

Minutes of the All Saints' with St. John Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28th April 2024

Present: 39 members on the ASC Electoral Roll attended. Fr Charles Sutton was in the chair.

1. Prayers: Fr Charles opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Apologies: Eric Tyson, James Norman, Sue Norman, Swarna Simpson and Christina Biggs gave apologies.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th April 2023 were shared on the website prior to the meeting for approval. They were proposed as a true record by Sue Perry, seconded by Mary Benton, and approved with all in favour.

Meeting of Parishioners

4. Receiving of the Electoral Roll and the appointment of Tellers: Father Charles reminded the congregation that the Electoral roll had been revised this year in accordance with Church of England Regulations, and will be fully refreshed next year. In 2023, 33 residents and 84 non-residents made a total of 117, and following revisions in 2024 there were 33 residents and 87 non-residents, with a total of 123. Sue Perry and Father Paul Roberts volunteered as tellers if required.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

5. Election of Churchwardens: The Churchwardens at All Saints do a lot of great things, both visible and invisible, and we've always been very lucky with our Churchwardens. There were two nominations for the coming year – Annette Young and Martin Robinson. Who had been proposed and seconded with the appropriate forms, and all present were in favour so they were duly appointed. Adam Chivers was thanked for his six years as Churchwarden.

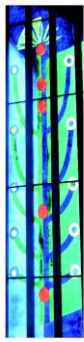
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Registered Charity: 1134667



All
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6. Bristol West Deanery Synod Report: The report was made available on the All Saints' website in advance of the meeting, and no questions were raised. Father Charles confirmed that Helen Clifton attended the Deanery synod as lay chair, Brendan Biggs as a General Synod member, and Father Charles due to his position as Area Dean. The report was received.
7. Election of four Parochial Church Council members for a term of three years: Four PCC places become vacant: Georgina Harford, Sue Perry, Elizabeth Thomas and James Norman were proposed by Liz Badman, seconded by Helen Sutton and elected unopposed to the PCC for three years. Father Charles thanked everyone for their contributions to the PCC. It was also noted that Stephen O'Keefe and Simon Davison stood down, allowing two roles to be available for 2 years and 1 year respectively. Paul Gale accepted the nomination for the 1 year role, proposed by Adam Chivers, seconded by Vicky Gordon and approved with all in favour. The PCC Secretary will be chosen at the first PCC meeting post the APCM, and we also note that Stephen O'Keefe is standing down from PSO role. We thank Carolin Davenport for continuing as PSO, and confirmed the appointment of Janice Callow as a second PSO. A question was raised as to whether one of our PSO's should be male to have a mix, but safeguarding responsibilities are equally the responsibility of Incumbent, Churchwardens, PSO and clergy, and so there was an appropriate mix.
8. Election of Deanery Synod Representative: The opportunity is for three representatives for 3 year terms, with one position having 2 more years to run. Bob Bell was nominated for the 2 year position, along with Elizabeth Thomas, and both were proposed by Janice Callow, seconded by Georgina Harford, and passed with all in favour. A question was raised as to who is appointed to the House of Laity, given that this body will vote on membership of the General Synod for the coming debates on Living in love and faith. It was confirmed that those appointed above will have such a vote.
9. Co-option of Licenced Lay Minister: We are very fortunate in having Jessica Smith, Liz Badman and Helen Clifton as LLM's in this Parish. All are willing to continue and were co-opted onto the PCC, proposed by Helen Clifton, Seconded by Chris and passed with all in favour.
10. Appointment of Sidespersons: (Formally takes place at first meeting of the PCC). Mary Benton (Senior Sidesperson), Mike Benton, Fiona Bristow, Jonathan Frere, Karen Haigh, Sue Norman, James Norman, Sue Perry, Robert Sambell and Hazel Thomas were all proposed by Jessica, seconded by Peggy and appointed as Sidespersons with all in favour.

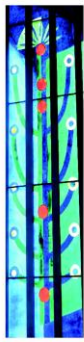
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11. Approval of Annual Report and Financial Statements: The Annual Report was circulated prior to the meeting and time was given to read. Stephen O’Keefe introduced the Financial Statements in Eric’s absence. Eric has also indicated he is happy to continue in role for a further year. In summary, our overall financial position has improved during the year as a result of the increase in the value of our investments with CCLA by about 9.5%. Although they have increased in value in 2023 these investments are invested in the markets and managed by a reputable organisation but will be subject to the fluctuations of the financial markets.

Our day to day expenditure is in deficit of around £50k which is slightly less than 2022.

Our financial picture is likely to be complicated in the next 2-3 years depending on how our building projects progress and we are likely to need to realise some of our investment capital as and when we commit to specific spending. A walkthrough of each note took place at the meeting (see PCC minutes for notes to accounts) to ensure full understanding. The income and expenditure in the Flower’s account was explained from note 12 in the accounts. It was also flagged that the Trustees had kindly supported the Atrium for £21k in the year, and an ask was made to confirm which account the social & welcoming funds were recorded in. A question was raised around what due diligence we perform around our investments with the CCLA, to which it was responded that this is commonly used by Churches and local councils, has a good track record and invests in appropriate ethical investments. The annual report and accounts were approved by the meeting. Proposed by Roger Hopkins and seconded by Sue Perry, approved with all in favour.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Steve advised that Balshaws were willing to continue as Independent Examiner for another year. Balshaws were proposed by Eric Tyson and seconded by John Davenport. All in favour.

13. Chairman’s comments:

- Father Charles introduced three things to talk:
 1. **Feedback** – he has the benefit of listening to feedback from all, visitors and the congregation, and essentially it is really good feedback
 2. **Church wider environment** – bigger things having impact on the Church
 3. **Parish conference and looking forwards** - gives us a North star for this year and following year

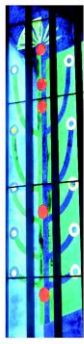
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- **Feedback**

- We have very strong worship and liturgy, for example the nature of the liturgy when we consider Parish mass, how it is structured and performed, and the engagement with execution of liturgy. How fortunate are we to have not only LLM's, but also ordained clergy, who enrich our worship in styles, voices and focus. The quality of teaching is also high, e.g. across sermons, talks etc.. Early worship is a delightful service, which is very different to Parish mass, but still allowing for the fundamentals of belief to be considered, it is really instructive, multi generational. There are also reflective and meditative events, with a broad band of different aspects associated with worship - huge thank you from Charles.
- Another significant positive is the music, which is just stunning. It is not only the Worship – though there is something about Catholic tradition which encompasses the senses – music also contributes very significantly in worship and events such as matinees, organ events and concerts by candlelight. We do charge commercially for some groups in church, but we also give other groups opportunities, for example student groups rehearse on regular basis without charge, and then in exchange perform a concert which generates income.
- Flowers - also get a lot of positive feedback
- Community – for most of us our experience is based in worship, so it is easy to overlook the fact that this space is used for many purposes, and we get a lot of comment on how significant All Saints is in local community
- Friends together dementia café has won a gold award, and is important to people who live with dementia and the carers both
- Our doors are open, which is wonderful and encourages many uses, even walk in confessions. There is also a wow factor when people see the inside of the Church, and the windows are unique.

- **Church wider environment**

- The cost of living and energy increases have impacted across the Church, and there are still some impacts post COVID on levels of giving and volunteers, which we need to take into consideration. We need to stand back this year and form a group to increase our income and decrease costs.

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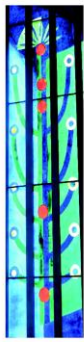
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- On living in love and faith, which incorporates the inclusivity of same sex relationships - we have generally a positive inclusive approach to this. There was a PCC conversation to seek approval for any couple who come to All Saints for a blessing, which was unanimously approved by the PCC, and Father Charles is happy to do this. At the moment, the liturgy to this is not considered satisfactory, but this is likely to develop over time, as blessing can occur in e.g. a Parish Mass, but not as a standalone event, and through the two people are blessed, their relationship is not
- Transforming Church Together – this is the Diocesan strategy for change, which prioritises areas where there is significant need due to deprivation, and also looks at how we use our buildings in communities
- At a Deanery level including Abbots Leigh and Leigh Woods, there are 20 parishes mostly multiple benefices, with 6 vacancies now reduced to 2
- For Self Supporting Ministry (SSM), Father Charles reminded that he had left that role, having achieved many of his aims including forming a National Executive for SSM since 2013
- **Parish Conference and looking forwards**
 - Our strengths and opportunities from the 2023 Parish Conference have been turned into a document on website - our North Star
 - Some of these activities we have already done, a number of things will be useful in shaping focus as we go forward
 - Please download this document and have a look at which bits enthuse and interest you
 - Overall, this is a delightful place to be an incumbent

14. Matters of General Parochial Interest:

- a. Vera raised a question around how united we are as a Parish, especially between the congregation at Early Worship and the Parish Mass? Several contributions across the floor confirmed those who attend the Early Worship do attend e.g. Parish lunch etc., but also some prefer to worship early then have other activities to do. The Early Worship atmosphere is warm, and is a pleasure and a privilege to attend, though some regret the lower number of children. Mary also flagged the difficulties of looking after a small child at the 10.30, and asked for a larger carpet, solid chairs and more for children to do.

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b. Sue Perry advertised Parish lunch 26th May 12.30 Trinity Sunday

15. Date of the next APCM: The next APCM meeting is proposed to be 27th April 2025.
Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting this year.

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Chairman

Date:.....

S O'Keefe
PCC Secretary 28th April 2024

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