

The minutes for the Shirley Annual Parochial Meeting held on Sunday 7th May 2023, commencing at 12.00pm

Vestry Meeting.

Election of Church Warden(s)

Nomination forms were received for Gill Hanton who was proposed as Church Warden by Linda Alford and seconded by Sue Doley, and Linda Pitt who was proposed as Church Warden by Margaret Foresheew and seconded by Belinda Piasecki.

All voted in favour.

Margaret Foresheew has been Church Warden for several years and has decided not to stand this year. Reverend Paul thanked her for all the support she has given him over the years and for all she has done. Kate Day presented Margaret with flowers.

This was immediately followed by the APCM.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Rev Paul.

1. Apologies were received from Linda Pitt, Christine Beeston, Chris and Ray Speakman, Sue and Andrew Guy, Doug and Glenys Golightly, Rachel Kavanagh, Sarah Penfold and Bernard Watkins, Mary Appleby.
2. There were no additional items for AOB.
3. The minutes of the APCM for 2022.
The minutes were proposed from the chair as a true record of the meeting. All voted in favour. There were no matters arising.
4. Electoral Roll report. This was provided by Margaret Foresheew as Electoral Roll Officer, and was published prior to the meeting. The report was also read out.
5. Elections
(a) Electoral Roll Officers. Margaret Foresheew is willing to continue as Electoral Roll Officer. Proposed from the chair and all voted in favour.
(b) Parish Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC representatives:
Deanery Synod Representatives: 4 positions available, 3 nomination forms received and elected – Gill Gough, Margaret Foresheew and Kate Crocker.
PCC representatives: as agreed at the meeting last year the PCC representatives will be modified to ensure a good representation of each church but not limiting the numbers. 10 nominations received for the following individuals who were duly elected: - Mark Strentz, Denise Smith, Chris Terry, Linda Alford, Ian Longbottom, Kate Day, Jan Gardner, David Paice, Belinda Piasecki, Jean Wall, and 2 vacancies.
Reader Rep: Sarah Penfold agreed by all

Sue Guy and Anne Clayton are no longer serving on the PCC, Rev Paul wished to thank them both for their time and for the past years they have served on the PCC.

Deputy Wardens for each church: -

Christ the King	Denise Smith
St John the Divine	Linda Alford
St James	Kate Crocker
	Vacancy

For new PCC members a brief meeting after this will take place to elect roles and subcommittee members.

6. Reports – these were all circulated prior to the meeting to all PCC members and also made available to the wider congregation and parish members via the church website and paper copies were available from the Parish Office. There were no questions raised regarding any of these reports.

Rev Paul invited comments regarding the various reports. None were raised.

7. Presentation of the Accounts.

Ian Longbottom presented the accounts. He talked us through the accounts he had prepared, which had been audited by the independent accounts examiner for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The receipts and payments method is used for the Parish accounts. It is important to note that the way these accounts are prepared means that funds received i.e., from grants or fundraising often appear in the year before the amounts are paid out.

A close eye needs to be kept on energy costs.

Receipts and payments are balanced.

Investments are impacted by geo-political events

Financial challenge will be the increased energy costs as the church does not get the same government assistance as domestic users and the cost of maintaining the trees in the church yard.

Ian thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the accounts.

8. Appointment of the accounts inspector.

It was proposed from the chair that the volunteer independent examiner should be appointed as Phil Beedon again. This was agreed by all, and Phil Beedon is in agreement.

9. Vicar's report

A report looking back over the year was circulated prior to the meeting, however Rev Paul added to his report with a comment regarding the future as follows: -

I hope you have had the chance to look at what I wrote in the APCM papers circulated before the meeting – some of the many, many things that have happened through this last year. Many things to thank God for and rejoice over.

And as I was thinking through all those things it struck me just how many people from our churches were involved. From overseeing the refurbishment of Church House to serving at the Welcome Cafe; from delivering magazines to preaching on a Sunday morning; from caring for the churchyard to leading a study group. Thank you all. All the wonderful volunteers who make what we do and who we are possible.

A very fitting reminder that it is not my church, its ours. In fact, it is us. We are the church

So where are we as 1 Parish, as 3 churches, as 7 congregations – where are we heading in the year ahead. What might the future hold?

Last year at the APCM we talked about 5 areas of challenge

- each of us growing in faith
- children and families
- 7 congregations, 3 churches one parish

- meeting the needs of the wider community
- buildings (with the caveat that these are a means to an end!)

And we can see how we have made progress in these area

- 4 of our members being confirmed; 1 being welcomed into the Church of England; growing numbers at Lent and JOT groups; a good take-up for the prayer and readings booklets at Advent and Lent
- Success of Jimmy Tots, Messy Church, Journey to the Stable and Easter Journey, development of our work in schools, baptisms.
- Tweaking of service pattern to what we have now and a deepening of relationships across the parish
- Silver award for eco church; Welcome café being a real community café; the Jubilee celebrations last summer; the Lunch club
- Refurbishment of Church House; Progress on the plans for a toilet and kitchen in St James

This year we shouldn't lose sight of those things, but there are also some more specific areas to look forward to:

1. Consolidating the ministry team. Wendy is now well established as part of the team, and Richard joins us shortly plus our 4 readers. The Diocese is moving towards an oversight system which brings parishes together to work as oversight areas. However, they recognise that we are already doing that – we are and will be our own oversight area. And we are doing it with the strong and effective team we have. We are in many ways a model in the way lay and ordained work together – and I hope as we continue to develop what we have here we can share what we do with others
2. Chris Kynaston has just started as Parish Operations manager in the office. Yes, it is sad to see Ellie and Hannah go, but let us see this as an opportunity to think how best the work of the office can support the ministry and mission of the Parish
3. How can we build on what we have established with Childrens and families. Areas to look at are the need to integrate Messy Church – to help the families who come to really feel part of who we are – and also to continue to develop how we engage with children Sunday by Sunday – one example being the new 4th Sunday worship 4 everyone at St James.
4. Discipleship – each of us growing in our faith through prayer, bible reading, worship, sermons and groups. This is of course building on what we have already been doing. Building on the encouragements of Advent, Lent and the Coronation booklets used by many. and the groups based upon them. Giving further opportunities for those finding out more about the Christian faith through things like START and Moving On.
5. The project to install a kitchen and toilet in the South transept of St James Church – perhaps the major buildings project for the Parish as we look forward. We are almost at the point of getting approval by the Diocesan Advisory Committee; the next stages are obtaining quotes, raising funds and then the project management. Maybe first we need to find a catchy name for the project rather than “kitchen and toilet”. I hope my suggestion of the tea and pee project can be improved upon!

6. And then there are financial challenges! Fuel bills, additional team members; more mission activities; building maintenance and development. This requires us all to consider our giving and to look upon what we give as part of our response to the overwhelming generosity of God

The former Bishop of Birmingham used to say that our mission as parish churches was to grow more and more confident Christians. I believe all these thoughts and hopes about the year ahead can contribute to that as we seek to live out and proclaim the gospel of Jesus here in Shirley. And I hope you are as excited as I am to be part of this journey we are on together.

10. Date of next APCM, to be confirmed – need to check calendars for an April date.

Rev Paul closed the meeting with a prayer at 1pm.

PCC Brief Meeting following the APCM voted the following officers to the PCC: -

Ian Longbottom – PCC Treasurer

Belinda Piasecki – PCC Secretary

Meeting dates circulated for all the committees, new PCC members advised to attend all committees and then decide on which they would like to join.