

**Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting
of St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy
followed by the Annual District Church Meeting,
Sunday 9th March 2025,**

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Welcome

Churchwardens – re-elect Malcom Hogg.

Sidespersons – Angela Wheeler, John Lang, Malcolm Hogg, Mary Hogg, Liz Platt, Andrew Impey, Katherine Impey, Robin Greenwood, Gilly Greenwood, John prince, Joanna Sutcliffe, Robert Sutcliffe, Verity Coleman, Philip Windsor-Aubrey, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Simon Ffennel, Sara Mason and Guy Green.

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Chairman's report

Elections and appointments

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting of St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy followed by the Annual District Church Meeting, Sunday 9th March 2025.

Present: Sara Mason (Chairman and Churchwarden), John Barber, Peter Collings, Fiona Coulter, Simon Ffennel, Guy Green, Robin and Gilly Greenwood, Malcolm Hogg (churchwarden), Andrew Impey, Liz Platt, John and Jane Prince, and Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Katherine Impey.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Nicky Barber, Rolls & Verity Coleman, Joanna Lang, Philip Windsor Aubrey, The Revd. Peter Walker, Richard and Amanda Seymour, Guy Green and John Lang,

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Welcome: Sara Mason ("SM") and Malcolm Hogg ("MH") welcomed everyone to both meetings.

Minutes: The Minutes of last year meeting on 25th February 2024 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Churchwardens: SM is stepping down after 6 years as churchwarden and no replacement was found. Malcolm Hogg is the sole churchwarden.

MG was proposed by Andrew Impey and seconded by Robin Greenwood. All agreed.

Sidespersons: SF submitted a proposed list of sidespersons: Angela Wheeler, John Lang, Malcolm Hogg, Mary Hogg, Liz Platt, Andrew Impey, Katherine Impey, Robin Greenwood, Gilly Greenwood, John prince, Joanna Sutcliffe, Robert Sutcliffe, Verity Coleman, Philip Windsor-Aubrey, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Simon Ffennel, Sara Mason and Guy Green. The list was approved.

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

Minutes: The Minutes of last year meeting on 25th February 2024 were approved. There were no matters arising which are not discussed below.

Chairman's report: St Swithun's is a spiritual place, full of light on a sunny day, music as you walk in and subtle lighting to create a splendid atmosphere. Thank you, Simon, for keeping an eye on everything and

for supporting me over the last 6 years. The DCC team, 10 of us, meet as required, the meetings are always fun and good humoured especially if there is glass of something delicious to ease the way.

The DCC has met just twice since the last ADCM. Primarily we concentrated on achieving the faculty, to enable Robin to take on the challenge of the new west window project. Following less than positive feedback from the Church Building Council, a meeting with experts to discuss and reply to their queries, following the response there was no further queries and the faculty was granted last summer. Robin has guided us through the whole process, culminating in the appeal launch on 11th January. It was great event, supported by a great team in the kitchen and in the hall. It resulted in us launching the appeal and on 23rd February we were able to reveal that we are ready to go. It is remarkable and so we are so fortunate to have so many supporters for this exciting project. We are very looking forward to a dedication later this year.

We are aware that the boiler providing the heating has been repaired, possibly for the last time. We will need to review our building heating, to be able to meet the Church of England's NetZero targets. We will look at all the options and decide how we can reduce our carbon emissions but continue to provide comfort for the congregation. Lots to think about.

The church building is in good condition, and we have not had to spend funds on major repairs. If you look up at the ceiling, we have been able to cover the staining on the white board between the rafters, which I found on sampling are not asbestos containing. However, on sampling the ceiling below the bell tower we now know is asbestos cement, which is in good condition and stable.

Thank you to all who support our church – together our church is open every day, welcoming walkers, pilgrims and visitors wishing to spend a quiet time.

Thank you to our follower arrangers, led by Lizzie Reid, our cleaning teams led by Cathy Dickinson, Pauline and Lee for keeping the path looking well kept, to Liz, Gilly and Pauline for ensuring the linen is ready for use, the our brass cleaners Emily and Philip, our coffee team, our nibbles team, Malcolm for his support and as ever Simon for all those jobs that are seen and unseen. Thank you.

Churchwarden's report by MH

Fabric and major repairs: MH reported that it was another quiet year because of no major repairs needing to be done. This is good news as we are aware that the next quinquennial inspection is due in 2027 which may lead to work required on fabric.

Fundraising: Gilly Greenwood reported that the next season of lectures are planned in the autumn 2025 and spring of 2026. The first two dates are 25th November and 23rd January.

West Window: RG reported that the faculty was granted in the autumn 2024 and since then we have had a successful appeal launch and now have the funds to start the project. Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the new west window. Next step is to engage the contractors and get a timeline for window templates. This is likely to be August and then the next stage can begin. It is likely the window will be installed early next year. SM thanked Robin for all his work on this project.

Friends of St Swithun's Report: John prince on behalf of Guy green gave a short report. The FoS continues to provide support to the church to maintain the building, fabric and churchyard. The FoS has 85 members, and the fund stands at £58,000. There are no known calls on funds presently.

Elections and appointments: Nominations for membership of the PCC: It was proposed by Sara Mason and seconded by Malcolm Hogg that John Barber should be nominated as Martyr Worthy's representative on the PCC; approved. No one put their name forward to be an alternate.

DCC membership re-election: Fiona Coulter, Sara Mason (standing chair), John Barber, Peter Collings, Simon Ffennell, Robin Greenwood, Andrew Impey and Liz Platt, Malcom Hogg, and Verity Coleman (DCC secretary). Agreed by all present at the meeting.

Deputy Churchwardens: Re-election of Liz Platt and Simon Ffennell. Proposed by A.Impey and Seconded by Robin Greenwood. Agreed by all present.

Vergers: Re-election of Simon Ffennell. Proposed G.Greenwood and seconded by M.Hogg Agreed by all present.

Sacristan: Re-election of Liz Platt. Proposed A.Impey and seconded by E.Windsor-Aubrey. Agreed by all present.

Any Other Business:

Patronal Evensong and supper: 13th July evensong followed by supper in the village hall.

End.