

St Matthew's Church Harwell

**Minutes of the Annual General Meetings held on
Sunday 19th May 2024 at 12.35pm
In St Matthew's Church**

The meetings were attended by 35 people.

The Rector, Jeremy Parsons, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the late start.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Woolley, Adrian Rance-McGregor, Adrian Bollon, Deborah Evans, Di Baker and Phil Roberts.

Annual Parochial Meeting

2. Election of churchwardens

Jeremy explained Eliza Wheaton was standing down as warden as she is starting ministry training. He thanked her for being an excellent Church Warden and for all the time and effort she had put into the job.

A nomination had been received for Jane Woolley to be re-elected as Warden and this was proposed by Liz Roberts, seconded by Eliza Wharton and passed unanimously by the meeting. Jeremy thanked Jane for her support and hard work.

There were no other nominations so the remaining position remains unfilled.

Signed as a true record:

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

There were no nominations for either of the two vacancies.

2 Election of PCC Members

A church with an electoral roll of 51-100 people can have up to 9 elected PCC members. There are four remaining elected PCC members part way through their terms and so there are 5 vacancies.

Elizabeth Clarke said 5 completed nomination forms had been received for:

- Antony Hughes (standing for re-election)
- Rebecca Lewis (standing for re-election)
- Adrian Bollon
- Adrian Rance-McGregor
- Stephen Manning

Lucy Ryan proposed these five candidates should be elected as PCC members. This was seconded by Elizabeth Roberts. A show of hands indicated unanimous support for their appointments.

3. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Elizabeth Clarke said that Jane Moreton had kindly agreed, once again, to be the Independent Examiner and this was approved unanimously.

4. Receipt of the Reports

The following reports had been available in the weeks leading up to the meeting and were “received” formally by the meeting:

- **Minutes of the annual meetings held in April 2023**
Tim Roberts proposed the acceptance of the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting as a correct record. This was seconded by Sue Greatbanks. The Minutes were approved by a show of hands. A hard copy was signed by Jeremy Parsons as Chairman and Elizabeth Clarke as Secretary.
- **The Annual Report for 2023**
Frances Taylor proposed the acceptance of the Annual Report and this was seconded by Ruth Parsons. The Report was approved unanimously by a show of hands.
- **Fabric Report for 2023**
Eliza Wheaton proposed the acceptance of the Report and this was seconded by Lucy Ryan and approved by a show of hands.

- **Financial Report and Accounts for 2023**

Phill Johnson proposed the acceptance of the Report and Accounts and this was seconded by Brendon Bailey. The Report and Accounts were approved by a show of hands.

- **Deanery Synod Report 2023**

Eliza Wheaton proposed the acceptance of the Report and Elizabeth Roberts seconded this. The Report was passed by a show of hands.

- **Safeguarding Report 2023**

Eliza Wheaton proposed the acceptance of the Report and Lucy Ryan seconded this. The Report was passed by a show of hands.

5. **Number on the Electoral Roll as at April 2024.**

Mike Pepper reported that as at the 28th of April 2024 the Electoral Roll stood at 89 compared with 66 in April 2023. 28 had been added to the Roll and 5 had been removed.

6. **Rector's remarks.**

Jeremy remarked to the meeting that he had been the Rector for almost a year and that on his appointment he had found the church in good heart and enthusiastic to move forward. He thanked all those who had contributed to the running of the church over the last year and the wider Christian mission to the local community. During the next year, he was keen to encourage us to move forward in growing the kingdom of God. Jeremy reminded those present of the Church Vision which is:

Growing God's church, wider, deeper and closer

- Closer means working towards drawing us closer as a community.
- Deeper means increasing the depth of discipleship within the whole church
- Wider means a recognition that we need to welcome and encourage others to join our community.

This Vision should sustain and encourage us both as a church and as individuals.

7. **Future of the Church Hall (Dafydd Charles)**

Dafydd explained he was standing in for Debbie Greenfield who was unable to make the meeting. He explained that over the last few years a great deal of effort had gone into considering how to make better use of the hall. Prompted by an offer to buy a working group had been set up in 2022 to look at the options. The Group concluded early in 2023 that there was no obvious way forward to a sale, there were questions about how to manage the hall, and that money needed to be spent if it were to be made attractive to outside (Church) rental. It currently costs £5,000 pa even with minimum maintenance, and the Scouts are planning to cease their use after the Harwell Feast.

Earlier this year a new Church Hall Project Group led by Debbie Greenfield was set up to advise PCC of the best options for the hall. The new Group identified a viable option not previously fully explored which it presented to PCC in March. The Group believes the hall can be made into an asset for both the church and outside hire. Any surplus on hire could be used for the mission of the church. There would be certain

restrictions on outside hire for example no teenage parties. The Village Hall is overbooked and amenable to sharing a booking system. It suggested a modest investment to upgrade some features of the hall which was approved by PCC at its March meeting. Since then negotiations have started with the Village Hall to work out ways to work together, essential work has been scheduled and quotes are being obtained for other work and decoration, and a lot of rubbish has been cleared out thanks to Jane Woolley.

Short term plans involve setting up a Management Committee with Debbie Greenfield as Interim Chair, an Open Afternoon on 2nd June to launch fundraising and attract local support, promotion on social media, and seeking grant funding.

Questions were raised about church use of the car park, would the church get priority on usage (Dafydd pointed out there was little use at present) and the day to day management of the hall. Dafydd these points would be considered by the Committee.

The Meeting thanked Dafydd for his presentation and the whole Committee for their work.

8. Discussion, questions and tabling resolutions.

There were no other items raised or tabled.

The Meeting closed in prayer at 1.15pm.

Signed as a true record

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Rector

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Secretary

Date.....

Date.....