

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HITCHAM – ANNUAL MEETINGS 2022

Held at St Mary's, Hitcham on Sunday, 22nd May 2022 at 10:15am

Church attendees 26, one Zoom attendee (Harsh Singh)

Chairperson: Rev Sue Sampson

Secretary: Debbie Rainer

The meeting started promptly, Rev Sue Sampson welcomed all and started by reading Isaiah 65:17-25
The report had been circulated online in advance, together with last year's minutes.
Apologies for absence received from Terry Cheney.

Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 16th May 2021 and matters arising:

Additional record of Sally Short's service raised by Debbie Rainer and read to the church. Unanimous agreement to the addition. Approval of the amended minutes proposed by Geoff Day; seconded by Gez Wheeler. Fourteen were present at the last APCM and all of them agreed the minutes, none were against.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS (VESTRY MEETING)

Appointment of churchwardens for 2022-23

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the continued appointment of Chris Berry and Terry Cheney as Churchwardens, along with Carol Bader as Deputy Churchwarden, both of this Parish, for 2022-2023.

Alan Merrington proposed and Margaret Woodley seconded, 24 agreed – unanimous vote.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

PART 1: ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Election of lay representative(s) to Deanery Synod

Existing members Jo Cork and Ann-Marie Hill to continue as within three year term.

2. Election of lay representatives to serve on the PCC

Alan Merrington has reached the end of his three year term of office and was thanked for his service by Rev Sue. There are currently no vacancies on the PCC in accordance with Electoral Roll. Debbie Rainer has reached the end of a three year term of office and stood for re-election as PCC secretary. Debbie left the room so this could take place; Rev Sue praised Debbie's contribution. Geoff Day proposed re-election; Ann-Marie Hill seconded re-election. Unanimous vote of 24.

3. Side Person appointments

There were no side person appointments.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the appointment of Sandeep Das as our Independent Examiner for 2022/23. Jo Trobridge proposed, Ann-Marie Hill seconded, unanimous vote.

5. Appointment of Treasurer:

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the appointment of Harsh Singh as our Treasurer for 2022/23. Mary Howarth proposed, Sally Short seconded, unanimous vote.

There were no questions arising.

PART 2: REPORTS

(written reports were circulated online in advance and were not delivered verbally)

6. Report on the Church Electoral Roll

Ann-Marie Hill gave a brief update, advising that the electoral roll had been reviewed with Rev Sue and the number on roll adjusted to 84, the new roll has been published and is displayed in the church porch. Any corrections to be advised within two weeks of this meeting. It is important to be on the electoral roll as it entitles you to a vote at meetings and contribute to the life of the church. It enables us to assess our contribution to the Parish Share. No questions arising.

7. Annual Report of the PCC for 2021

Debbie Rainer explained that the PCC was stable in 2021 with no new appointments. Attendance at meetings was good, initially on Zoom and then moving to the Parish Room. Sarah Naylor-Hagger is doing well as our Safeguarding Officer and is much appreciated in this vital role. Church policies have been a focus and continue to be under review. Data Protection, Safeguarding, Health and Safety have all been updated and are on the website. Terry Cheney is our newly appointed Health and Safety Officer. Other policies were initially reviewed by the PCC in August 2021. Rev Sue explained that the Diocese directs a considerable number of policies, including social media.

8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Chris Berry explained that one broken window was repaired, plus the ceiling which was a challenging task due to the type of materials. Repair for the eagle pedestal is a work in progress, as we seek specialist skills. Within the next few months a decision will be made about installing a ramp to give improved access to the Parish Room. Margaret Woodley asked about the roof inspection and Chris explained our usual roofer was reluctant to inspect the roof and so a search is going on to find another roofer before the autumn season. Alan Merrington asked about building work to extend the Parish Room, Sue said there are reserved funds, however growing our church needs to come first. We will share considerations if and when they become relevant.

9. Report on the proceedings of the Burnham & Slough Deanery Synod

Ann-Marie Hill said that meetings and finance reviews have taken place online. In September 2021 face to face meetings will resume; church inspections have restarted. Rod Cosh retired as Area Dean in 2021. The reverend canon Janet Binns was appointed and Rev Sue highlighted that reappointment will be a shared cost across the Deanery. The Deanery anticipates a visit from Bishop Stephen on 19th July 2022, subject to change. Sue thanked Ann-Marie Hill and Jo Cork for attending meetings.

10. Annual Report of the Financial Affairs and the Audited Accounts of the PCC

Harsh gave a summary report over Zoom, in particular the impact on our reserves in 2021. Partly attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns, giving is down between £8,000 to £10,000 every year and we have to use our reserves to make up the shortfall. These will be gone in six years if we are unable to increase funds. Reserves will be further impacted by increased energy costs. Although it is a challenge, we have to encourage more members and enhanced giving, including those members of our digital congregation. Growing our church is the best way to move forward. Rev Sue highlighted £12,000 in the reserved building fund, £55,000 in the legacy fund. There have been no legacies in the last two years. Margaret Woodley enquired how decisions are made about expenditure of restricted funds, Sue said the Finance Committee make recommendations to the PCC. No income has been added to the restricted funds. Ann-Marie Hill thanked Harsh. Rev Sue gave a formal thank you for Harsh's hard work maintaining our accounts.

PART 3

11. Chairperson's address

Rev Sue thanked team leaders for their contributions the Annual Report, and highlighted the role of the Mission Group who have enabled continuation of our giving 10% to charitable causes. Rev Sue thanked Alan Bignall, Mary Howarth and Chris Berry for preaching. Simon Price will preach during 2022. Thanks was given to our church wardens Chris Berry, Terry Cheney and Carol Bader for their tireless work during the various Covid-19 lockdowns, adjusted restrictions and policy changes. Rev Sue thanked the AV team under David Ross-Hamilton's leadership. David has

worked tirelessly to develop his skills for live streaming services and continues to update his knowledge. Carrie Hedgeworth our church administrator was thanked for her support and efficiency. Rev Sue gave thanks to all members of the church and for their service to our ministry.

Rev Sue looked ahead to 2022/2023; during this transition phase we recognise that some members of our congregation have not returned. It is vital to continue our online streaming of services, reaching out and growing the faith of others, also growing our church. The heart of our mission is sharing the love of God. Looking ahead, Rev Sue shared our vision which was developed by the congregation at our away day in early 2022, saying 'own it and be it'.

Rev Sue thanked everyone for being part of our wonderful church. Chris Berry thanked Rev Sue with a gift from us all.

12. Questions

There were no questions submitted beforehand. During the meeting, Margaret Woodley asked if minutes could be uploaded to the website, together with paper copies in the vestry, Parish Room and porch. It was agreed this could be organised. Josie Hefferman requested larger copies of the vision prayer document. Sonia Hart reminded all to be mindful of increased photocopy costs. Sue is still trying to find a new organist and there will shortly be a review of worship.

13. Any other business

Date of the next Annual Meeting: To be confirmed in due course. First PCC Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 20th June 2022

[The meeting closed at 11:10 am](#)