

Minutes of Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Bourne Parish

Sunday 19th May, 2024

Parish Meeting

Chaired by the vicar, The Revd Sandy Clarke

Election of churchwardens

The vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

With Roger Bradley as proposer and John Maddox as seconder the minutes of the last meeting (21st May 2023) were unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the vicar.

Hilary Newman was the only nomination received for Churchwarden – proposed by Roger Bradley and seconded by Ruth Moore. Hilary Newman was unanimously elected by the meeting.

The vicar emphasised that we, the parish, should have 2 churchwardens but no one else had come forward. To support Hilary then:

- There are three deputy churchwardens at St Thomas: Judith Waters, Rob Horton and Luke Price. Two remain at St Martin: Brian White and Janet Stephen
- Sue Redfern is the new verger and Sari Smith the new assistant verger – so a role previously taken on by Ticia, as Churchwarden, was not now required of Hilary
- There are 3 new members of Building and Grounds (B&G) Working Group so the involvement of Hilary in this group can be minimised whereas in the past Ticia, as Churchwarden, was heavily involved in B&G activities

The vicar asked if there were any questions. There were none and the vicar closed the meeting.

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Chaired by the vicar, The Revd Sandy Clarke.

Introduction All were welcomed by the vicar

1. **Minutes** of the APCM of 21st May 2023 were approved unanimously with no amendments. Proposed by Michel England and seconded by Michael Cock. The minutes were signed by the vicar.
2. **Election of new lay members to the PCC.** There were 4 vacancies for lay members of the PCC. Nominations were received from Martin Quick, Nigel Lewis, Jenny Grant and James Harrison. It was noted that
 - Martin Quicke had completed 3 years on the PCC
 - Jenny Grant had completed 3 years on the PCC
 - James Harrison and Nigel Lewis had both been coopted last year but were now nominated to be full members of the PCC.
 - Michel Cock was standing down as treasurer and did not want to be on the PCC this year

The vicar thanked Michael for his service to the parish as treasurer and asked the meeting to agree to the nominations received. With Michael Cock as proposer and Claire Levens as seconder the nominations were unanimously approved.

3. **Election of deanery synod representatives.** The vicar noted that the current Danery Synod representatives were Yonne Bryant and Richard Oswald. The parish can have up to 4 Deanery Synod reps but there were no new nominations. Yvonne Bryant and Richard Oswald agreed to continue to serve as the parish Deanery Synod representatives.
4. **New post holders.** The vicar informed the meeting of several new post holders:

○ Safeguarding Officer	Peter Neukom
○ PCC secretary	Keith Newman
○ Treasurer	Nigel Lewis
○ Electoral Roll Officer	Nigel Cuthbert
○ Fund-Raising Officer	Mo Cuthbert
○ Registrar: Registers, Faculties and book	Ruth Moore
○ Verger	Sue Redfern
○ Assistant Verger	Sari Smith
○ Christian Aid Leader	Sari Smith
5. **Electoral Roll.** Nigel Cuthbert, as Electoral Roll Officer reported that there were 243 members on the electoral roll. He drew attention to the situation next year when **everyone** will have to confirm their position on the electoral roll.

- 6. Financial review.** As the current treasurer, Nigel Lewis, only came into post in March. It was agreed that last year's financial statement would be presented by Michel Cock. Main points from the presentation are:
- We have improved our reserves from 2 weeks to 3 months
 - Expenditure in 2023 was greater than income mainly due to the organ repairs and the renovation of Brambleton Hall
 - Inflation has been a problem with an increase in costs since 1980 of some 32%

The vicar thanked Michael for his presentation and thanked him for his 8 years as the parish Treasurer. The vicar asked if there were any questions on the financial report.

- Mike Barter asked about the financial position in 2024 as we were almost halfway through the year. The response from the new Treasurer was that for 2024 we will need to focus on fund raising as there were several projects requiring funding including the stained-glass window repairs at St Thomas, the proposed building work at St Martins and the completion of the renovation work at Brambleton Hall. Mike noted, and the Treasurer agreed, that when parishioners were informed about projects then they respond positively to the needs
 - There were no further questions
- 7. Fabric of the churches.** The vicar drew attention to the fact that much was said about the fabric of the church in section 7 of the annual report – “PCC decisions in 2023”. The vicar thanked all for their support and involvement in church fabric activities. The meeting was asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- 8. Safeguarding report.** The vicar indicated that the parish, with the support of the new safeguarding officer, will continue to focus on safeguarding as a key area of activity. The vicar asked if there were any questions on the safeguarding report in the annual report.
- In response to a question the safeguarding officer said that all choir chaperones were, or would be, DBS checked. This also applied to the volunteer chaperones for the choir tour.
 - There were no further questions
- 9. Appointment of independent examiners for 2021.**
Shaw Gibbs were re-appointed by the meeting unanimously with proposer Michael Cock, and seconder Roger Bradley.
- 10. Look to the future.** The vicar reminded the meeting that the parish Ministry resources are far less than when she first came to the parish. The team has is now:

- Revd Rachel Sturt, Associate Priest,
- Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls will be joining as Resident Priest in Tilford
- Revd Haydon Wilcox, regular support
- Brian White, Lay Leader, St Martins
- Luke Price, Ministry Intern until Sept 2024

Nigel Lewis presented results of a demographic survey. Although the analysis and conclusions need to be addressed Nigel stressed that we are no worse than other parishes and better than most. The vicar stressed that this was a major reason for having a five-year plan, so that we can consider the changes that are occurring, think what we want to do as a parish and then plan to achieve it. We need to grow, and we can grow. We have some challenges, but we are a thriving parish. Luke commented that he has looked at other parishes and we are doing well.

11. AOB – None.

12. The vicar concluded by thanking several people for their support, time, and commitment:

- Ruth Moore for her time as Safeguarding officer
- Nigel Cuthbert for his time as chair of the Finance Working Group
- Michael Cock for his time as parish treasure
- Nigel Lewis for his time as PCC secretary
- Michele England for her time as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Working Group
- Jean Hughson for her 16 years as vergers
- Anne Loach for her dedication to making the inventory accurate
- Roy Picken for his leadership of the sidesmen
- Liz Witham for work as sacristan
- Janet Windeatt for being Chair of the Communication Working Group
- Rob Horton for his dedication to being the Crucifer
- Keith Newman for leading the development of Brambleton Hall

13. The vicar closed the meeting.

Signed

Date