



Minutes of the Annual Meeting for Parishioners 27th April 2022

The meeting started at 7.30pm in the Paterson Centre, chaired by Rev Nick Whitehead. The meeting opened with prayer.

1. **Apologies** were received from 15 people, recorded on a separate list.
Twenty -eight people attended the meeting, recorded on a separate list.
2. **Minutes of the meeting of Parishioners held on 28th April 2021** had been circulated.
Allison Gurry proposed that these be accepted: Andrew Wilkinson seconded. All were in favour, no abstentions.
3. **Election of Churchwardens.** Two forms had been completed, Janet Chant and Dave Lee had offered to stand for a further year. All were in favour of Janet and Dave being re-elected, no objections and no abstentions. The Chairman thanked Dave and Janet for all they had done in the past year.
4. The meeting closed at 7.43pm

Recorded by PCC Secretary Jill Phipps

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 27th April 2021;**
Rick Ankers proposed that these be accepted, seconded by Andrew Wilkinson. All were in favour, no abstentions, no objections.
2. **Reports** were set out in a booklet, available on the church website and in printed form at the meeting.

2.1 The Electoral Roll:

Jenny Sharpe,
Electoral Roll Officer, reported that in the past year, 5 people have died, 2 have moved away and 10 people have registered so the register stands now at 149, increased from 146 last year.

In accordance with the wishes of the PCC the full roll with addresses and contact details is available for PCC business but is not on public display. The roll is updated as and when Jenny becomes aware of departures, new members or changes in personal details; please inform Jenny of any changes.

2.2 The Annual Report of the Parish Church Council.

The Chairman drew attention to the PCC report and the Ministry team report. We have now been in Vacancy for almost a year; Rev Nick Whitehead was given permission by the Bishop to

act as PCC Chairman for the course of the vacancy (but without voting rights). The PCC has met 8 times between January and December 2021, some meetings were on zoom but latterly we have returned to meeting in Barnaby's.

The PCC reviewed the St BiGGI (St Barnabas InterGenerational Growth Initiatives) plan in February on an 'awayday' at a local venue. We talked of the successes of the Parish rather than the difficulties and were encouraged that things were going well. The awayday included a Bible study as the PCC had a desire to deepen its spiritual understanding, and to deepen relationships within the PCC helping us to understand one another better. There were no questions or observations on the PCC and Ministry team reports.

2.3 The Independently Examined Financial Statement.

Andrew Wilkinson, Treasurer, drew attention to the financial statement which had been published on the church website ahead of the meeting and available in written format at the meeting.

In 2021 the church had a surplus of £8K but this was for several reasons:

We received a legacy of £17.5K but this is restricted for work in the churchyard.

We received a grant of £5K from Winchester Council specifically for improvements in Barnaby's; this was received in 2021, but not spent in 2021.

The Parish Share for 2021 was calculated incorrectly for a number of parishes and for us meant a reduction of approximately £8K between 2020 and 2021. The Diocese is not claiming this back but Parish share will return to the level of 2020 if not higher.

Key point: Regular planned giving is not meeting our Parish Share; we cannot continue to supplement the Parish share by using income from Barnaby's, the Magazine and Paterson Centre fees. 5 years ago, our regular giving met the Parish Share. We must have a Gift Day or Stewardship Campaign this year. Andrew illustrated this situation on a pictorial graph.

Question from CW: Does the Diocese receive income from the land used by the Tennis Club (part of the Glebe land) and the Vicarage rent? Are fees for services e.g. wedding fees used for Parish Share?

Reply: The Diocese does receive income from Glebeland and vacant vicarage rents – this contributes to central funds and helps to keep Parish Share lower than it otherwise would be. Parish Share is our contribution towards the cost of the ministry provided by the Diocese, primarily covering the costs of clergy stipends, training, pensions and housing.

Comment from JC: The Parish share also pays for the Diocesan Advisory staff, who have been very helpful for church wardens.

Reply: Numbers of Diocesan staff have been cut too, and central expenses are as low as they can be.

Question from TK:

Reply: Barnaby's runs healthily but is not making exorbitant profits. We spend what we earn.

Question from RA: asking for explanation of Barnaby's profits, referring to p 8 of the financial report. Should the equipment purchased sit under church assets? And why are their accounts separate from church accounts as the church owns Barnaby's?

Reply: Barnaby's last year gave £3000 to the church account; the equipment bought was tables and chairs. Barnaby's Business Team run tight accounts and have their own bank account; Andrew sees the statements and all the accounts. Barnaby's account is consolidated with the

church. There is a nominal £18K in Barnaby's account which has built up, including the Winchester Council £5000 grant.

Comment from Dave L: At the Archdeacon's Visitation, the churchwardens met the Diocesan Stewardship officer who they invited to come and talk to the PCC to help us think about how to increase our giving. Unfortunately, he was not able to come on the planned date but a new date is being arranged.

Reply: We do need to focus on getting more money either from people who are already members of the church or from people who are not members of the church. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is working well and the giving increases annually with inflation if the giver gives permission.

Question from JF: what percentage of our average congregation are signed up to PGS?

Reply: Some 40 members of the congregation give through PGS, including some husband/wife givers; some people give anonymously.

Comment from MR: The congregation is ageing; we need to be aware of legacies and how we can give to the church in our wills. Could part of the Stewardship Campaign encourage all over 60 to make a legacy?

Reply: excellent idea!

Comment from AP: the lady who left us the legacy for the churchyard had a Parish magazine sent to her for 20 years and also contributed to the postage for this.

Question from CW: We talked at one time about setting up a 'Friends of St Barnabas' Scheme. Has there been any progress on that?

Reply: The PCC looked into this and decided that in a village of this size, it wasn't really feasible. It was noted that the Friends of Bishops Waltham church scheme had recently closed.

Andrew concluded his report by thanking Derrinda, Janet and Jen for their help in managing collections and banking, and to John Austin whose efficiency in managing the Magazine Advertising ensured that income was received; also to Richard Green Wilkinson for examining the accounts and to John Sharpe for his fund-raising work.

Andrew has been Treasurer now for 6 years and would like to step down, please would anyone willing to do this come forward.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for the incredible job he was doing and invited proposals to accept the accounts. Rick Ankers proposed that they be accepted, John Branson seconded and all were in favour, no objections, no abstentions.

2.4 Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Janet Chant highlighted the great team work in the church in the past year to look after the buildings, particularly the transformation of the Vicarage drive and garden, and the amazing Spring Clean day where all jobs had been completed. Thanks to all involved.

There were no questions for the Churchwardens on their report.

The Chairman explained that PCC are looking to plant 3 or 4 new trees in the relatively bare area of the church yard where the Holme Oak had been; some trees will be in memory of a person and we are looking into whether plaques by the trees will be allowed. There are no

planning issues regarding the planting of trees but we are taking advice from an Arboriculturist regarding what trees will be best suited to the soil.

Question from CW: Can we get grants from the Parish Council for work in the churchyard?

Reply: We received £500 last year from the Council for equipment. The Christmas lights on the church are all put up and paid for by the Parish Council and we have approached them with regard to the repair of the boundary fence.

2.5 The Report of the proceedings of Bishops Waltham Deanery Synod.

Jen Frampton reported that there had been a lot of discussion this year about the Deanery plan and how we can re-organise to save money and work better together. None of this has resulted in any progress. However, now that Bishop Jonathan has been installed, and has unveiled his roadmap for the Deaneries, we are hoping for clarity and progress.

Question from TK: why is there to be a celebration event for the winding up of the Hackney Link?

Reply: There have been difficulties both in the UK and Africa which have been compounded by Covid and these have brought the Link between St Barnabas and Hackney to a natural end. Not many people feel a connection with Hackney these days, a more local link would be better, perhaps with a less prosperous part of our Diocese.

3. Election of Members to the PCC.

There were 4 places free, 3 x 3-year terms and a one -year casual vacancy. During the meeting, the one -year vacancy was withdrawn leaving three vacancies.

Two applications had been received, for Allison Gurry and Derrinda Laing. Both were elected unanimously for a period of 3 years each.

One space is vacant, the PCC could co-opt for a year if they wish.

4. To appoint an External Examiner for the Financial Statements of the PCC for 2022.

Andrew reported that Richard Green - Wilkinson is prepared to act again for us for a further year. All were in favour of this.

5. Other Questions on the reports and Matters of interest:

Safeguarding: Caroline Vost, Parish Safeguarding Officer expressed her thanks to all those requiring DBS, for being willing to go through the training and checks. She reiterated that if we are not compliant with training, it affects our policies.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we all have a duty to act.

Question from NW: Where might a typical risk be?

Reply: A recent independent review highlights that many people often know what is going on but do nothing about it and this means that you are colluding with the offender. This is what has happened in past cases – so please, if you have a concern, share it.

Comment from CW on the Electoral Roll: The church has run many sponsored events and concerts so it is disappointing that the number on the Electoral Roll has not increased in spite of the increase in housing in the village.

Reply from HW: The St BiGGI strategy was not in operation during Covid, but things are improving and we have Pastoral Visitors working, including those for welcome. We should all be looking out for 'SOLD' boards and calling to say hello and welcome. We have had 4 new families join us through Christenings.

It is not true that the number on our Electoral Roll determines our Parish Share. It is now taken on the average attendance during October. It is also true now that you don't have to be on the Electoral Roll in order to be married in church.

The Swanmore Link Magazine: there was concern about the fact that we do not deliver the magazine any longer and they are not all collected in spite of the banner being up to remind people. This matter is to be referred to the PCC on 12th May.

The Chairman reported that Bishop Jonathan visited our Deanery recently, went over to the school and had a coffee in Barnaby's. He is very aware of where we are in terms of the Vacancy and Rev Hazel & Rev Nick will be writing to him soon, to remind him. There are currently over 20 Vacancies in the Diocese covering 30 parishes and we hope that as the Bishop settles in, the embargo against advertising for a new minister, will be lifted and we will be able to move forwards.

The Chairman invited Jill Phipps to inform the meeting of her current situation; Jill explained that for many years that she had felt called to be Ordained but had been informed, on enquiring from the Diocese, that there was an age limit. In spite of her enjoyment of her Licensed Lay Minister/Reader role, this calling has not gone away. Recently, things have changed and on enquiring again, Jill was invited to start on a Discernment path for a year and has recently attended the first stage of the National Church of England process, with a second residential stage coming up at the end of May. In all this she has been well supported by the Diocesan Ordinand Team. At the same time, the Diocesan team recommended that she start the Portsmouth Pathway training (affiliated to Durham university) which would be 2 years, and so Jill goes to St Luke's Church in Southsea on Tuesday evenings during term time, with monthly residential weekends at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, near Oxford. The studying and essay writing is a very enjoyable challenge! Jill thanked the church for encouragement and support asked all to continue to pray for her on this journey.

The Chairman invited Jill to tell the meeting about '**Worship Wonders**'. Jill explained that this is a weekly lunchtime 'Christian club' which she runs in the Primary School with some of the Pastoral Visitors (Jen Frampton, Allison Gurry, Cheryl Young and Anne Davies). It was set up as a pilot project last year in partnership with the school, Scripture Union, Southampton City Mission (who deliver RE in the school) and ourselves. The idea is to walk alongside children, help them to grow and develop their faith and increase the links between church and school. The children decided on their own name, and we meet in the RE lead teacher's classroom. We have a faithful core of 20 -25 children every week with others who come along to see what it's all about but sometimes there are over 40 of all ages from Reception to Year 6. The children enjoy stories, crafts, drama, and anything with food! We invite the children to Café Church which one family has attended, and other church events. We feel privileged to be part of this initiative and encourage the church family to pray for the children and the school, and for the weekly 'Worship Wonders' sessions.

The Churchwardens presented Rev Hazel, Rev Nick & Jill with gifts and thanks for their work in the past year.

The chairman thanked the Churchwardens for holding the heavy legal responsibility of the Church while we are in Vacancy.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Notes taken by Jill Phipps.