

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS OF
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SHILLINGTON & GRAVENHURST
held in Church at 9.30am on Sunday 8th May 2022**

Present: 26 parishioners attended, namely:
Liz Allan (LA), Roger Barnard, Penelope Bellis, Tony Bird, Liz Brewer (LB), Clive Butler, Linda Butler, Ann Cameron, John Cole, Liz Carboni, Peter Farmer, Adam Lockey, Emma Lodge (EL), Shirley McGrath, Ian Moss, James Moss, Julia Moss, Thomas Peters, Anne Simkins, Helen Smith, Tim Watson (TW), Diana Whiteley (DW), Ann Wiggins, Derek Wilson, Jo Winslade, Revd. Richard Winslade (RW)

The Rector, Revd. Richard Winslade, took the Chair. He began with prayer and remembered those we have lost from the parish and the church family since the last Annual Meeting, in particular, Ann Hare and John Whitehall.

Apologies for Absence: Dick Brewer (DB), Trish Humphreys, Peter Lambert, Maggie Theaker, Tim Theaker.

Minutes

1. The Minutes of the previous year's Annual Meetings held on 16th May 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.
2. There were no **Matters Arising**.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Revd. Richard thanked Liz and Dick Brewer for all their work as Churchwardens and their dedication to their office, especially having regard to Dick's present ill-health. No other nominations have been received for the rôle of churchwarden so there was no contest and they were duly reelected.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a. **ELECTORAL ROLL**

(RW) thanked Linda Butler, together with (TW), for overseeing the Revision of the Electoral Roll. We have lost two members during the past year but we have gained two, so our membership remains steady at 46.

b. **ELECTIONS**

i) **The Parochial Church Council**

The Churchwardens, (DB) and (LB), and the Deanery Synod Representatives, (LA) and (TW), are *ex-officio* members of the PCC. As our Electoral Roll numbers are below 50, we have six available places for election on to the PCC. We currently have four elected members of the PCC, all of whom have offered to continue to serve. Those four were duly elected *en bloc*, viz.

Peter Farmer	Adam Lockey
Helen Smith	Tim Theaker

There were no additional nominations, so two vacancies remain. These can be filled by the PCC by co-option, if the occasion arises.

ii) **Sidespersons**

Although Church Rules have changed and it is no longer strictly necessary for Sidespersons to be appointed at the APCM, (this is now a matter for the PCC), it is recognised that our Sidespersons have an important rôle to play in the life of the church being, in effect, deputies to the Churchwardens. This is an opportunity to thank them for what they do. It was decided, therefore, to retain this item on the Agenda. It is good to have happy, smiling and welcoming people on duty to greet people into church. After checking the accuracy of the nominations list and making two additions, the following were appointed:-

T Bird	K Brettell
E.Carboni	A Cameron
J Catton	P Farmer
P Lambert	N Lockey
S McGrath	J Moss
A Palmer	D Randall
A Simkins	M Theaker
D.Whiteley	A Wiggins

iii) **Hon. Examiner**

The PCC has recommended that Mr.Tony Bird be reappointed to act as our Hon. Independent Examiner for the current year and he was duly reelected.

c. **HON. TREASURER and ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 have been disseminated by e.mail as well as having been posted on the Church noticeboard. There were two questions asked of the Treasurer. The first related to what appeared to be a “stray” figure of £845 next to the heading “Other Income” on the first page. (LA) said she would look into this. Asked why the refund income for Mast electricity (£3,466.59) did not cover our outlay for that item (£3,852.51), (LA) explained that there was always a mismatch between the two figures because the refund is received in arrear and so the figures covered different periods. The Accounts were adopted and (RW) expressed his thanks to our “Treasury Team”, namely Liz Allan, now assisted by Helen Smith, for looking after our finances so well, especially during what has been a very trying time for Liz.

d. **REPORTS**

The Reports Nos. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x) and (xi) listed below had all been circulated by e.mail and were treated as read. They are reproduced in the Annual Report. There were no questions on any of the reports. As well as thanking the officers concerned and all those who take part in the various activities (RW) made some additional remarks which are noted below.

(i) **Hon. Secretary**

(ii) **Churchwardens and Fabric** (RW) mentioned that stonework has just started on two of our north-side buttresses.

- (iii) **Events**
- (iv) **Churchyard**
- (v) **Flowers** (DW) expressed her thanks to all who had contributed towards the flowers this past year. She was sorry that there would be no “floral carpet”, this time, for the Queen's Jubilee.
- (vi) **Bells** The Tower Captain (EL) gave a brief report, saying that the first AGM “in living memory” of the Bell Team had taken place and they now have their own independent Treasurer and Secretary. Since the end of lock-down we have been training up two newcomers and this explains why Monday evenings have been sounding a little dissonant. Thankfully, they are now competent enough to ring independently and in sequence. (RW) told the story of why all bell towers have their own separate entrance (to allow the ringers to exit to go home without disturbing the service). He remarked that our church is lucky in that, unlike most, a number of our ringers actually stay for our services!
- (vii) **Friends** (RW) reiterated his thanks to the *Friends* as well as to the *Fabric Team* for their tireless hard work. We have some major projects in the offing.
- (viii) **Deanery Synod**
- (ix) **Sunday School** (RW) observed that it was marvellous that we do have an active Sunday School and that it was great that they managed to adapt through the *Covid* restrictions. (AL) added that more children would be welcome and did anybody know of any who might be interested?
- (x) **Bible Study Group**
- (xi) **Choir** The remark was made how beautiful our Evensong services are. It would be nice if we could attract a bigger congregation for them. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to stream them on *Facebook*.
- (xii) **Rector's** Revd. Richard began by thanking everyone for their dedicated support in so many aspects of church life. This is the only way a parish church can survive. He especially thanked those people who had made additional donations or increased their regular giving over the *Covid* period. This had helped to keep the church afloat. We are now emerging from the *Covid* restrictions. Clergy were never trained to deal with a pandemic. These past two years have probably been the most difficult years of their ministry. One of the positives to come out of it was that we now have on-line services, so that we can reach out to a new on-line congregation. The challenge now is to continue to support them. (RW) has also been able to maintain a “virtual” presence in our local schools. Once we were able to return to Church, weddings and baptisms restarted and attendances have continued to rise.

Turning to the *Deanery Plan*, the proposal for this parish is that we shall be joined up with the parishes now making up the Barton benefice. (RW) has had numerous meetings with Diocesan personnel and with Revd. Andrew (Vicar of Barton) to discuss how this might work, in practice. The concern is that the Church of England appears to be moving away from the parish ministry system. This puts additional strain on clergy and “turns them into managers”. If the proposal is implemented, (RW) said he would not be minded to apply to take on responsibility for the enlarged benefice. Nevertheless, he and Andrew would continue to meet to try to find ways in which this could all work so as to encourage growth. We need to stop “looking back in anger” and, instead, we should try to look forward positively and prayerfully. There were a number of questions and observations from the floor following (RW)'s remarks, all of which indicated that

the view of most of the congregation was that the plans were “bonkers” and would achieve exactly the opposite of what the Diocese professes to intend.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Revd. Richard and to Jo for all they do and have done for us, through an exceptionally difficult time.

e. SAFEGUARDING COMPLIANCE

Jo Winslade is our designated Compliance Officer. Her written Report has been circulated. No untoward incidents have been reported to her over the past year and she confirmed that our Church is compliant with the current *Safeguarding* regulations. Thanks were expressed to Jo for the time she devotes to this task.

f. There were no OTHER ITEMS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST

The meeting closed at 10.25 am.

Chairman