



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Itchen Valley Thursday 21 March 2024 7.00 for 7.30 at St John's Church Itchen Abbas

### **Annual Meeting of the Parishioners**

The meeting was opened by the Rector, Revd Peter. He explained that there are two meetings. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to everyone who lives in the parish, reflecting the church's responsibility for the whole community. The APCM is open to those on the Parish Electoral Roll.

There were approximately 40 parishioners present.

Gerry prayed for Revd Peter

1. Apologies: (for this meeting and the following meeting). Andrew and Katherine Impey, Mary Purser, John Bouldin, David Anderson, Judith Mezger, Richard and Claire Hunt, Frits Janssen, Simon Ffennell

2. Minutes of last meeting: These were passed unanimously, proposed by Brigid McManus and seconded by Theo Mezger, and signed by the Rector.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Church Wardens: Forms had previously been submitted with nominations and seconders for the election of the following parishioners as Church Wardens: Avington: vacant. Easton: Chris Ellis and Elaine Labram. Itchen Abbas: Sarah Hunt. Martyr Worthy: Sara Mason and Malcolm Hogg. The election of the aforementioned Church Wardens was proposed by Nick Owen, seconded by Charlotte Appleby, and passed unanimously. Thanks given to outgoing Church Wardens – Mary Purser and Theo Mezger. Thanks were given to the remaining Churchwardens – Sara Mason, Sarah Hunt and Chris Ellis for all they do. Welcome was given by Revd Peter to Elaine Labram and Malcolm Hogg.

### **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes of the last meeting: These were passed unanimously and were signed by the Rector.

2. Matters arising: none

3. Report on Electoral Roll: There are 138 names on the 2024 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 14 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 10 on 2023. The Rector expressed thanks to Beccy Clark, the Electoral Roll Officer.

4. Annual Report 2023: The Annual Report, detailing the achievements of the past year, is available on the parish website. The Rector expressed his enjoyment in reviewing the year whilst writing his report. Sara M reflected on the services in MW and gave thanks to Simon Ffennell for all he does at MW and in particular Evensong. Highlights were Patronal Festival, Carol Singing and the Valley Worship services held there. Judging by the visitors' book they are also enjoying MW and the calm and reflective environment. Gerry spoke about the Harvest Tea and what a success it was in bringing new people to Church as well as being enjoyed by lots of regular church attendees. He also reflected on the Advent Calendar and the new relationship with IAPS and gave thanks for this. Charlotte also gave thanks for IAPS. Thanks were given to Charlotte for the amount of work she puts into CAMEO. Revd Peter also expressed his joy at the connections being made with IAPS. Verity expressed thanks for Little Rainbows and the inter-generational work being done here. Sarah H expressed thanks to Vernon for all of the work that he does to make St John's the flexible area it is. As he stands down in the summer, extra help will be required. Thanks were given to John and Nicky Barber and Sarah Noble for the development of Café Church. Thanks were given to Sarah Noble for all she does.

Deanery Synod: Mary Hogg joined the Deanery Synod during the year joining Gerry Stacey and Chris Ellis for a three year term. Gerry reported on the progressing links and 2 way partnerships with Rwanda. Alresford Benefice will grow links with a particular parish in Rwanda which we will support but not be actively involved in at this stage. Links are being formed with Alton Deanery with Revd Andrew Micklefield leading and we will be looking to share resources.

5. Financial Statement 2023-2024: The full accounts are on the parish website. The following report was read out on behalf of the Treasurer who sent his apologies:

*When I discussed the state of our accounts this time last year it was all a little gloomy. We did report a surplus for 2022 but that was only because our Common Mission Fund was reduced by £30,000 as a result of a plan to spend significant funds on a youth worker which in fact was not done. Coming into 2023 we were looking at a budgeted deficit of around £25,000. Although the year was better than we expected we were still looking at a significant deficit of around £13,000 when the finance committee met last November to look at the likely result for 2023 and the budget for 2024. As you all know thanks to an effort led by Peter Walker we ended the year with a general fund surplus of £7,000 thanks primarily to one-off gifts. In addition the level of regular giving has increased and we now have a budget for 2024 showing a small deficit of £4,000. I would hope that we will do better. We have every right to be cheerful and indeed thank the Lord for how he has worked through this community. There is of course no room for complacency. We need to focus on increasing our regular giving because that is the bedrock of our finances. Then there is fund-raising. The Martyr Worthy lecture series was a wonderful example of effective and enjoyable fund-raising. St Mary's Easton had two successful evenings in the church to raise money for their fabric fund. These events are both important events for the wider church community and make an important contribution to our overall finances. I thank those who have organised these and all other fund-raising events and hope for many more. In summary I would thank everyone for what they have contributed to our church finances. We are in a much stronger position than a year ago. There is always more to do.*

If anyone has any questions please do contact David.

Vernon expressed disappointment that nobody from the Finance Committee was at the meeting to answer questions. He was asked to email his questions to David Anderson who would respond to him.

Thanks were given to David Anderson and Janet Denyer. Thanks also to the Finance Committee for their support.

7. Election of Parish Representatives to the PCC: Forms have been submitted for the election of the following parishioners to the PCC (each for a three-year term) Easton: Jill Croft (2024) and Judy Bishop as alternate (2024), Martyr Worthy: John Barber (2024) The election of these representatives was proposed by Sarah Hunt, seconded by Sara Janssen and the motion was passed unanimously. The Rector thanked Sara Janssen, Helen Wayne and Nicky Barber for their service on the PCC.

8. Appointment of Sidespersons: Beccy Clark (PCC Secretary) read out the list of sidespersons for each church as follows:

Avington: Sonia Cragg, Gavin Edgerley-Harris, Georgie Krone, Helen Wayne.

Easton: David Anderson, Judy Bishop, Jill Croft, Penelope Kellie, Sara Janssen, Sue Kennedy, Judith Mezger, David Swinstead, Theo Mezger and Sally Clarke

Itchen Abbas: Sarah Hunt takes responsibility for initiating requests, there being no formal list.

Martyr Worthy: Verity Coleman, Simon Ffennell, Guy Green, Robin Greenwood, Gilly Greenwood, Andrew Impey, Katherine Impey, Joanna Lang, John Lang, Liz Platt, John Prince, Joanna Sutcliffe, Robert Sutcliffe, Emily Windsor-Aubrey, Philip Windsor-Aubrey, Angela Wheeler.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Robin Greenwood proposed the appointment of Stephen Hendy of Data Developments; this was seconded by Rolls Coleman and the motion was passed unanimously.

10. Final words: Revd Peter expressed his joy at being part of the year in the life of the Itchen Valley. Christ is present and at work amongst us and it can be seen in all we do.

Thanks were given to Revd Peter, LLM Gerry Stacey and Beccy Clark.

## **PCC Meeting**

Present: Revd Peter, Gerry Stacey, Sarah Hunt, Olivia Cox, Chris Ellis, Elaine Labram, Jill Croft, Sara Mason, Malcolm Hogg, Mary Hogg, John Barber

Apologies: David Anderson

Revd Peter – PCC to vote on new Deputy Chair of the PCC

Name: Sara Mason

Proposer: Chris Ellis

Seconder: Mary Hogg