

St John's Itchen Abbas

ADCM

4 March 2024

Present Sarah Hunt (Chairman) Brigid McManus (Secretary)

Jean Taylor, Nick Owen, Lavinia Owen, Joan Dartnell, Olivia Cox, Charlotte Appleby, Patrick Appleby, Stephen Mead, Elizabeth Bouldin, John Bouldin, Vernon Tottle, Arminel Tottle, Gavin Edgerley Harris

The meeting began with a prayer (SH)

Sarah Hunt was elected for another year as Church Warden.
Olivia Cox was elected as Parish Representative on the PCC.

The DCC were elected as follows by email on Wednesday 20 March.
Sarah Hunt, Olivia Cox, Stephen Mead, Jean Taylor, Charlotte Appleby, Patrick Appleby, Vernon Tottle and Brigid McManus
Proposed by Nick Owen. Seconded by Lavinia Owen.

The notes from last year's meeting were passed.

Sarah Hunt reported on the year's activities in the church:

The use of St. John's continues to be many and varied. The regular midweek events include Little Rainbows, CAMEO, Wednesday Night Worship, evening and mid-day Bible teaching and discussion, sometimes involving John Bouldin with projector, as well as PCC and other parish meetings. Groups of pilgrim walkers were welcomed after arrangements made in advance, they have always been grateful for this hospitality.

Vernon Tottle has been exemplary in his endless re-arrangement of chairs, cleaning the carpet and making sure all aspects of St. John's are monitored and noted. Patrick Appleby's skill in dealing with various maintenance matters, plumbing adviser and 'go to' man in emergencies is hugely appreciated. John Bouldin's tireless supervision of churchyard maintenance with generous contribution from Rodney Dartnell, maintains everything outside in good order.

Thanks to John Bouldin a new grass mowing contract was arranged with Andemar after Trimmers ceased their operation. This is proving very satisfactory and reliable. Patrick Appleby and John Bouldin repaired the churchyard field fence in an ingenious way using fence posts no longer needed by Rodney Dartnell, who renewed the fence on the side of his drive. Patrick Appleby has given the central area of the interior of St. John's far better lighting by installing temporary downlights which make a vast difference.

The falling plaster from the chancel ceiling and flaking plaster from the skirting area have all been repaired by Asa Ramsay-Dunn of Venetian Finish, who made a good job in less than a week. Using Patrick Appleby's scaffold tower reduced the cost. The little window in the old vestry has been renewed, the air vent seems to have reduced the musty smell.

Elizabeth Bouldin continues to organise the flower rota, finding enough people to do this, while Arminel Tottle co-ordinates church festival arrangements. Elizabeth Bouldin is also wonderfully good natured in providing coffee and biscuits on a regular basis after services. Joan Dartnall is absolutely reliable in opening and closing the church every day, as well as providing a variety of help in other ways. Charlotte Appleby was thanked for her organisation of CAMEO and Lavinia Owen for leading the Ministry team and Valley Visitors. Others not mentioned by name all contribute to different needs including welcoming people to different services as well as helping when there are occasional or extra tasks.

Besides thanking all these people, Tim Clapp was thanked for his contributions to services, Brigid McManus for being DCC Secretary. Peter Walker sent his apologies and was thanked for his leadership, also Gerry Stacey and Beccy Clark. Sarah Hunt was thanked for her work as church warden.

Field Car Park

The car park is very muddy at present owing to incessant rain but it was felt it should be used. VT suggested it should be reseeded while the weather is damp. JB would be happy to seed it again but doesn't think it should be cordoned off. JB suggested we leave it for five years to see what happens.

Boiler

This has been inspected and flushed through, but is still unreliable. A new pump has been estimated at £800. PA will look into a replacement pump.

Tree Work in Church Yard

The big yew on the path has been cut back by Colin Luff, and the oak tree has been tidied up.

AOB

VT has decided to retire as verger after many years, but will continue until June. A new verger will be needed so a list of his duties is being compiled, including photographs of chair layouts etc. It was hoped that help would be forthcoming from the entire parish for parish-wide events.

SH will also stand down at the end of this year so another church warden will be needed.

APCM will be held in St John's on 21 March.

The Applebys agreed to source the wine for this, and plates of nibbles will be required., not necessarily all provided by Itchen Abbas .

There being no other business the meeting was ended with the Grace.