

St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park, Woking
Minutes of Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held at Church at 11:20am on Sunday 26 May 2024

Scott Smith, incumbent, in the chair. Neil Cheetham, PCC Member, took the minutes in the absence of PCC Secretary (Rob Rattee).

Vestry Meeting

1. Welcome

Scott welcomed everyone, read from John 15:5 and prayed for the meeting.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Scott thanked our Churchwardens for all their work during the last year. The meeting also expressed its thanks. A special thanks was given to Mandy who was stepping down after 5 years of service as Churchwarden.

Scott noted that Shani Orchard was willing to continue as Churchwarden and had been nominated for the role. Andy Humphries had also been duly nominated. As there were only two nominations, both Shani and Andy were appointed to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.

APCM

3. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

There were approximately 51 members present. Apologies were received and accepted from: Becky Butler, Alan and Caroline Dinsdale, Malcolm and Sheryl Herbert, Fiona Irwin, Becs Lambart, Kae Laxton, Barry & Glenis Nay, Rob and Sarah Rattee, Lynne West.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21st May 2023

Scott noted that these had been initially reviewed by the PCC. The minutes were passed as a correct record and were duly signed by Scott.

5. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

6. Annual Report

Scott noted that the Annual Report was available on the church's website and encouraged church members to read it.

a. Electoral Roll Report

Scott read the Electoral Roll report from Brian Thomas, our Electoral Roll Officer. The current Electoral Roll contains 165 people. Since the last APCM, ten people had come off the roll for various reasons and four had been added.

Scott thanked Brian for his work on the Roll.

b. Church Council Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report previously published on the church website. There were no questions.

c. Fabric Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report previously published on the church website. Steve Davies asked a question on the status of floor repairs in the Youth Room. Shani Orchard noted that quotes were being sought for the work and added that the room isn't useable at the moment.

d. Deanery Synod Report

The meeting noted the contents of the report previously published on the church website. There were no questions.

e. Other Reports

There were no questions on the other reports that had been previously published on the church website.

7. Finance Report

- a. Ali Sanderson, Church Treasurer, introduced herself, then presented the financial position as at the end of 2023, based on the accounts approved by the PCC.
- b. Income: Ali noted that 70% of the income comes from donations from church members. There was a slight increase over last year, boosted by a generous donation at the end of the year. Overall income was down compared with 2022, the latter benefitting from the lift appeal and in 2023 Andy's was only open two days a week in term time. In 2023 we had income from Biffa Award for the church doors.
- c. Expenditure: The two largest items are our staff costs and Parish Share. The Parish Share reflects a slight increase in diocesan costs, vicar's stipend and vicarage costs. The staff salaries reflects the changes in Andy's staff and opening times. Our planned outward giving was reduced from 16% to 10% as we cannot give away money we do not have. Extra expenditure in 2022 related to lift repairs, whilst in 2023 it reflected automatic doors. Higher utilities maintenance costs in 2023 reflect the increase in gas and electric costs.
- d. Assets: The fixed assets is mostly represented by the church's interest in Watercress Way. The cash at the bank has fallen since expenditure was greater than our income in 2022. Less income due to the Church at end of 2023 compared with 2022 reflects the catch up in sorting Gift Aid.
- e. Creditors: The biggest change being on Far and Near monies where due to changes in the bank accounts some mission payments were held over from 2022 and paid early in 2023.
- f. Overview of 2023: In summary, Ali noted the small deficit seen was perhaps misleading, reflecting a large number of impacts. Overall, the accessibility doors costs were covered from the grant. The house in Watercress Way was finally sold in early 2024.
- g. Looking ahead to 2024: Ali noted that the budget exercise had showed an anticipated deficit of £39,000 (with income of £219k and expenditure of £258k). This will lead to a reduction in our cash position, which has benefited temporarily from the house sale. Ali encouraged a review of our regular giving and noted there is intended to be a Giving Day in September. Ali noted that in 2024 and 2025 there are two further capital projects to cover - the floor in the A2 and a replacement of the heating system. The latter costs are very substantial, perhaps up to £300k. Grant funding is being investigated.
- h. Ali spoke briefly about the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which manages the administration of regular giving, including gift aid, on our behalf. Donating can be anonymous. Ali encouraged all church members to sign up for Gift Aid if they were able (those eligible being those who pay income tax or capital gains tax).
- i. The meeting thanked Ali for all her work as Treasurer and clear presentation and unanimously received the accounts.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ali proposed that we should continue with Stanley Francis-Joseph FCCA as our Independent Examiner. This was agreed unanimously.

Ali was thanked for her service. In turn Ali offered thanks to Alison Good and the Finance Standing Committee (FSC) for their work and support.

Scott concluded this section with prayer for the way ahead.

9. Election of Parochial Church Council Members

- a. Scott indicated there were five vacancies for PCC as Becky Butler, Andy Humphries, Mike Kerlake and John Smith had come to the end of their terms of office and there was one vacancy following last year's APCM.
- b. Scott reported that five nominations had been received prior to the meeting:
 - i. Becky Butler;
 - ii. Sheryl Herbert;
 - iii. Andy Humphries;
 - iv. Becs Lambart; and
 - v. John Smith.
- c. There being no further nominations, these five were duly elected.
- d. Mike was thanked for his service to PCC and for his current and future work on the project to replace the heating system.
- e. Scott thanked all PCC members for their willingness to serve.

10. Vicar's Report

Scott started by noting that it is a privilege to be Vicar of St Andrew's, putting intentionality at the heart of what we do. He highlighted that he had provided a written report and that the sermon in the preceding service had expanded on a number of the key themes. For the benefit of the minutes, these are summarised as follows:

- Whilst praying for today, the following verse came to mind. John 15 v5: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.'
- Today is a day to celebrate all that goes on in the life of St Andrew's, and all the ways that we've seen God at work. This is across all ages and stages of life and through a variety of different ministries and places of connection.
- There is so much to be grateful for, so much that is exciting in the life of St Andrew's. Be encouraged.
- Scott commented that it's in Jesus that we find life and hope and peace - good news that is worth sharing. He sees his role here primarily as one of caring, shaping, moulding, developing, pruning and planting. Scott added that his priority is for each one of us to grow as Disciples of Jesus - to be formed in His image and to become more like Him.
- "I'm increasingly convinced that the best strategy for evangelism and outreach is to love and be loved by Jesus, to care for people and to share the good news." This is the direction of travel.
- "Vitality, we are to seek to worship and follow Jesus everyday, not just in our Sunday gatherings. This work of formation and discipleship will be a key theme over the coming year, as we look to work out of a place of knowing we are loved beyond measure."
- In the autumn we are going to look at Spiritual Formation. Shortly we'll be undertaking a rebranding project to help us, as a church, look at who we are and at the things that are important to us.
- The future holds financial challenges: the life-expired heating system, which will require significant funding and that spending each month is greater than income received. There is a plan to hold a Gift Day later this year in September.
- Scott commented that he is grateful for all who serve. He highlighted that more people are needed to support our work with children and with youth. He also commented that

he'd love for us to have a richer community life (sharing meals and doing life together) as well as having a place where people can explore the Christian faith (eg running Alpha).

Shani thanked Scott for what he has done and what will be done in the future.

Scott prayed for the future, "build your church here we pray".

11. Closing Prayer

There being no further comments or questions, Scott thanked everyone for attending and he closed the meeting at 12:00 with prayer.