



Parish of Fleet
All Saints
St Philip & St James

Minutes of the Annual Churchwarden's Meeting held on
Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30pm in Fleet Parish Community Centre

1. Opening Prayers

The Revd. Mark Hayton opened the meeting with prayers. He welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

2. Present

Revd. Mark Hayton (Chairman), Cally Burch (Curate), Nick Doran (PCC Secretary), Andrea Barley, Mike Benham, Anne Biffin, Trish Brooker, Sheila Buller, Richard Buller, Jean Carr, Jan Cole, Linda Dart, Nancy Dawson, Richard Dexter, Mike Ford, Carolyn Ford, Mary Goodson, Lynda Hix, Mike Huddie, Sue Huddie, Antony Jones, Jane Jones, Rosemary Jones, Jeremy Keep, Judy Keep, Dian Kitts, Graham Kitts, Sarah Leedham, Sam Lord, Tim Lyons, Barbara Lyons, Vicky Matthews, Debbie Phillips, Anne Richardson, Mary Simpson, Brian Tant, Margaret Tant, Susan Taylor, Jenny Thorne, Chris Waller, Elizabeth Waller, Ruth Waller, Dawn Ward, Peter Ward, Kate Wickenden, Richard Wigram, Anne Williamson, Yvonne Wyatt.

2. Apologies

Jane Allen, Paul Allen, Sue Benham, Brian Biffin, Kate Dashwood, Penny Doran, Chantelle Gardner, Joan Hall, Claire Holt, Rosemary Jones, Karen Kite, Tim Kite, Sheila O'Connor, Ros Piddington, Erica Taylor, Geoff Wickes and Rod Williamson.

3. Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting

The Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes of Monday 26th October 2021 were approved by the meeting without correction. Proposed by Jean Carr, seconded by Mike Ford, agreed by all present except for one abstention – Cally Burch.

4. Matters arising therefrom

None

5. Election of Church Wardens

Revd. Mark Hayton thanked Antony and Jenny for all their hard work over the last year and reminded the meeting of how much of that work is unseen by most people.

Antony Jones was proposed as Church Warden by Paul Allen and seconded by Sheila Buller.

Jenny Thorne was proposed as Church Warden by Joan Hall and seconded by Jean Carr.

In the absence of any other nominations, Antony Jones and Jenny Thorne were elected unanimously by all present. Mark looks forward to working with them both.

The Churchwarden's Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed.....



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.40pm in Fleet Parish Community Centre

1. Present and Apologies

As Vestry meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes. *The APCM Minutes of Monday 26th October 2021 were approved by the meeting without correction. Proposed by Mike Ford, seconded by Jean Carr, agreed by all present except for two abstentions – Cally Burch and Sarah Leedham.*

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Election of PCC Representatives

The Vicar explained the set-up of the PCC. He thanked Paul Allen, Nick Doran and Lynda Hix whose terms of office have ended. There were now three vacancies and the following nominations had been received:

	Proposed	Seconded
Sarah Leedham	Mary Goodson	Sheila Buller
Dawn Ward	Claire Holt	Mike Ford
Peter Ward	Jane Jones	Mike Ford

There being no further nominations the above were duly elected to the PCC for a term of three years.

The new list of Elected PCC Members is as follows:

PCC Member	Remaining Term of Office
Sarah Leedham	3 years
Dawn Ward	3 years
Peter Ward	3 years
Mike Benham	2 years
Linda Dart	2 years
Darren Wood	2 years
Richard Buller	1 years
Amy Canham	1 years
Jean Carr	1 years
Jean Hawkins	1 years

5. Presentation of Annual Accounts

The treasurer welcomed all to the presentation of the Parish Accounts 'in the flesh' and started his presentation with a caution that it should be noted that the accounting period (2021) still reflects the effects of Covid and it is not a "typical" year.

He went on to outline the major points from the accounts which showed:

Total Assets of £1.65m of which:

- Land/Buildings/Fixtures: £680k
- Unit Trusts: £126k (110K last year)
- Disposable cash (net current assets): £847K

He clarified the net current assets as being predominantly the money highlighted for the All Saints development

Effect of 2021 result on our money:

There was a general fund surplus £29k (following previous years' losses of £29k, £32k, £22k respectively) and he stated that the net cash available at 1 Jan 2022 for Parish activities was approx £1161K .

The budgeted spend for 2022 is £212k, broadly: Parish share - £110K , F&M & Oasthouse Drive - £44k ; Parish Office - £27k (incl magazine, printing, postage, salaries, telephone, IT equip) and included other budget elements for social expenses / Youth / training / outward giving, but cautioned about the imminent effect of higher cleaning and utility costs

He then went on to list the highlights of 2021

- Parish Share (£109k): remains materially unchanged for 2021 and 2022 (but good income from recovery of income tax (£26k received in the year, plus ASF £15k)
- Significant Halls/ PJ Church lettings (£44k) – recovering from previous year's direct consequence of Covid
- Social events and Coffee Bar income (£6k)
- Magazine advertising income (£4k)- an important element of our outreach
- Substantial capital growth in Unit Trusts (+£15k), and some dividends and bank interest (£7k) – but low interest rates were currently in play
- Continue to progress the use of electronic income transaction
- Charitable Giving: about £2K direct to charities from pantomime, Gift Days, and other collections but we are moving more towards encouraging payment

direct to charities, which will not be reflected in our accounts, to reduce cash handling and administration – esp for Git Aid)

- Planned giving holding up at £92k. We have again sadly lost members of our congregation which is bound to affect giving in time and giving levels are not keeping up with inflation
- Current (mid Covid) forecast budget deficits for each of next few years - 2022 £22k 2023 £38k 2024 £42k - although forecast deficits don't always materialise, a new All Saints, the Curate moving into OHD, possible Youth Worker (in the plans), – all need funding in some way
- To do this (our challenge) we need to maximise our income resources!
- Income resources is not the only area of giving to be maximised – giving of our time and talents are equally important and always welcomed.

In summary for the year we have seen some post Covid recovery, benefitted financially from the loss of the Associate Vicar's post and the short term let of Oasthouse Drive. We have been very careful with our money.

He concluded by thanking the treasury team – all those who count, bank, advise, manage the planned giving scheme, and the Finance and Admin Committee for their support.

The Vicar invited questions about the accounts. There was one question from Brian Tant about the figure of £20k shown as a share in the LEP Minister's house on Elvetham Heath being recoverable. Whilst it is unlikely that we would ever seek to recover this, we have been trying to determine for some time what the status of this property share is via the Diocese and other parties. It is likely that a provision for bad debt will be set up in due course, but at the present time enquiries are ongoing.

6. Review of Annual Reports

The Vicar guided the meeting through the Annual Report and invited comment as he went along.

Christian Aid - Jenny Thorne advised the meeting that there will be a Plant and Cake sale in the car park at P&J on Saturday 14th May starting at 14.30.

7. Electoral Roll Report

Mary Goodson advised the meeting that 10 new people had joined the Electoral Roll, but 8 had left – mostly due to death.

The total on roll at the Annual Church Meeting 2022 is 160, representing 122 households.

8. Engagement of Independent Examiner

The Vicar thanked Tim Kite for examining the parish accounts and for his continued good advice to the Finance team.

Tim has agreed to undertake the independent examination of the Parish Accounts for a further year.

A motion to confirm the engagement of Tim Kite as Independent Examiner of the Parish Accounts was raised. Proposed by Jean Carr, seconded by Mike Ford and approved by all present.

9. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and is shown below.

Vicar's Report to the APCM – April 2022

THANKS BE TO GOD..

- For all that we learned and were blest by during lockdown.
- That we are now able to worship, gather, sing, pray, socialize, and serve without restriction.
- For all those who used their time, talents, ingenuity, and resources in the service of God and his church during these difficult times.
- For new people having joined us – online and in person - especially Cally Burch who came to minister alongside us in July
- For all of you - your support, resilience, faithfulness, and good humour - all of which have been such a blessing!

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- **In good shape**, and ready for the challenges ahead.
- **Leaner!** There are fewer of us, and many are exhausted and in need of refreshment.
- **Blest with huge opportunities** to serve God and his people! The world is different 'Post Covid' and we must adapt what we do to suit that new world and embrace the opportunities that lie before us.
- **At a Crossroads** - shall we go back? Shall we split and go off in different directions? Shall we go forward together into God's new future?

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- **To work together more than ever before.** We are one parish, led by one ministry team, serving one community of Fleet. In future we need to share our resources across the parish where they are most needed. This includes our musical resources, with which we have been richly blest!
- **To develop a programme of worship that truly honours God** and enables people of all ages and backgrounds to join us. To do the same kind of service

in two different locations at the same time is a shocking waste of time and opportunity! We will continue to provide for those who prefer traditional worship, but will also offer a wider menu of worship some Eucharistic and some not.

- **To get younger!** I sense that God is already beginning to do this for us, but we need to be able to provide good quality ministry with children and families, in a safe environment for all, and without wearing out our junior church and youth leaders.
- **To get our Coffee bar and Community lunches back to full strength.** These are tools in in our work of mission and outreach and have been greatly missed. We have relied upon a small group of people to provide these for far too long - they must be succeeded by a new team who are ready to take up the baton!
- **To be ready to grasp the enormous opportunity that will be presented by the reopening of All Saints!**
- **To find new people** to fill a wide array of roles and responsibilities that are currently vacant or carried by people who already have too much on their plate. You will be hearing more about this soon!
- **To pray constantly!** Together and alone – this is the engine room of all we do and our most important responsibility.

In his verbal comments Mark also mentioned the plans to employ a Children & Families Worker on a shared basis with Christ Church Crookham. He encouraged everyone to be more adventurous and willing to embrace new ideas.

Comments and questions were then taken from the floor:

Andrea Barley asked about plans for services in the reopened All Saints Church. Mark explained that nothing was decided yet, but he would expect to see a balance of different services across our two churches. He stressed that we would not be going back to having two identical services at the same time in two different locations.

Judy Keep commented that attracting more young people was essential and this would require different styles of services and music.

Sarah Leedham commented that she was excited by the future of our parish and was willing to help make it happen.

Anne Williamson asked about the future of our church choirs. Mark explained that he envisioned a single group of singers being able to provide a 'traditional' choir at whichever service they were needed in either location. He would also like to see a different, more relaxed choir being formed to encourage a wider group of potential singers and musicians. He hopes to appoint someone to an 'overseer' role to pull together all musical activities across the parish.

Graham Kitts thanked everyone for his welcome into the parish, coming from a different tradition. He commented that we need to be led by God and find new

opportunities for fellowship to help draw new people in. Mark fully supported this and also drew the meeting's attention to the upcoming Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Fleet on 2nd to 5th June. Many events are planned, including a multi-denominational service in Gurkha Square on Sunday 5th, which will replace other services in the parish that day.

Mary Goodson thanked Mark for all his hard work and enthusiasm over the last few very difficult years. This was supported by applause from all present.

Jan Cole reminded the meeting of the 'Sponsor a Brick' fundraiser and Jane Jones added that there were still tea towels for sale.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed

MH