

The Parish of Olveston with Aust PCC

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 28th April 2024 7.00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church

There were 20 people present and 1 apology was received (names recorded).

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

Election of Clerk

Bernard Amos was appointed clerk to the meeting. Proposed David Moss, seconded Mike Wright voted unanimously

Election of Church Wardens

For the role of Churchwarden, there were only two candidates:- **Mrs. Debbie Harries** (proposed by David Shaw seconded by Stephanie Fairhead) and **Mrs Sue Farr** (proposed by David Prothero seconded by Lindsay Henniker-Heaton) **both were unanimously accepted and endorsed by the meeting.**

Minutes of the APCM

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th May 2023

Copies of the minutes had been made available to those present.

That the minutes should be approved as a true record was proposed by Rev David Bone; seconded by Michael Kirby and **passed unanimously**

2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising, although Peter Floyd requests that the discussion about the future of St Mary's recorded in last year's minutes, be continued at this year's meeting.

3. Electoral Roll

Michael Kirby, Electoral Roll Officer declared the following:-

Since the APCM in May 2023 we regret to have recorded the deaths of MARY BAILEY, ANGELA KNIGHT, JUNE ROBBINS and MARY GRIFFITH.

The Annual Revision of the Electoral Roll was carried out between the 24 March and 12 April 2024. During the Revision John and Judy Jones advised that they had moved to Somerset and wished their names to be removed from the Roll. One former member was noted as being entered in error.

The list of current members was been displayed in the porch.

I therefore report that there are now 133 names on the Electoral Roll, of which 102 are Resident in the Parish and 31 are Not Resident in the Parish.

It is to be noted that in 2025 a full revision of the Roll is required, when new Application Forms are required from all wishing to be on the Roll.

4. Election of PCC Representatives

The Clerk announced that the following have been nominated as PCC representatives:-

Mr George Bernard Amos

and that he had received the appropriately completed nomination form for him., proposed by Sue Farr and seconded by Margaret Gibson. **His nomination was supported unanimously.**

Lindsey Henniker-Heaton had been co-opted in 2023 at the first PCC meeting. The co-option was unanimously endorsed by the meeting and his tenure will now last until 2027.

5 Appointment of Deanery Synod representatives.

The Clerk announced Sue Farr had been nominated for re-election; nominated Lindsey Henniker-Heaton seconded Bernard Amos..

The meeting voted unanimously to endorse her re-election.

Rev David Moss advised that Barbara Burnett of St John's Chapelry Aust, would like to attend Deanery Synod meetings. Mrs Sue Farr welcomed this and the meeting unanimously endorsed her joining after David Moss proposed and David Bone seconded her attendance.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of PCC Accounts

David Prothero advised that Pat Savage, our current Independent Examiner, is prepared to continue. Rev David Moss suggested that she be thanked for her contribution and that the Church appreciated her continuing, whilst winding down her other activities. The treasurer said that he had formally thanked her and also donated a small gift in recognition of our gratitude.

7. Adoption of Accounts

David Prothero (DP) said that the Church Accounts had been available in church for last two weeks and that copies of the Trustees Annual Report had been circulated at the start of the meeting, (which contains the financial commentary at section 4). He reminded that the accounts cover both St Mary's and Aust. He said that he won't be providing a full explanation of the Church Accounts as this is included in full within the Trustees Annual Report..

Copies of 2023 Annual Accounts in church for last couple of weeks.

Emphasise that the accounts are for Olveston with Aust.

A detailed commentary on the Olveston component of the accounts is presented in Section 6 of the St Mary's Trustees' Annual Report, whilst the key issues are highlighted in the 2 page summary "The Year 2023 at St Mary's Olveston".

General Fund

- *Small overall reduction (1%) in income compared with 2023 - due to reductions in planned giving and income from church activities*
- *Planned giving - downward trend over last 5 years. Hence, Advent Sunday Gift Day Appeal - 9 increases + 1 new giver*
- *Expenditure £9,000 lower than in 2023 due to a reduction in Parish Share commitment to fund Family Worker and Administrator – appointments not made until September.*

Restricted

- *Fabric Fund – Expenditure of £54,000 – mainly organ overhaul £48,000*

Outward Giving

- *£7,000 to 10 different causes*

Looking Ahead to 2024

- *Financial challenge is to increase our general income*
- *Consequences of enlarging the ministry team*

Ongoing expenditure in maintaining the fabric of the church building

Thanks

He wished to thank:

- **All those who have** those supported the Church through regular giving and organised and supported the fundraising activities.
- **Michael Kirby** for his diligence and support in managing our Gift Aid recoveries
- **Joyce Prothero**, for her continued work as cashier, which has been difficult through the Covid period.
- **Mike Wright** for his advice and support as Chair of the Finance and Buildings committee
- **Pat Savage** for her role as Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts

He then opened the floor for any questions or observations.

DSM said that DP does a huge amount of work for the church as treasurer and believed the whole congregation owe him big thank you.....the meeting responded with a hearty round of applause and wished to minute their thanks to him.

DP proposed the adoption of the Church Accounts for 2023, seconded by Bernard Amos which was **carried unanimously**.

8 Trustees Annual Report.

DM sorted off by emphasising the demands on his time of managing 5 parishes and thanked everyone for their support despite the limited presence in St Mary's. Sue P-M had been working with him and St Helens, but sadly was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December.

This has had a huge emotional effect on the Benefice ministry team and also the practical effects of the reduction in resources. He thanked all those who take on roles to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible in all the churches.

BA advised the full version of the TAR had been available in Church and that Michael Kirby had produced an excellent précis which has been on display and available to take away for two weeks.

He highlighted that the report serves two purposes...one for the APCM and also has to be submitted to the Charities Commission, which affects the format.

Mike Wright was asked to comment on the buildings aspects covered in the report. He started by explaining that the and the Buildings Team strive to ensure that the building is sound and safe to be able to host whatever activities the PCC wish to use it for. The Diocesan Advisory Committee, (DAC), imposes tight guidelines that have to be adhered to.

As part of the five year inspection programme the Chancel roof had been inspected and found to be in better condition than expected. A price for insulating the church roof in the most effective way is awaited.

He was delighted that the bell ringers had been able to return to the newly redecorated chamber. 18 people had attended, although one stay had been broken and will be repaired.

MW reported recent problems with the electrics serving, particularly the kitchen which will require an upgrade of the fuse box. The electrics in the roof space will need a thorough check before any work on roof insulation can be implemented. He also mentioned that the large organ refurbishment project had now been completed and thanked David Shaw for all his work in coordinating the various aspects.

He also mentioned the team of volunteers who look after the churchyard and keep it looking nice for those who come to look for their ancestors. MW had roughly calculated 120 jobs carried out by volunteers at St Mary's, including cleaning, flowers, refreshments, fundraising etc and thanked them all.

Bernard Amos was thanked for his work in compiling the TAR.

9 Safeguarding

DM emphasised that, as a church we are committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and all adults at risk. MK added that the formal wording is that the PCC have complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

9 AOB

9.1 Family Worker.

MK asked what is happening about the family worker. DM explained the background of the resignation of our youth worker, who has started in September. The ministry team had supported her, however trying to hold down 3 roles had proved to be more demanding than she had expected. He and the churchwardens had had discussions about whether or not to advertise for a reappointment and those discussions have yet to be fed back to PCC for a decision.

DM went on to bring up the subject of Messy Church, which he believes could be successfully introduced in St Mary's, given the gifts and talents within the congregation. He compared the activities of Refresh, (Saturday afternoon activity with young families) and Messy Church on Sundays, which is proving a success at St Helen's. The main difference being that Messy Church involves the whole church and not just a small group of dedicated leaders. There is a big rota of people who come along and help with just one activity....colouring, making something related to the Bible story, with the children.

Peter Floyd reminded that at last year's APCM, there had been some debate and concern about the decline of the Anglican church and that we really need to do our bit to reverse the decline. He would like to hear more about how these activities would work.

DP added that he understood the Diocese and, last year, received funding from central church for 10 family workers and asked had that funding materialised and how it is being handled. .

DM said he has lost confidence regarding filling in and submitting application forms. The situation is complicated by his age and he gave an example that we could apply for a curate, but he would have to guarantee that he is going to be in the parish for the following 6 years, which is a risky guarantee to provide. WE have no-one younger than DM in the parish who could continue with the training either. Some people expressed that 6 years seems excessive. DM pointed out that if we submitted an application now, it was unlikely we could appoint before 2025 or 2026 and then there would be 4 years training. He is willing to raise an application and submit to the Churchwardens for their support.

There was a lot of discussion about the pros and cons of Messy Church, Refresh etc., including disquiet at how any money given to the Diocese seemingly gets used for anything other than supporting rural ministry.

DM offered to help the PCC if it decided to trial Messy Church on certain Sundays.. He would also help recruit somebody to help ensure it's success. He would like some direction from the PCC on the lines of, "unfortunately Becky's appointment didn't work out, but let's get on with finding a replacement. Accepting that Refresh is very good, but a lot of the people who attend worship at Thornbury Baptist Church, so let's try something at St Mary's on Sunday mornings.....

He referred to the budgeting of the CoE, he said that it has been lost, he knows that Diocese received substantial funds from grants specifically for the use of rural parishes...but none of it is being used for that purpose. He gave the example of Almondsbury which should have one full post, making two full posts in Severnside Benefice. The new vicar at Almondsbury has been appointed on a 0.6 basis....so 0.4 of a post funding has somehow gone "missing" but he has no idea where it has gone. DM encourage that risks be taken to try out things including redirecting our disposable income towards getting family worker and trying out how Messy Church can work here.

9.2 Rev David Bone suggested that when we have services with lower attendance, it could be held in the Chancel, to get people closer together and so that all could hear clearly. An alternative suggestion was that people sit nearer the front of the church and fill the press nearer the Sanctuary.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Grace @ 20.55

