

# allsaintsworcester

JOINING GOD IN THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm, in All Saints

# MINUTES

### Opening worship and prayer

Rich opened the meeting in prayer before a time of sung worship. Everyone was invited to write down what they are thankful to God for in the life of the church over the past year (see appendix 1)

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

(i) **Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Proposed:** Jenny Prigg

**Seconded:** Grahame Lucas

**In Favour:** 51

**Abstentions:** 19

**Objections:** 0

(ii) **Election of churchwardens**

Rich Johnson thanked Jenny Prigg and Phil Bristow for all they have done in the past year to serve the church as churchwardens and confirmed that they are both standing again:

Jenny Prigg, proposed by Alison Hopkins, and seconded by Sarah Croft;

Phil Bristow, proposed by Heather Fooks and seconded by Kevin Fooks..

Both Jenny and Phil stood unopposed and were duly elected churchwardens until the APCM of 2024. The meeting showed appreciation with applause! Jo and Fraser led the church in prayer for them and their families.

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### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- (i) **Apologies for absence:** Maggie Chase, Dave Christmas, Andrew Gaster, Tom Gurney, Christine Haig, Judith Jackman, Jan Nelson, Heidi Turner, David Warren, John Warren, Purvi Wood, Rich Wood,

(ii) **Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Proposed:** Mark Carrington

**Seconded:** Fraser Oates

**In favour:** 51

**Abstentions:** 19

**Objections:** 0

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

(iii) **Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised.

(iv) **Receipt of Annual Report and Accounts 2022 and Annual Review 2022**

Rich referred the participants to the Annual Review available on the website and in print by request.

- a. *Electoral Roll report*

At the APCM on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 the roll stood at 177. Since then, 23 names have been added and 13 names have been removed. Today the electoral roll stands at 187. The roll is available to view on the website as well as up on the church notice board.

*b. Treasurer's report*

**Church Finance Update**

We are in the storm and there is more to come! Overall charity funds have improved for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running; total reserves increased by £175K to £558k. However, the General Fund and Designated funds have suffered a reduction of £6.6K. The PCC has maintained control of the budget during 2022 and General Fund expenditure was almost £20K below budget, but we missed our income target by £54K.

In 2022 the PCC planned to balance the budget as part of our five-year plan to become financially sustainable as a resourcing church. Income fell below target and the PCC has had to make some difficult decisions to minimise the deficit in 2022. £8k of our giving to external mission has been deferred until we have the cash available to be reinstated as soon as possible.

The Making Room for Campaign was launched in February 2023 aiming to get us back on track: we still plan to sustain our mission as a local church, meet our obligations as resourcing church, become self-funded by 2026 (when the resourcing church funding ends), and enable our mission and staff team to continue.

**Worcester Foodbank Update**

God has been at work in 2022! Foodbank funds have flourished, growing by £250K. However, we spent £250K on running costs and purchase of food. 106 tonnes of food donations valued at over £245K were distributed.

Foodbank is in a strong position to serve the community and rapidly growing demand. Grahame thanked everyone for their ongoing generosity.

Grahame thanked the finance team for their work, asked the church to pray and invited questions.

Q: why do we have an organ fund when it is used so rarely?

A: The organ fund is restricted – funds raised and donated specifically for the maintenance of the organ. The organ is used when schools come in, for some of our Christmas services, and at weddings and funerals occasionally.

Rich made special thanks to Grahame for all his hard work and to Gill for releasing him to do this work for the church.

**(v) Elections of lay representatives to the PCC**

*a. Election of PCC representatives*

The meeting paused to thank and pray for our outgoing PCC members, Sarah Kelsey, Bryan Mason and Purvi Wood. Steve Chase and Mike Croft have completed a three-year term.

Standing for election were:

- Gillian Lucas proposed by Grahame Lucas and Stella Power
- Carol Rogerson proposed by Sue Price and Mark Carrington
- Steve Chase proposed by Peter Barton and Bryan Mason
- Mike Croft proposed Rachel Gurney and Luke Boxall
- Clive Langmead proposed by Grahame Lucas and Joanne Oates

Electronic voting took place. PCC places were allocated according to number of votes.

3 year places – Gill Lucas, Carol Rogerson, Steve Chase, and Mike Croft

2 year place – Clive Langmead

*b. Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives*

No-one stood for Deanery Synod. This falls to PCC to appoint a representative.

The meeting paused to pray for the new members and the work of the PCC in the next year.

**(vi) Appointment of Independent Examiner for the year to December 2023**

Rich proposed that David Hibbett be appointed as the independent examiner for the year to December 2024

**Proposed:** Mike Croft

**Seconded:** Phil Wade

**In favour:** 55

**Abstentions:** 0

**Objections:** 0

**(vii) Questions**

Rich invited everyone to ask questions. No questions raised.

**(viii) Vicar's report**

- a. Rich thanked the church as we have come through a 'vintage' year. He thanked all of us for leading in all sorts of ways and named all the ministries of the church. He gave special thanks to Sue Price as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Heather Christmas for shaping a culture of care within the church as part of the pastoral team. He gave special thanks for Kath for all she does to co-lead the church with him and his children for all the ways they give to the church as a family. He thanked the church for their support and for releasing Rich and Kath as they take up the national leadership role at New Wine this year.
- b. He shared reflections on 2022 as a transition year: the Big Weekend last summer - thanking God for the first 20 years of the revitalised All Saints church, and the St Helen's re-ordering project underway under the supervision of Stella Power. It has been noticeable to see the church's collective commitment to ministry and community, our increased levels of prayer, and increased activity of the Holy Spirit.
- c. On the road ahead there are challenges, missional opportunities and this is a season to innovate, both in the future of the church and our financial challenges. We have big questions and some complex challenges to resolve around space, finance and structures to accommodate growth and release life.
- d. In staff team changes we will welcome an incoming Curate in June. We hope to appoint an Associate Vicar this term and Jo and Fraser are looking at a church plant opportunity for next year.
- e. Rich then gave an update on some of the developments and challenges in the Church of England around the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process which sought to help the church engage carefully with questions of human sexuality and explore any implications for the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. He explained that LLF has proved highly contested – with some wanting to see the introduction of same-sex marriage and others wanting to stick to the traditional teaching on marriage. Rich outlined that at the February meeting of General Synod, a motion proposing a way forward was brought by the House of Bishops. The House of Bishops made clear that the doctrine of marriage will not change. They are instead, proposing to introduce some prayers of blessing for people in committed, same-sex relationships but that these have not yet been finalised. Given the context of this, Rich recognised it was important to give clarity and pastoral reassurance on his theological convictions around this and that of the other clergy and what this means for All Saints going forward. He explained that they remain committed to the historic and orthodox doctrine. He reiterated that not everyone in All Saints holds the same view and recognised that many of us are grappling with these questions. He emphasised that there is room within All Saints for people who hold differing views and that he is confident and determined that we hold together in difference, in love. He invited anyone who has any questions or wanted to talk more to contact him or Fraser and added that this will help them think through how we engage together going forward.
- f. Rich moved on to our financial challenge and restated our goals. We aim to raise £80K in income this year: £50K in one-off gifts and £30K increase in regular giving. So far, we have raised £25k in one-off gifts and £5 increase in giving – an amazing effort.
- g. He ended with a focus on our priority of prayer; this is what we can do! Pray for God's spirit to move. Kath and the prayer team are doing a great job in leading us to lean into prayer, and altogether there is more prayer happening in groups across the church. If there is one thing you commit to this year, may it be to the monthly Hungry prayer gatherings!

(ix) **Closing prayer**

The participants prayed together in groups of three or four and the meeting ended.

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**Present at the APCM and Annual meeting of parishioners on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and on the electoral roll (55):**

Philippa Barton, Roy Bannister, Sandy Bannister, Hannah Boxall, Luke Boxall, Margaret Bristow, Philip Bristow, Mark Carrington, Claudia Catterall, Steve Chase, Heather Christmas, Melanie Coleman, Rob Coleman, Mike Croft, Sarah Croft, Helen Dean, Timothy Dean, John Dowbiggin, Lindy Dowbiggin, Diana Drew, Ben Dunnett, Gaye Evans, Heather Fooks, Kevin Fooks, Rachel Gurney, Andy Hodgkiss, Eric Holland, Alison Hopkins, Andrew Jackman, Kath Johnson, Lynn Kimber, Steff Kirk, Clive Langmead, Paul Long, Ruth Long, Gillian Lucas, Grahame Lucas, Abigail Macaskill, Liz Marshall, Bryan Mason, Judith Mason, Joanne Oates, Sue Price, Jenny Prigg, Carol Rogerson, Andy Sheppard, Mark Stone, Sue Stone, Vivien Swann, Jon Turner, Phil Wade, David Warren, John Warren, Colin Whitehead, Janet Whitehead,

**In attendance at the meeting and not on the electoral roll (15):**

Paras Baldock, Victor Baldock, Alina Clark, Mark Clark, John Drew, Anna Giles, Mark Giles, Sally Fisher, Rev Rich Johnson, Rev Jess Fellows, Rob Marshall, Annelise Nunn, Phil Nunn, Rev Fraser Oates, Annabel Wade

staff team are doing a great job

City-wide youth gatherings

Accessing church online

Christmas Choir Commune

Revive and Dive Deeper groups

More children

Having communion back

Christmas Choir

Financial resourcing

New worship

Beatitudes teaching series

New people

Lent Retreat day

Alpha Growing life groups

Divine re-set since COVID

Youth takeover gatherings Church weekend away

Church weekend away

New people

What's next, Lord?

Baptisms

Seeing life groups go deeper in community and study

6pm Gathering

Fellowship of life group

Students serving the church

Answered prayers

Growing Faith

New openness to the Holy Spirit

Growing numbers of youth and kids

children's work

Resourcing St Peter's Bengearth

Support for Faith Beatitudes teaching series

24/3 prayer weekends

Christmas services