

# allsaintsworcester

JOINING GOD IN THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, 7.30pm, in St Helen's

# MINUTES

### Opening worship and prayer

Rich invited the congregation to share what they are thankful to God for. After a few minutes of joyful hubbub, the following things were shared with the room:

- Story of physical healing in answer to prayer
- Story of connection and finding community through life-group
- Story of wonderful welcome of newcomers to help them feel included and life-group belonging
- Story of the impact of Scramblers and last year's summer Holiday club
- The "One" community day for young people at Perdiswell last summer – glorious!
- Baptising students who have recently come to faith

The congregation joined in sung worship together led by Fraser Oates.

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

#### (i) **Approval of minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Proposed:** Kevin Fooks

**Seconded:** Jenny Prigg

**In Favour:** 42

**Abstentions:** 17

**Objections:** 0

#### (ii) **Election of churchwardens**

Rich Johnson thanked Jenny Prigg and Phil Bristow for having served All Saints and been such a great support to Rich in the past year and confirmed that they are both standing again:

Jenny Prigg, proposed by Joanne Oates, and seconded by Philippa Barton

Phil Bristow, proposed by Heather Fooks and seconded by Kevin Fooks.

Both Jenny and Phil stood unopposed and were duly elected churchwardens until the APCM of 2025. The meeting showed appreciation with applause and then prayed for them.

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### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

#### (i) **Apologies for absence:**

Julia Gonzalez, Les Gonzalez, Andy Sheppard, Jo Oates, John Warren, David Warren, Emma Ellin, Paul Barton, Barney Blake, Mark Stone, Sue Stone, Dave Christmas, Heather Christmas, Sandy Bannister, Maggie Chase, Melanie Coleman, Lindy Dowbiggin, Hannah Dunnett, Mark Gillies, Tom Gurney, David Mobley, Paul Prigg, Stella Power, Rosemary Adams, Christine Haig, John Taylor, Wendy Taylor

#### (ii) **Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Proposed:** John Dowbiggin

**Seconded:** Sue Price

**In favour:** 42

**Abstentions:** 17

**Objections:** 0

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

**(iii) Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters were raised.

**(iv) Receipt of Annual Report and Accounts 2023 and Annual Review 2023**

Rich referred the participants to the Annual Review available on the website and in print by request.

*a. Treasurer's report*

Grahame reminded the congregation that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 document is available on the website. He gave a presentation of the financial position of the church in the last year:

- Overall charity finances have improved in the 5<sup>th</sup> year running. Total reserves increased by £90K to £748K. General & Designated funds increased by £50K:
- He relayed our financial achievements this year: We continued the plan to balance the budget as part of our five-year budget to become financially sustainable as a resourcing church. Additional income from the giving week enabled us to commission the reopening of St. Helen's church after the major refit, and return the general fund to a credit balance of £19K (previously a deficit of £28K)
- In 2024 the PCC plans to improve our approach to encouraging giving and generosity with better and more frequent communications about the whole mission and ministry of the church. We aim to sustain our mission as a local church and meet our obligations as a Resourcing Church, become self-funded by 2026 when the Resourcing Church grant ends, and enable our mission and staff team to continue
- He asked the church to pray: that the Kingdom would grow and that our income would keep pace, and also pray that we can raise funds to meet our immediate building maintenance needs this year.
- We faced significant financial challenges, but the response of the congregation has meant that we have ended the year in the black. He updated the church on the plan to get the general fund back on track which was down to the response to the giving week. This enabled us to complete the re-ordering of St Helen's.

Grahame gave an update on Foodbank as a significant part of our mission in the city. God has been hard at work in 2023!

- Foodbank funds have grown to meet demand and total costs of £435K
- 108 tonnes of food donations valued at over £272K
- Foodbank is in a strong position to serve the community and growing demand
- Genesis 41:36 teaches us that this reserve is to be used so that people in crisis in our city can be helped to survive the ongoing "storm"

He thanked the congregation for their generosity. He thanked Jan, our Finance Officer, Ann Statham, our Gift Aid Officer, and Mark Carrington, who supports finance in his role as Operations Manager. He thanked David Hibbett, our Independent Examiner and thanked James Ellin for taking the lead in the successful giving week campaign last November.

Rich invited questions from the congregation.

*One query was raised on voluntary income figure and gift aid.*

*Grahame explained that the voluntary income figure includes grant funding and other funding sources that are not eligible for gift aid claim. Income from donations is around 250K and tax recovered is £41K.*

Rich gave Grahame massive thanks for his work not over the past year but over the last 16 years honouring the way he has served with such commitment and helped the PCC through some tough times. Rich thanked him for his perseverance and for bringing challenge where it was needed and for being a treasurer with a heart for mission that was always looking to resource the work of the church being led by the Holy Spirit. The congregation gave a big applause as Grahame received gifts of thanks from the church.

(v) **Elections of lay representatives to the PCC**

a. *Election of PCC representatives*

Rich thanked our outgoing PCC members: Sandy Bannister, Rob Coleman and David Green, for giving generously of their time, resources and expertise over the year. He announced that Grahame has come to the end of a three-year term of office but will be standing again for election tonight.

We have four PCC vacancies for a three-year term and carry two vacancies until 2025.

The candidates for PCC were introduced:

- Richard Auger, proposed by Grahame Lucas and Gill Lucas
- Grahame Lucas, proposed by Gill Lucas and Richard Auger
- Amy Williams proposed by Claudia Catterall and Natasha Masefield

Rich announced that Bethan Angell was keen to stand for PCC, but has not been on the electoral roll for 6 months yet so cannot stand for election. The PCC will have the opportunity to co-opt Bethan on to PCC at their next meeting.

b. *Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives*

A new candidate is standing to join existing representative, Gill Lucas:

- Claudia Catterall, proposed by Annabel Wade and Philippa Barton

As there were fewer candidates standing than places available all the candidates were duly elected to those positions. The congregation raised their hands in support of the candidates and Rich prayed for them all as well as our existing serving members as they commit to this role over the coming years..

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(vi) **Appointment of Independent Examiner for the year to December 2024**

Rich proposed that David Hibbett be appointed as the independent examiner for the year to December 2024

**Proposed:** Richard Auger

**Seconded:** Mike Croft

**In favour:** All

**Abstentions:** 0

**Objections:** 0

(vii) **Questions**

*Do we have anyone going through the ordination discernment process? Do have any ordinands or curates coming this year? (questions raised by Heather Fooks)*

We have one person who is in early stages of considering ordination. There are no ordinands in the pipeline. There is one potential curate coming this summer, who would be a good fit for a church plant.

*What are the plans for evangelism? (question raised by Heather Fooks)*

Jamie Klair is giving some leadership in this area of the church. Rich recognised this as an area of weakness in the last couple of years and looking to address this. We are looking to build in strategies for equipping people in evangelism; there was a recent one-day course hosted at St Helen's run by the Billy Grahame trust and it was encouraging that there were people on the Spring Alpha course who signed up after hearing an evangelist guest speaker at one of our Christmas services.

(viii) **Vicar's report**

Rich gave a big thank you to all of us – it has been a season of change and the whole church has embraced these changes; the re-opening of St Helen's, new staff team members James Ellin and Jamie Klair, and their families; and enabling Rich and Kath to head off for sabbatical for three months. He thanked the congregation for commitment financially and in particular the response to the giving week.

He thanked the staff team and leaders, with special thanks to Sue Price as Safeguarding Officer, who does this role with massive expertise and with a heart for mission. He thanked James Ellin, Phil Bristow, Jenny Prigg and Philippa Barton for leading the church while Rich and Kath were away. He thanked to Philippa for serving as his assistant but will be stepping down from this role after nine years in May.. He thanked Kath and his children for their support to enable him to lead the church and reiterated that more than ever it is Rich and Kath's heart to lead the church together.

Rich spoke into some of the challenges in this next season; for example increasing loneliness and the opportunity for us opening up St Helen's on a Friday for anyone to drop in. Are we going to move towards the pain and meet people where they are? How can we orientate the church's organisation and resources for us all to be engaged in mission and bringing the good news of Jesus to people. He urged us all, above all else, to go to the monthly prayer event, Hungry.

He spoke of the need for clarity in our direction and mission. As things get complex they can get complicated and we have found some of our systems and structures have got complicated. We need fresh clarity and to simplify as we review who we are, what we do and how we do it. We want everyone playing their part, recognising that have become more staff team dependent since COVID lockdown times, but want to move towards staff team facilitated mission, in which everyone is empowered to join in, inspired by passion.

He updated everyone on St Peter's, Bengeworth which has grown from a congregation of 25 to 150 since Andy Smith (planting curate from All Saints) started there. There will be a curate placed there this summer.

Fraser and Jo will be leaving to take up a post for renewal project at St Stephen's, Redditch.

Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) of the Church of England is there to distribute and monitor funds made available by the Church Commissioners to help churches reach more people with the gospel. The Diocese have asked if we would we plant into Kidderminster and Bromsgrove over the next 5-10 years.

Rich invited everyone to pray.

#### (ix) Closing prayer

James closed the meeting in prayer.

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**Present at the APCM and Annual meeting of parishioners on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and on the electoral roll (59):** Bethan Angell, Richard Auger, Victor Baldock, Roy Bannister, Christine Barton, Peter Barton, Philippa Barton, Hannah Boxall, Luke Boxall, Marg Bristow, Phil Bristow, Mark Carrington, Steff Carrington, Claudia-Rose Catterall, Steve Chase, Rob Coleman, Mike Croft, Sarah Croft, Helen Dean, Tim Dean, Bev Dickens, Sue Dickens, John Dowbiggin, Diana Drew, Ben Dunnett, Gaye Evans, Kevin Fooks, Heather Fooks, Hannah Gillies, Rachel Gurney, Andrew Jackman, Judith Jackman, Kath Johnson, Helen Khogali, Lynne Kimber, Juliet Kippax, Paul Kippax, Clive Langmead, Diana Levins, Paul Long, Ruth Long, Gill Lucas, Grahame Lucas, Bryan Mason, Judith Mason, Hannah Mitchell, Lucy Mobley, Annelise Nunn, Philip Nunn, Diane O'Leary, Willian O'Leary, Sue Price, Jenny Prigg, Carol Rogerson, Emily Simpson, Janet Whitehead, Catherine Wightman, Alex Williams, Amy Williams

**In attendance at the meeting and not on the electoral roll (59):** Pete Fernando, Lisa Mountford, Matt Powell, Jan Mitchell, Mark Clark, Alina Clark, John Drew, Fraser Oates, Jess Fellows, James Ellin, Rich Johnson