

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2011

Minutes of the **VESTRY MEETING** and **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin with Gussage St Andrew

Date: 10th April 2011
Venue: St Mary's Church

Started: 6:00pm
Ended: 6:40pm

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Rev. Mel Durrant who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer and a following the reading of Psalm 100 from the King James Bible:

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Apologies for absence

These had been received from Mr Tim and Mrs Christine Reynolds, Mrs Bobbie Carter, Mrs Heather Eynon and Mr Michael Palmer.

VESTRY MEETING

Rev Durrant asked for approval of the minutes of last year's meeting. It was proposed by David Salmons, seconded by Carole Wyatt that the minutes be accepted. All agreed.

Election of Churchwardens

Rev Durrant thanked Carole Wyatt for her work as Churchwarden during the last year. He has received two nominations for Churchwarden for 2011, one for Carole Wyatt and one for Christopher Stokes, these were elected unopposed.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1) Minutes of the ACPM held on 25 April 2010

There were no amendments to the minutes. It was proposed by Jean Mayne, seconded by John Cullingford that they be accepted as a true record. All agreed.

2) Matters arising

It was noted by David Salmons that the electoral role number reported at the 2010 meeting remained unchanged at 102 members.

3) Elections

Rev Durrant noted that elections to the Deanery Synod for 2011-14 are due, two nominations have been received for the two places we hold. The nominations for David Salmons and Ted Cox were approved unopposed.

Rev Durrant advised that the PCC has three vacancies and he has received three nominations, these being Rita Taylor, Maureen Penrose and Peter Goldstone. All approved.

4) Appointment of sidespersons

Rev Durrant advised that during 2010 Sue Curtis joined the team who carry out this valuable role. If anyone else would like to do so please let him know.

5) Electoral Roll Report

It had already been noted that the overall number of church members has stayed at 102, some names have been removed and added within this. At present the role of Electoral Role Officer is vacant, if anyone feels they could take this on please let Rev Durrant know.

6) St Mary's Inventory Report

It was noted by Carole Wyatt that the only change to the St Mary's inventory over the last year had been the replacement of one of the communion cruets.

7) Deanery Synod Report

David Salmons advised that the new Synod starts in June 2011, one key issue for the coming year will be the role of Women Bishops. If anyone has any queries about the Synod please let him know.

8) Annual Accounts and Financial Summary

Copies of the financial report had already been made available for consideration, David Lockyer emphasised key points of note from these. The overall year end position for 2010 was £4K less than the previous year due primarily to a reduction in fees paid. It should be noted that it is increasingly the case that fees can't be relied on as a source of income and donations too are also very variable. David Lockyer encouraged members to make regular contributions to the Sunday morning coffee collection as this will help. Overall our outward giving increased in 2010, being £1,300, and expenditure was up by around £1,200 which has been a trend over the last few years.

Thanks was given to Margaret Durrant and Sheila Bradley for their successful grant applications which have covered the majority of building and fabric expenditure over the last year.

David Lockyer emphasised his view that the next few years will be challenging and recommended that reserves are kept at a minimum of £10K in order to provide contingency for unexpected expenditure.

Following questions David Lockyer confirmed the parish share for 2009 was £29,427 and £29,577 for 2010, the amount for 2011 is not currently known.

David Lockyer noted his thanks to David Salmons for his work as Assistant Treasurer over the last year and also James Reed as the Independent Examiner.

Rev Durrant expressed thanks to David Lockyer and David Salmons for all their hard work over a number of years. He advised that Richard Ironside has now taken over as Church Treasurer, he undertakes the same role at Milton Abbas.

It was proposed by Carole Wyatt, seconded by Ted Cox that the financial accounts be accepted. All agreed. It was also proposed by John Cullingford that James Reed be asked to continue as the Independent Examiner for 2011, seconded by Sheila Bradley. All agreed.

9) Secretary's report

Mark Wolstenholme noted that it had been a busy year for the PCC with 7 meetings across the year amongst a lot of other work. He advised this would be his last meeting as Secretary, Jackie Molnar would be taking on this role. He reminded members that copies of the PCC meeting minutes are accessible on the Church website (www.handleychurch.org.uk).

Rev Durrant thanked Mark Wolstenholme for all his work and also noted his development of the Church website.

10) Gussage St Andrew's Chapel Report

Rev Durrant advised that the electrical work has now been completed and the work to conserve the paintings will be carried out in September by Peter Martindale. He expressed thanks to Margaret Durrant, Shelia Bradley and Carole Wyatt for all their work on the building works. Thanks were also noted to John and Nora Davis, and Rita Taylor amongst others for their help. Finally, thanks was noted to the benefactor who is providing a new organ. An inventory for the Chapel is now in place.

11) Vicar's Report

Rev Durrant expressed thanks to Paul Skinner for his support over the last year. There are many people to be thanked for all the work that they have done, amongst these being the Churchwarden, PCC members, Synod reps, service leaders, musicians, flower arrangers and many, many others without whom the Church would not be able to do all it does.

Rev Durrant noted that the last year has also been one of reflection of where we have come from and how we want to move forward. The PCC has given time to considering this; he distributed copies of a diagram which reflects three key themes around our activity:

- The Family of the Church within the Community
- The Presence of the Church within the Community
- The Facilities that the Church provides

Rev Durrant asked members to reflect on this and pass back to him any comments or thoughts. Some key questions for consideration being: Are we meeting the needs of the community we are part of? Are we being both challenging and comforting? How else can we reach out within our community?

A number of questions and points were raised:

Could we think about holding open air services, these can be a good way of reaching people who don't always come to Church? This was noted.

We need to recognise the work that is done by the Lay Pastoral Assistants. Rev Durrant noted this and advised that training will take place this year if anyone would like to undertake this work.

Could we hold an animal service to give thanks for pets? Rev Durrant advised this has been considered.

Rev Durrant advised that a Teddy Bears Picnic will be held in June for all families who have had a child christened over the last year, further details to follow after Easter.

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14) Any Other Business

John Cullingford thanked Rev Durrant for his leadership and optimism over the last year in the work that has been done.

The meeting ended with prayer at 6.40pm.

Signed:

Date: