



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Itchen Valley Thursday 28 March 2025, held at 7.00pm at St John's Church Itchen Abbas

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

PCC Lay Chair, Sara Mason, opened the meeting and handed over to Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield who had very kindly agreed to chair the meeting. 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.

1. Apologies: (for this meeting and the following meeting). Patrick and Charlotte Appleby, Joan Dartnell, Andrew and Katherine Impey, Liz Platt, Phillip Windsor-Aubrey, Nick and Lavinia Owen, Richard and Claire Hunt, Chris Ellis, Richard Seymour, Frits Janssen, Jean Taylor, Alex and Kate Mezger, Stephen Mead.
2. Minutes of last meeting: These were passed unanimously, proposed by Verity Coleman and seconded by Brigid McManus, and signed by Andrew Micklefield.
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: Easton: Theo Mezger. Martyr Worthy: Malcolm Hogg and John Barber. The election of the aforementioned Church Wardens was proposed by David Anderson, seconded by Sarah Hunt, and passed unanimously. Thanks were given to outgoing Church Wardens – Sara Mason, Chris Ellis, Elaine Labram and Sarah Hunt (who had stood down at the end of 2024).

John Barber spoke briefly on behalf of the Churchwardens saying it is a privilege to stand and they are all 100% committed to being part of one family, one church and one parish. He noted they will be particularly available to members of the congregations in Avington and Itchen Abbas that are currently without Churchwarden representation themselves

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

1. Minutes of the last meeting: These were passed unanimously, proposed by Gilly Greenwood and seconded by Judy Bishop and were signed by the Andrew Micklefield.
2. Matters arising: none
3. Report on Electoral Roll: There are 108 names on the 2025 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 11 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 30 on 2024. It was explained that this is normal during a year that a new roll is formed and people can apply to be on the roll at any time during the year.
4. Annual Report 2024: the Annual Report was received with no questions but it was noted the amazing range of things that take place in the parish. Andrew asked what things we are thankful for and the following list was compiled: Itchen Abbas School Head Teacher and the way he is working with the community; Valley Worship; Café Church; Cameo; Martyr Worthy Evensong and the hard work of Simon Ffennell; Easter and our wonderful services for everybody including Palm Sunday, Way of the Cross, and Compline; Valley Visitors; Martyr Worthy Lectures and it was also noted the visitors books in each Church should be looked at to see the wonderful things people write during their visits to us. We also gave thanks for Gerry as he takes on the Safeguarding Leaders role and is also doing so much within the parish to support us. This is all good news, we are seeing hope, light and joy in our parish.

5. Financial Statement 2024-2025: David Anderson said a few words about the financial results noting there are two key numbers. One is the level of planned giving and the other is the cost of the Common Mission Fund which is paid to the Diocese. In 2022 we had a significant reduction in the CMF contribution relating to efforts to expand our work with young people. That reversed for 2023, so our result in 2023 of a surplus of £6,600 reflected in part a major effort on fundraising by Revd Peter in November of that year. In 2024 we see planned giving up by £4,000, wedding income lower, CMF lower (compared to 2023) and a result of a deficit of £159. Overall we are pleased with the financial result last year and thanks should be given to all of those who made it happen and gave generously. This year we are expecting planned giving at the same sort of level as last year. CMF is up by £6,000 and overall there is general inflation in costs, our current budget shows a deficit of £7,000. We are very grateful to those who organise events such as the Martyr Worthy Lecture series, Southwood players and any similar event that makes a contribution and of course growing our congregation eventually makes a real difference as well. We should however look on the bright side. Significant funds have been raised in Easton to do urgent repairs to the roof and the church can be used again. Money has been raised to create a new window in St Swithun's. Last year ended up without a significant deficit. We have a large group of our community who give generously to our activities. There is so much to be thankful for and as always more to do.

Thanks were given to David Anderson and Janet Denyer (bookkeeper). Thanks were expressed 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: Judy Bishop (2025) and Sara Janssen as alternate (2025), Itchen Abbas: Jean Taylor (2025). The election of these representatives was proposed by Malcolm Hogg, seconded by Brigid McManus and the motion was passed unanimously.

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

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

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

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

Martyr Worthy: 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 Ffennell, Sara Mason and Guy Green.

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

10. Final words: Andrew spoke about Bishop Phillip's Diocesan vision for *Walking the Wessex Way* and what this means to us. There are four key messages for a Christ-centred future.

**Serving** – how do we bring peace, hope and reconciliation to our parish? How do we include people on the margins, seeking them out? Cameo has done marvelous job, as an example.

**Learning** – Wessex is a seat of learning. How can we support those working in education? How can we learn together and share together?

**Growing** – renewal and revitalisation. How do we grow as a church?

**Loving** – how do we love people so that they can come to love Jesus, what face to face encounters do we have with Jesus?

He encouraged us to pray about and reflect on two key questions: What does the legacy of living, loving, serving and growth look like in our parish and how might it look in the future?

He also mentioned the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board and explained the set up of this – the Church Commissioners holding the money and the Church of England making bids for funding. One particularly relevant bid being for growing rural parishes which is led by Archdeacon Richard Brand. Andrew said that the Itchen Valley could put together a good case for a share of this financial support.

He asked us to be praying for the General Synod as they navigate decisions that need to be made, praying for unity across the church.

We finished by praying and giving thanks for the wonderful family that is our parish, we know we have so much to be thankful for and we prayed for the support and guidance of the Lord through these times.

Thanks were given to Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield for all of the help and support he is giving us at this time.

We concluded with a hymn.

### **PCC Meeting**

Present: Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield (Chair), John Barber, Theo Mezger, Malcolm Hogg, David Anderson, Gerry Stacey, Judy Bishop, Sara Janssen, Sonia Cragg, Beccy Clark (PCC Secretary)

Andrew Micklefield – PCC to vote on new Deputy Chair of the PCC

Name: John Barber

Proposer: Sonia Cragg

Seconder: Malcolm Hogg

Andrew Micklefield – PCC to vote on Treasurer of the PCC

Name: David Anderson

Proposer: Theo Mezger

Seconder: John Barber