

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 5th March 2023

Present: Chris Ellis (Chair), Katie Hart (Secretary), Sara Mason, Sara Janssen, Frits Janssen, Judith Mezger, Theo Mezger, Penelope Kellie, Judy Bishop, David Swinstead, Jill Croft, Helena Martin, Revd. Peter Walker, Sue Kennedy, Mary Purser, David Purser, Lyn Russell, Simon Fennell

1	Welcome	Chris Ellis opened the meeting with a welcome
2	Prayer	Revd. Peter started by saying a prayer. He then went on to say that everything he did was with the aim of building the church in Christ's name. He acknowledged that as a community we all have different thoughts but that we all believe in God's truth. He said he wanted the church to be at the heart of the community, he said the Flower Festival and the James Ekins talk were great examples of this. He said he loved traditional and modern worship and that he couldn't choose between them, He said there was a management group looking at services and noted that the Palm Sunday service and the Coronation service were both taking place at St Mary's Easton. He said each service needed tight management. He said he was an employer of the diocese and that he accepted he needed to be more efficient at times. He said he was very much behind the extension, he said there was a crying need for it and he really hoped that it happened.
3	Apologies	David Anderson
4	Record of previous Meeting	Minutes of the ADCM held on 26 March 2022 were accepted.
5	Matters Arising	It was felt all matters would be discussed under the headings below.
6	Church Wardens' Report 2022/23 [attached]	<p>Chris said the church was just settling into a stable rhythm of services, with Valley Worship on the third Sunday of the month and Parish communion on the first Sunday of the month, with other services interspersed. He said attendance wasn't high enough and not at pre-pandemic levels. He said everyone was trying to increase the numbers of attendees. He said that the Crib Service was the exception to this, with the church packed to capacity.</p> <p>Chris then looked at fundraising, he said the Flower Show was a real triumph with nearly £11,000 raised for the Development Fund. The Suez Talk by James Ekins organised by Penelope raised over £1,500. He said this was great but that we had a long way to go.</p> <p>Chris said the Development Project was presented to the community at a public meeting in September. He said the proposed extension offered modest catering facilities, a disabled toilet, and a flexible space. Chris highlighted how difficult it was for a disabled person to access the church with the steep incline and the surface of the path, He said there had been some feedback, a few neighbours were a little concerned but on the whole the feedback had been positive. He said that the first draft of a preliminary application was being conducted in the next couple of weeks.</p>

		<p>As regards the fabric of the existing church, Chris explained that we had to change architects as the previous ones had ceased trading. The new ones are Radley House Architects have inspected the church and they had highlighted the following work that needed to be done: work to the tower, repair of the external wall of the Chancel where it meets the nave roof, and the bulging plasterwork. Chris noted that necessary repairs had been made to the tower roof and a jackdaw access through the nave wall was blocked to avoid further deterioration. The gutters and collectors were also cleared of twigs. He said there had also been emergency repairs made to the tower roof shingles that had come down, but the whole lot were warping and really needed replacing. Chris said that as lime mortar doesn't set in winter the remaining repairs can only be done in the summer. He said he had chased the architects about this. Judy Bishop said that jackdaws were still getting in the tower.</p> <p>Chris thanked the sidesmen and everyone who had helped in the graveyard especially Phil Binney and Alison Canfor and also the verger. He thanked Judy Bishop for trying to recruit more bellringers and gave special thanks to Theo Mezger for stepping into the Church Warden role when he was unwell. Chris said there needed to be improved co-ordination so that people know what is happening well in advance. He said rotas needed to be put in place for the sidesmen etc. He thanked those who locked and unlocked the church and thanked Penelope and Pauline for organising the flowers.</p>
7	Financial Update	Chris said there was £46,000 in the Fabric Fund. He said we are a long way from what we need for the development project. He said the DCC had explored holding a traditional church fete in the Old School Field and having a duck race next year. Judy Bishop said it would be good to host a concert at the church like they used to do.
8	Election of Church Wardens	<p>Chris Ellis</p> <p>Proposer: Sara Janssen Secunder: Penelope Kellie</p> <p>Mary Purser</p> <p>Proposer: Chris Ellis Secunder: Sara Janssen</p> <p>The nominations were unanimously approved.</p>
9	Election of DCC members	<p>Chris Ellis, Mary Purser, Katie Hart (Secretary) Helena Martin, Jill Croft, Sara Janssen, Penelope Kellie, David Anderson, Sally Clarke, Sue Kennedy.</p> <p>Proposer: Judy Bishop Secunder: Theo Mezger</p> <p>All were unanimously approved.</p>
10	Deanery Synod Representative	No one volunteered for this role.
11	PCC Representative	<p>Sara Janssen</p> <p>Proposer: Judith Mezger Secunder: Penelope Kellie</p>
12	Sides persons	The following persons undertake the duties of sides persons: David Anderson, Judy Bishop, Jill Croft, Penelope Kellie, Sara Janssen, Sue Kennedy, Judith Mezger, David Swinstead, Theo Mezger and Sally Clarke

		<p>Proposer: Theo Mezger Seconder: Helena Martin All were unanimously approved.</p>
13	Verger	<p>Sara Janssen, reluctantly</p> <p>Proposer: Theo Mezger Seconder: Judith Mezger</p> <p>Unanimously approved.</p>
14	AOB	<p>Frits Janssen thanked Chris for his work and also Theo and welcomed Mary Purser. Sara Janssen said she had got someone to sort out the gutters and hoppers for £300, everyone approved this expense. Frits suggested resurrecting Glynde Easton, he said this used to raised £5/6000 and was a tremendous occasion. Theo offered to host this at The Farmyard. Theo thanked David Swinstead for the huge amount of work he has done on Health and Safety, thank you too to Sarah Mason as PCC representative on the development project.</p> <p>Chris said that the Café Church was well attended and he would commend it to everyone. It was suggested that it could perhaps take place at Easton Village Hall.</p> <p>Frits suggested having a social dinner for the church wardens twice a year, he offered to host the first in May.</p>