

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Begbroke St Michael

Held at St Michaels' Church, Begbroke at 10.45 on 4th July 2021

Present:

In person Revd. Oliver Petter, and six parishioners. By video link a further three parishioners attended. Apologies were received from 4 parishioners

Explanation of meeting format:

Once again due to the coronavirus, churches have been allowed to hold their meetings later in 2021. To allow access to those unable to attend, the various reports have now been loaded on the benefice website [here](#).

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the annual meeting held on 18th October 2020 which had been circulated following that meeting [here](#) were approved by those who had been present

Election of Churchwardens:

The Parishioners meeting prior to the APCM had elected Neill Brodey and Robert Hands to continue as Churchwardens

Election of Parochial Church Council members for the coming year:

In addition to the church wardens, the following offered themselves for re-election. Jenny Hands, Caroline Waugh, Rosa Cadd. These three were elected en-bloc

Electoral Roll report:

Current roll is 18 parishioners

Deanery Synod report:

Revd. Petter presented the Deanery Synod report [here](#). Neill Brodey continues as St Michaels lay representative until the next election in 2023.

Financial statements:

Jenny Hands presented the financial results from 2020 [here](#).

Unrestricted funds - Pleasingly, the conversion to standing orders or direct debits for Planned-giving amongst our regular contributors meant that this income source was only £860 down against 2019, although we also had £750 less in cash collections. Reduced running costs with the church closed for part of the year and the decision to only pay 90% of the £13,778 Parish Share allowed us to end the year with a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,090 and with £3,346 in the current account.

Restricted funds - The fabric fund had sufficient funds to cover the cost of the Vestry conversion work. The end of year balance of £4,595 does not include either the £8,000 grant due from Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust or the £ VAT to be reclaimed on this work under the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

Revd. Petter thanked Jenny for all her work over the past year and to all in the parish who had moved from cash to bank instruction planned-giving in difficult times.

The independently examined accounts were accepted, having been proposed by Neill Brodey and seconded by Rosa Cadd.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Andrew Donaldson would be asked to perform this role again for the coming year.

Vicar's report:

Revd. Petter commented on some key points from his annual report which is available [here](#)

He pointed out that we had only missed one Sunday of worship (Lent 4) at the start of the pandemic, after which a combination of Facebook and Zoom had allowed us to reach a good number of the congregation across all three churches. Jayne Hill thanked everyone for the way in which we had involved the vulnerable in our worship.

We were able to use the period of closure to complete the vestry modifications and reopen in time for Bishop Colin Fletcher to preside over a service of thanksgiving and dedication in his last week before retiring as Bishop of Dorchester.

This service also marked the 25th anniversary of Revd. Jim Turner's Priesting. Jim played a significant role in providing pastoral support by phone during the first lockdown.

The second lockdown impacted our Advent and Christmas activities, but the remote services allowed us to have some celebration together.

Revd. Petter concluded with thanks to those who had worked to keep the church going through difficult times. He noted the sad loss of Peter Cadd, and we prayed for Rosa who has remained strong through the year following her loss.

Churchwardens' report:

The fabric, goods and ornaments of the church are in generally good order. There is repair required to external stonework, which will be the next project for maintaining the fabric of the church. Our attention will then turn inside the building including some repairs to the wooden floor and to the repair and redecoration of the plaster walls.

The major activity during 2020 had been the vestry conversion and Rob Hands was thanked for the work he had put into this project. Details are shown [here](#)

Other business:

Jenny Hands pointed out that our benefice was now over three years old and asked whether we would be able to meet more as three churches together as restrictions were relaxed.

Revd. Petter responded that there was actually a benefice-wide invite to a meeting on climate change at Yarnton vicarage on 14th July. Other ideas being considered were learning and study groups and sessions for young people.

The idea of a Friends of St Michaels was also raised again. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a theme for engaging the village.

We also should meet with other organisations within the village to discuss how we can engage residents more.

Ideas were floated around the history of the village, of families who have a connection with the church, or of those who have played a part in the pandemic. (Perhaps also of those who have played a part in previous national crises.)

Revd. Petter proposed a day of reflection on these matters when we celebrate our patronal festival which we will do on Sunday 25th September this year. (Michaelmas actually falls on 29th September) It was agreed that the PCC should discuss this and promote whatever is decided though the August edition of the Link magazine.

Next PCC Meeting

The first PCC meeting of the new committee will be Wednesday 21st July.