



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Itchen Valley held at Avington Park, Avington on Wednesday 26th April 2017

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

The meeting opened at 7.35pm with Prayers led by the Rector, the Reverend Amanda Denniss. There were 46 parishioners present including the Clergy.

Apologies: A list of those who had apologised for not being able to attend was read out: Jane Anderson, Joan Dartnall, Geoff Dee, Jenny Faber, Penelope Kellie, Nick and Lavinia Owen, John and Liz Platt, David Poole, Alan and Florence Jordan, Richard and Amanda Seymour and Vernon Tottle, including apologies given by those present.

Elections of Churchwardens: Forms had previously been submitted with nominations and seconders for the election of the following parishioners as Churchwardens:

Martyr Worthy: Andrew Impey; Robin Greenwood

Easton: Theo Mezger; Vanessa Rosewell

Itchen Abbas: Tony Gaster

There being only five Churchwardens nominated and seconded they were declared appointed. Andrew Impey agreed to remain as Churchwarden for a further year, under the Churchwardens Measure 2001. This is a resolution regarding the service of more than six successive periods of office. This resolution will be in place for one year and one year only and does not set a precedent for the future. The resolution is as follows and was proposed by Simon Ffennell and seconded by Sarah Shirley and was passed, substantially.

'This meeting resolves that section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 shall not apply in relation to the Itchen Valley Parish for the 2017- 2018 year regarding the period of service of Churchwardens.'

Amanda gave a big thank you to all four Churchwardens for all they have done over the past year and particular thank you to Theo Mezger for overseeing St John's, Itchen Abbas where there had been a vacancy.

Minutes of last meeting: These were proposed as a true record by Andrew Impey and Seconded by Theo Mezger. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

The Annual Meeting of the Parishioners ended.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of last meeting: These were proposed as a true record by Andrew Impey and seconded by Theo Mezger. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Report on Electoral Roll: Simon Ffennell reported that there were 218 on the Electoral Roll of which 28 were non-resident in the parish. This was two more than this time last year. The Rector thanked, Simon for all that he does in the parish and Lucinda Ffennell, The Parish Electoral Roll Officer, for her work on maintaining the Roll.

Annual Report 2016: With the report readily available on the website, the Rector encouraged those who had not yet read it to do so and to discover the exciting things that God has been doing in the parish. There were no matters arising.

Financial Statements 2015: The Treasurer, David Anderson, reflected that a number of years ago the finances were recorded church by church, but that now there is one set of accounts for all four churches in the single parish and that this had been the case for some time. He reported an increase in regular giving and that the parish was working on encouraging people to move from giving by standing order to the Parish Giving Scheme. At present the number of people giving regularly was around 100 people and of those around 30 were giving using the Parish Giving Scheme.

David went on to inform the meeting that we had been blessed by the employment of Madeline Quest-Ritson as bookkeeper for a full year now. He explained that she was someone who worked very hard and that we owe her a huge debt. There was applause for Madeline. David said he would formally pass on the thanks from the parish.

Then David explained that the plate collections at services were falling. One reason for this was because we were asking people to give regularly. However, the true calculation was disguised by contributions collected at weddings and funerals.

David went on to highlight that each church has a Fabric Fund and in addition Easton now has a Development Fund for the purpose of a building project at St Mary's. He stressed that regular giving must continue despite this, in order to pay the day to day bills. Having said that, it was acknowledged that fundraising is important for the villages in order to fund projects. The fundraising for 2016 was significantly successful and financially a strong year. David paid tribute to Glynde Easton, organised by Frits and Sara Janssen, which has now, after 10 years, come to an end.

Financially the parish made a surplus of £32,000. The parish costs were between £120,000 and £130,000 per annum to "keep the show on the road" of which £75,000 is paid to the diocese. Regular giving produces £90,000 from 100 people out of 218 on the Electoral Roll. Fundraising produced £35,000, weddings and funerals produced between £8,000 and £9,000 and the remaining sum was raised from plate collections. So, we have about £150,000 income against £120/130,000 costs. Factors effecting this situation include the cessation of paying a regular salary to an organist and that at present the parish receives office services for nothing (bookkeeping we do pay for).

David concluded that several of our big fundraising events are being discontinued. Looking forward he asked those at the meeting to encourage their friends to move to the Parish Giving Scheme and welcomed any questions at the meeting or at any other time. There were no questions.

The Rector, Amanda, said a big thank you to David for all that he does which was followed by applause.

Election of Parish Representatives to the Deanery Synod: Forms had previously been submitted with nominations and seconds for the re-election of the following parishioners as Deanery Synod Representatives:

Avington: Sarah Shirley

Easton: David Anderson

Martyr Worthy: Gerry Stacey

Itchen Abbas: Tony Gaster

Election of Parish Representatives to the PCC: The Rector announced that there were vacancies for PCC Representative and for Alternate for Itchen Abbas, on the retirement of Nick Owen. There was no volunteer as PCC Representative, but Vernon Tottle had volunteered to be Alternate at Itchen Abbas. As no other volunteers had come forward the Rector declared this position as appointed. She thanked Nick Owen for all he has done for the parish over the years. At this point, Judy Bishop questioned whether Vernon, who was not present, should like to become PCC Representative to which The Rector answered that he has no desire to do so.

Avington: Penny Russell

Easton: David Poole / Alternate: Jill Croft

Martyr Worthy: Verity Coleman / Alternate: Amanda Seymour

Itchen Abbas: No representative / Alternate: Vernon Tottle

Appointment of Sidesmen: Lucy Pease, the Parish Administrator, read out the list for each church. The following names were appointed as Sidesmen:

Avington: Charlie Bullen, Liz Darley Doran, Gill Graham Maw, Neil Robertson, Sarah Shirley, Helen Wayne.

Easton: David Anderson, Judy Bishop, Jill Croft, Suzanna Duke, Susan Fatchen, Sara Janssen, Sue Kennedy, Penelope Kellie, Elaine Labram, Henry Labram, James Paterson, Katherine Paterson, David Poole, Kevin Rosewell, Leon Rosewell, David Swinstead.

Itchen Abbas: Charlotte Appleby, Patrick Appleby, John Bouldin, Joan Dartnall, Richard Hunt, Sarah Hunt, Lavinia Owen, Nick Owen, Sally Parker, Toby Stubbs.

Martyr Worthy: Christopher Burness, Jane Chichester, Verity Coleman, Simon Ffennell, Mark Godson, Gilly Greenwood, Fred Haslam, Joanna Lang, John Lang, Sara Mason, John Platt, Liz Plat, John Prince, Joanna Sutcliffe, Robert Sutcliffe, Angela Wheeler, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Philip Windsor-Aubrey.

Appointment of Independent Examiner: Scot Johnston has been reappointed and the Treasurer expressed thanks for his help. David Anderson passed on comments from Scot that because of the bookkeeper Madeline's hard work, he found the accounts very straight forward this year.

Concluding remarks from the Rector: The Rector's talk is attached and is available to read on the parish website. In summary, Amanda, thanked all those who had contributed to compiling the Annual Report from the bottom of her heart. She also thanked Sarah and Charlie Bullen for hosting the APCM and Sarah Shirley and her team for producing an array of delicious canapes for the evening. Amanda went on to thank Vanessa Rosewell for organising the tremendous Goodbye Tea Party for Revd Rebecca Fardell.

In summary of Amanda's talk she spoke of the moment when Jesus was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where he says to some fishermen "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men." He asked them to make it their top priority and these words have been for each successive generation including us. How do these words apply to us in the coming year?

Amanda chose to take the pMap as a framework and proceeded to give us a snapshot of the four priorities as we seek to follow Jesus:

1. **Growing Authentic Disciples** – there are now more bibles in the churches which we will be encouraged to look at during services. Thanks were expressed to all those that had donated the bibles in each of the villages. We were shown a short video of ABC Justin Welby on prayer and specifically the upcoming Thy Kingdom Come event. In response to this we were going to have prayer walks in each of the villages and a commitment to pray during the Novena Prayer.
2. **Reimagining the Church** – we will be focussing on improving our connections with children and young adults. At present the regular congregation represents those in their late 60s to 90s who are the backbone of the church and a blessing. However, sadly the numbers are steadily declining due to age and death. In addition there had been considerable progress in the attendance at the All Age Service. The parish faces the challenge of including these families in the regular worship. At present there are 11 services each month of which only one is for families. Amanda proposed that there should be one other more informal service to attract families and older people who did not want to attend a formal service.
3. **Agents of Social Transformation** – a desire to show love and compassion to everyone. We have been encouraged by Bishop David to join a Hampshire wide initiative Who Cares? Hampshire to discover "What hurts the most?" The Rector posed the question "As a church can we help?" and explained how we might go about this. The answers to this anonymous question would help shape what we do as a parish and would be responded to with targeted talks. Aside from this Amanda relayed that the team of Pastoral Visitors had stepped down and that the church was exploring ways in which the pastoral care of the community might be taken forward, asking anyone if they were interested in this area to contact a member of the Clergy.
4. **Stewardship and Generous Giving** – moving to the Parish Giving Scheme with a request for all to give generously and regularly in the knowledge that everything comes from God. Amanda identified that we need to offer not just our money but also our time and gifts whilst acknowledging that so many are already serving the church in numerous ways. Amanda highlighted that there were still two important roles to fill: PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer, the latter becoming increasingly important as we do more with children and young people. We also need a new organist.

The Rector ended by inviting all to "come and respond to the call of Jesus" and invite other people in to the family of God. There is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. The Rector then prayed for the parish.

Any Other Business: Fred Haslam asked if there would be a replacement curate for Rebecca to which the Rector replied that there wouldn't, given that we were a small rural parish with a small population.

End of Business: The Deputy Chairman (Lay) of the PCC, Andrew Impey, thanked all the Clergy, Amanda, Alex and Rebecca and also Lucy in the parish office.

Further fellowship continued with drinks after the meeting.