

Minutes of Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Bourne Parish

Via Zoom, Sunday 23rd May, 2021

Parish Meeting

Chaired by the vicar, Rev'd John Morris

Election of churchwardens

Michèle England and Peter Neukom, having been nominated as churchwardens, were unanimously elected by the meeting.

The vicar thanked them for their outstanding service to the parish especially during the challenging period of lockdown. He thanked Michèle for agreeing to stay on for an extra year.

John reminded the meeting that both churchwardens would be standing down in 2022 and asked for prayers that volunteers would come forward.

The meeting closed.

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Chaired by the vicar, Rev'd John Morris, who opened the meeting with prayers.

- 1. Minutes** of the Parish Meeting and APCM of 25th October 2020 were approved unanimously with one minor amendment. Proposed by Michèle England and seconded by John Maddox.
- 2. Election of new lay members to the PCC.** The vicar thanked retiring members who have served on the last PCC Geoff Hooker and John Maddox. Jenny Grant, Martin Quicke, Michael Cock and Nigel Lewis were duly elected by the meeting to the PCC.

The vicar noted that Nigel Lewis had agreed to serve for a further term as PCC secretary and electoral roll officer and would be appointed by the first meeting of the new PCC on 10th June 2021. He also thanked Ruth Moore, Safeguarding Officer, for her work for the parish and noted that she would be co-opted to the new PCC at its first meeting.

- 3. Election of deanery synod representatives.** The vicar thanked Janet Stephen, Yvonne Bryant for their service and informed the meeting that Debbie Wilde had

also agreed to stand as a deanery synod representative. Debbie was duly elected by the meeting. One further vacancy exists and this might be approved subsequently by the PCC should nominations be forthcoming.

- 4. Electoral Roll.** Nigel Lewis, PCC secretary and Electoral Roll Officer reported that there were 231 members on the electoral roll after the revision earlier this year – 18 additions 1 removal (214 in 2020).

- 5. Vicar's report (extracts from John's address to the APCM)**

The vicar referred the meeting to the annual report for the factual aspects of what we have done and what we have achieved over the last year and also the deanery synod report. He then offered some more personal views of the Parish. 2020 had been dark period in the history of our Parish, with our churches closed for long periods and with no services. Many church members felt the suffering of not being able to meet people in any sort of normal way. He noted that Christians use term 'fellowship' to encompass the way that we enjoy each others' company as we gather together to worship or to socialise and that fellowship had taken on a whole new depth of meaning and value for many of us during 2020.

St Thomas's

The priority for 2020 had been survival despite Covid. The church re-opened towards the end of Lent and in time for the Easter services. What has been remarkable for me is the eagerness that so many have shown in coming back to worship in church. John thanked Rob Lewis and the singers and musicians who have done their best to enhance our worship and praise with music and singing. And noted that the pressure on chorister recruitment is huge and as we come out of lockdown, we all need to spread the word about the wonderful opportunities there are to come and sing with St Thomas choir.

John repeated the message from previous years that the organ is going to need some work done to it fairly soon and that may be one use of some of the generous legacy left to us.

St Martin's

St Martin's needs to continue to look at ways to make the specialness of that lovely church appeal to other people in the area. As churches, we are not in competition with each other, and we need to ensure that St Martin's slightly more informal style is appealing and open to new worshipers. Last year I was able to report one or two new members of the congregation and I am delighted to report that there have been one or two more new faces joining the congregation since. On a practical note,

members at St Martin's have asked for the parish to consider having their kitchen and toilet facilities modernised and access for disabled improved. I know that plans have been drawn up and we will be looking at them and seeing what we can do and how much it will cost very soon.

Brambleton

The Sunday congregation numbers remained more or less static and last year I said I hoped that by this APCM we would have positive news about the extension to the play area and perhaps a new nursery and a new boxing gym coming a little closer. Things continue to move extremely slowly. Planning consent expired and the normal round of planning delays has occurred, but we are very hopeful that there will be positive news soon.

Overall

I know everyone here is aware of my personal problems over the last year. The operation to sort out a nerve trapped in my neck lead to the paralysis of a vocal cord and the loss of my ability to speak properly. However, the ministry team rallied round and I am hugely grateful to Bishop Chris Herbert, Sandy our curate, Liz Lane and all the retired clergy and LLM's and Pastoral Assistants who have stepped forward and kept things going in the parish. I also cannot allow this moment to pass without recognising and thanking the Churchwardens, Michèle and Peter for all that they have done to keep the churches open. The team at St Martins has meant that church was open for prayer daily and regular services have continued either 'home grown' on Zoom or live, in church. Sue Hoare and others at Brambleton have kept Brambleton alive and well. Above all I am grateful for your prayers and support during the challenging months I faced when I was unable to function as your pastor and priest. Chris Herbert will tell you how much it hurt me being separated from you and my duties.

It's dangerous to mention volunteers' names but I really need to publicly acknowledge Tim Devis and Liz Witham for their work with the finances and for Liz's contribution as Chief Sacristan. What many of you may not know is that Gordon Tyerman has not only been responsible for the livestreaming of our services when it's been possible to hold them, but he has also worked tirelessly in the background editing the recorded services that have been published week by week when live services were not possible. I am enormously indebted to his cheerful enthusiasm and skills and the sheer amount of time he has put into this behind the scenes work. I also need to publicly name John Atkinson. Whenever something needs fixing in our buildings, John is the go to person and a phone call or an email finds him beavering away sorting out the little mundane maintenance jobs that buildings always seem to accumulate. Keith Newman has done a fantastic job in helping bring in Churchsuite

as a software suite to help the parish administration and Finally I thank all the volunteers, cleaners, flowers, dusters and sacristan and assistants and all the many and varied ways people work together in this parish to help build the kingdom of God here in the Bourne. and last but not at all least I give a special final mention to two people who have gone above and beyond. Parishes don't thrive without communication and Janet Windeatt and Vanessa Horne have worked tirelessly to keep the show on the road. I'm delighted we are part way towards replacing them, but we still need a couple or three more people to step forward and take up the challenge. Please come and see me if you are able to help.

The Bourne is a special place and I thank everyone who has helped make it so.

6. Presentation of Financial Statements for 2019.

Nigel Lewis, PCC secretary, presented a summary of the financial outcome for 2020 on behalf of Michael Cock, Treasurer who sent his apologies to the meeting.

Both income and expenditure were impacted by the pandemic, but the receipt of a generous legacy meant that income exceeded expenditure. The legacy of £68.7k received in 2020 and early 2021 was the largest received for many years. Excluding the legacy income, general parish funds noted a modest cash deficit in 2020, as in 2019. Whilst income from giving, donations, collections and hall rentals all fell, costs also reduced as a result of the Government's furlough scheme, lower maintenance costs and reduced parish share thanks to diocesan rebates to alleviate the impact of Covid.

Restricted funds grew, principally The Bourne Youth Trust (BYT). Income from its investments supports parish work with children and young people. Since 2012 the CBF Church of England Funds in which the BYT has invested have generated on average £10k a year in income from dividends and overall capital growth of £60k and investments now total £302k.

Michael and the Finance, Stewardship and Administration working group were thanked by the vicar for their work throughout the year.

7. Appointment of independent examiners for 2021.

Wise and Co were re-appointed by the meeting unanimously. The APCM was informed that they had done a good job and fees had been stable for a number of years.

8. Fabric report

Michèle England reported that at **St Thomas's** there is ongoing concern regarding the flat roof over the Lantern and the Centenary Rooms and that some exterior and emergency lights are showing their age and we are fitting replacements when failures occur.

The other change internally has been the removal of 5 cupboards along the East wall of the Centenary Rooms. This is to enhance the rooms generally for future social events. Two cupboards were removed to the office and two to the choir room, the 5th being used for additional shelving. Michèle thanked Keith Newman, Anne Loach and Tony Williams for their hard work on this project.

At **St Martins** the fabric of the church continues to be sound and the replacement of internal LED high level lights is continuing.

Consideration is being given to a plan to convert the toilet in the vestry into one more suited to the disabled. This will be discussed in more detail in the coming months.

The grounds are being maintained by a member of St Martins Hall but the front boundary fence still awaits the attention of the Rehab team.

Brambleton hall itself is sound and sports a new sign board kindly built by Barry Parker. Planning permission for the new gym for the Atomic Boxing Club is ongoing if slightly slower than was hoped. More adjustments were required by Waverley Borough Council.

The architect David Pendery continues to progress the project on behalf of the Bourne Parish until we get planning permission which we sincerely hope will be at the end of May.

9. Safeguarding

The vicar thanked Ruth Moore for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer and noted that the new PCC would adopt the parish safeguarding arrangements – notified also to the APCM – at its first meeting in June.

10. AOB – None.

11. The meeting ended with the Grace

Signed

Date