jazz evening**. We also celebrated **70 years of Jean** playing the organ for us.

In November we held our Annual Memorial Service and **Remembrance Day services** and we held an Advent quiet day – The word made flesh.

December saw the introduction of our first afternoon family service which was held on **Advent Sunday** which saw the church filled with young children and their families and was a great success.

As well as the **Church Christmas Fayre** and the usual services the village once again had an advent trail where we **followed the star** around 24 homes in the village.

So as you can see, we may be a small village church, but as Bishop Paul told me recently, we certainly punch above our weight.

Of course, none of this would happen without lots of hard work in the background, and whilst we know that we each play a part there are a few people that I would like to thank specifically. Firstly to Jackie and John, my wonderful Churchwardens who have so much responsibility and who have handled everything so capably.

To Tracy the PCC Secretary and Nicola our Treasurer – where would we be without you both. To all those who served on the PCC in 2024 and who gave up your time to make sure that we are going in the right direction.

To Jane, our Safeguarding lead who ensures that we are all up to date with our training and maintains the parish dashboard.

To Sarah Dowd nee Bennett, our Administrator who got married last July, for all that she does in the office, for maintaining our excellent website, for editing the runner and for keeping such excellent records of our church yard.

To David Hutton, who does so much that goes unseen. For his meticulous recording of the graves, for general maintenance and for picking up on the small things that would otherwise get missed.

To the IF group (Ideas Forum) who keep me on my toes by coming up with exciting new ideas – not all of which we have put into place.

To Jean and George for providing our music each week.

To the choir for leading our singing.

To the church cleaning team for ensuring that the church is always clean and welcoming to visitors.

To the flower team for providing such wonderful displays.

To the pastoral team led by Daphne for visiting those who need support

To Pippa and John for leading the Home Group.

To Trish for sending anniversary cards.

To the Friends of All Saints.

To Nicola Davison for taking the donations to the foodbank

And especially to Elaine who supports me in everything here at All Saints and to Chris Bessant who has oversight from Haslemere.

And to all those who serve on the rotas, locking and unlocking the church, folding and delivering the runner, reading, interceding, chalice assisting, helping with the tech or making tea and coffee in the hall after the service. And some of you appear on almost all of those rotas!

And to all of you who come and worship here each week and who take the love of the Lord out with you to all those you meet and whose financial contributions enable us to keep this beautiful place of worship open and maintained so well.

Please don't become complacent though, there are some people who will not be able to continue in their roles in the next few years, so if you have been thinking about volunteering for a role then do please come and speak to me.

Our risen Lord reminds us of our mission; to go and share the peace, joy and hope of this new life, with our world that struggles to find peace, joy or hope.

Jesus comes to us to gently remind us not to doubt but to believe. To go in peace, to serve our risen Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(xiv) Any other business

Fi thanked those who contributed to the Reports of teams and missions for 2024 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 – 11.30 am.

Signed Fi Gwynn..... Date 26/4/2026