

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
held in the Church on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7.30pm**

Opened in Worship and prayer.

Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

Will explained that the Vestry Meeting is for the Election of Church Wardens. We are delighted that both Mandy and Celia will continue in this role. Thanks also to Celia for doing a few more months than she had planned to do – she will do another 6 months while we are looking for someone new to take on that role. There being no other nominations Mrs Celia Davis and Miss Amanda Hanlon were elected as Churchwardens for 2024-5.

Will asked for approval for Mandy Anstee to take up role of Deputy Warden and this was approved.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Rev Will Kemp (Priest in charge) presided over an attendance of 52 Parishioners. Twelve apologies were recorded.

2. Minutes of APCM held on 23 April 2023 and Matters arising

The minutes had been available for inspection prior to the meeting and were therefore taken as read. There being no questions raised, the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Reports

A detailed report and accounts had been available for inspection prior to the meeting. The following points were highlighted:

(i) Electoral Roll

At the end of 2023 (the number in the report) was 154. If you count it now as of the most recent revision it is 149.

(ii) Vicar's Report

Will read out his report which is available on the website or from the office. He celebrated all that God has done over the last 18 months at both St Andrew's and The Point, and thanked God for the blend, and for bringing the two churches together in such a wonderful way.

He challenged the whole church about giving away more money. We realise it was an interregnum and needed some caution. We will discuss this at the PCC to determine future giving.

We also heard testimonies from Stuart Bayliss and Steve Watson and Will read out a message from Felicity and thanked her for all she has done and for the wonderful pastoral pieces she writes for the church each week.

Will finished by thanking God for all he has done and provided and also thanked everyone for all their energy, love and support.

(iii) Safeguarding Report

Thanks to Linda Porter for preparing the report. Linda can't be present so Will read out the report which can be found on our website or from the office.

Will thanked Linda and introduced Sue Griffiths as the new Parish Safeguarding Officer.

(iv) Finance Report

Ian Porter read out his report which can be found on the website or is available from the office. He clarified that this report is just looking just at 2023. He thanked Angela Tugwell and Julia Brackenbury for all their hard work.

Ian explained that the 9 Pendean property was originally a house for curates but that we are now renting that out. We used to part own it 62.39% and church commissioners owned the rest. The Highmead Christian Trust then sold their property at 10 The Nursery and very generously gave a grant of £190,000 so the church bought out the rest of 9 Pendean which now gives us rental income.

He explained what a Quinquennial is for those that aren't familiar with that – that a surveyor comes every 5 years to check and give a list of requirements and recommendations for the church building.

We will return to 10% pledge to giving away and give also give what we couldn't last year.

There was a question about whether we have a planned maintenance grant for the vicarage? It was answered that the Diocese give a decorating grant to the incumbent which won't cover all of it but we have some funds in the budget to help this. The general upkeep is the responsibility of the Diocese.

There was a question about what the Ushaaqallah Benefit Society is that we gave money to? It was answered that this is through some long standing ex-parishioners who moved out to Cyprus and this gives aid towards Christian publicity into Muslim countries. It was a Sunday collection.

Ian then spoke about the joint budget moving forward. There is a £46k deficit expected for 2024 mainly due to restructuring costs but in 2025 the deficit is predicted to be £11k at worst, but hopefully we will break even.

Will then clarified that these figures are based on our regular giving figures – that is just the current past Point givers and St Andrew's givers with a small inflation rise – if that remained the same it would be extremely disappointing as we are growing – we are expecting to see it rise so there will be no deficit and to do more as costs will increase as we do more.

Will also re-iterated our thanks to the Highmead Trust for their gift of-£190k – specifically given to pay off the loan on 9 Pendean and wanted like to acknowledge that and asked Robert Monroe to pass on our thanks. It is regular income now and could be used in the future to house a staff member.

Ian thanked the Point people for moving their giving and gift aid across and giving so quickly.

A massive thanks to Ian Porter from Will.

4. Appoint an independent examiner/auditor for 2024

We will use Independent Examiners again and this was agreed at the meeting.

5. Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Reports and Accounts

The Annual Reports and Accounts were accepted at the meeting.

6. Q & A

- On 3 occasions certain people from the front have said they formed part of the Church Leadership. What is the Leadership Team? Will explained it is the Elected PCC and Point Trustees, Staff Team and a number of key volunteers such as those who have completed the ALM course (Julia Brackenbury, Sue Gumbrell and Sheila Smith), Lay preachers Phil Kelly and Sue Sindall and also Howard Hitchman who oversees the Pastoral team. We will update the website with those names.

- What are we doing about Car parking? We are putting plans together to do a comprehensive job with new spaces but saving most of the grass – we will require fundraising and grants from the Diocese so this is a longer term plan. An Interim proposal in the meantime is to use heavy duty mesh which would create 20 more spaces and the PCC have agreed that but we need some permissions and investigating it before we lay this down because the ground is soft.

Will said the door is always open if people have any questions.

7. Elections and Appointments

The following people were approved to serve as follows:

Representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

James Allen, Sue Gumbrell, Margaret Kay, Sheila Smith

We have 4 representatives for the Hurst Deanery who are all continuing. Thanks so much to Bob Brewer and Paul Goulding who have been serving as representatives for The Point and are now standing down.

Representatives of the laity to the PCC

Thank you to Sheila Broom who is stepping down.

- 12 Elected: Mandy Anstee, Jean Cooke, Janet Davies, Nicky Duckworth, Faith Fallon, Andy Gillbard, Dale Marklew, Ian Porter (Treasurer), Nicky Reuter-Sinclair, Ruth Sanders, Andy Sherlock, Steve Watson
- + Churchwardens - Celia Davies, Mandy Hanlon
- + Safeguarding – Sue Griffiths and Linda Porter

- + Deanery Synod - James Allen (PCC secretary), Sue Gumbrell, Margaret Kay, Sheila Smith
- + Will Kemp (Vicar)

Robert closed the meeting in prayer and Will asked him as he is so faithfully leading the 8.30am Tuesday and 9.15am Thursday morning prayer meetings. These numbers have grown – please do join!

Celia Davis thanked Will Kemp for all his hard work during the blend.