

PARISH OF ST ANDREW, COBHAM

Minutes of meetings held at Church Gate House Centre on Friday 12 April 2019

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar said that Michael Elson and David Taylor had been nominated and that, as there had been no other nominations, they were duly elected. Their election was greeted by acclamation.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2. Welcome and apologies.

Approximately 50 parishioners attended.

The Vicar opened the meeting in prayer. He looked back on another year with its celebrations, joys and sorrows, new lives and farewells, a new Vicar, and much else. He looked forward to future excitements and new life, and he prayed for an open spirit that we should hear what the Lord would have us to do, and that we should live the life of disciples, loving and growing together. He gave all glory to the Lord.

The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Greg & Liz Bradley, Jenny Masters, Beryl & Ed Mooney, Becky & Clive Moorman, and Gerald Stanford.

3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The minutes had been displayed in the church porch for three weeks and no comments had been received. Sue Kilpatrick proposed and David Tipping seconded a motion that they should be approved. This was agreed and the minutes were signed by the Vicar. No matters arising were raised.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Vicar said that, arriving as your Priest-in-Charge and being licensed on 6 September 2018, he had joined a parish that was in very good shape, considering that it had been without a Rector for so long. The health of the parish and its mission and ministry were due in no small part to the ministry team. His clergy colleagues, Charleen Hollington and Peter Vickers, our Ordinand Moni Babatunde, Children and Youth worker Esther Holley, and Communications and Administration Manager Elaine Bray, had served with skill, enthusiasm, dedication and humility. Michael Elson and David Taylor had given him excellent support and encouragement since stepping into the

Churchwardens vacancy late in 2018, and he was glad they had felt called to serve again this year.

His thanks extended to many others too, those who did so much work, often unseen, that allowed the Ministry Team to do all the upfront stuff without having to worry about many other things.

The Music team of Kevin Ayton, Cathy Whitnall, the choir, the band and locum organists had blessed us with glorious music to lift our hearts in worship. Our team of Pastoral Assistants had provided a wonderful link for those who came to the church at times of joy and times of sorrow. Julie Baird and her team had provided hospitality at a multitude of events through the year. Clive Moorman and the Property Committee did much work to keep our beautiful buildings and grounds in such good order. Daphne McFarlane and her Magazine team produced our excellent parish magazine sharing interesting and diverse articles. He also wanted to thank those who immersed themselves in the fine details of the administration a busy parish like St Andrew's required. Malcolm Graham our Treasurer and Leonard Beighton our PCC Secretary had done a very good job of helping him understand the proper procedures for getting things done.

The Vicar went on to thank a list of all the groups and individuals who contributed so much to the ministry and fellowship of St Andrew's.

September 6th 2018 had been a wonderful evening for him and his family. One year ago he had been leading the APCM at St Martin in the Bull Ring, Birmingham and St Andrew's Cobham had been a phone call with Bishop Jo and a quick visit to Cobham to see what it was like. He would like to record his thanks to Fiona Lascelles and Michael Flaxman for the work they had done to help bring the Branscombes to Cobham. Thanks too for the wider welcome that had been so generously extended to Margaret, Ella, Grace and him. This move had been a blessing to us all. The loss of our churchwardens in late September had caused a few wobbles, yet with excellent help from Moni Babatunde, David Taylor and Michael Elson, the ship had been steadied and a new course plotted.

Looking ahead. So there was more change to come. On 1 February 2019 the United Benefice had ended, Godfrey Hilliard had become Rector of St Mary's and he became Vicar of St Andrew's. They remained good neighbours and friends in ministry. Once he had served his first year, in September 2019, he would like us to revisit our Vision and formulate a new Mission Action Plan and prioritise the foci of our Mission and Ministry.

2019 would bring two changes to the Ministry Team, on Sunday 30 June Moni Babatunde would be ordained Deacon at Guildford Cathedral and begin her ministry as Curate of St Andrew's. He was looking forward to working with Moni and being part of her formation as a member of the clergy.

The second change had come after months of discernment for our Children and Youth Worker Esther Holley. Over many months Esther Holley had been

discerning a call to serve the church as an ordained leader. The previous month Esther had attended a Bishops' Advisory Panel. At this three-day series of interviews and exercises Esther's call had been confirmed by representatives of the Church of England and Esther had been recommended for training. Praise God that Esther's gifts had been so clearly seen.

Esther would begin full-time training in September in another church, which would lead to ordination as a deacon then a priest. We should say goodbye to her with thanksgiving for the great work she had done.

A Reading of Chapter 6 of Nehemiah

He wanted to speak from his heart and the heart of the Old Testament, in particular the prophet Nehemiah. Chapter 6 of Nehemiah had spoken to him down the years about how we were to be in Christian Community together and gave practical straightforward advice for unknown times ahead.

After the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon, Nehemiah had been a captive in Persia. He had prayed to God that he might return to Judah to lead those who had escaped captivity in rebuilding the broken down walls and gates of the city. King Artaxerxes of Persia allowed him to depart about 445 BC. As he led the Jewish people to work, three distractions had been devised by those the new inhabitants of Jerusalem who opposed him: four invitations to a meeting, a rumour that he was trying to usurp the king, and an attempt to murder him. However, Nehemiah had kept on building and had got the job done.

As the book of Nehemiah described, each person involved in building, and some of them had had no training or skills, was given responsibility for the part of the wall right in front of them, to complete it in the best way they could. All kinds of people had been involved, very few with direct experience, yet the wall had been rebuilt, the gates had been hung, and the people had rejoiced before God.

So his challenge for us all, as we listened to God and tried to keep up with what he was calling us to do, was to avoid the distractions and KEEP BUILDING.

David Taylor said that he, Michael Elson and all of us thanked the Vicar for coming to us. We appreciated Margaret and the girls. He had not had an easy start. It had been a challenge, but he had held it together and we were excited about the future. It would be a mission approach. We were confident in his ability to bring us all with him and to listen to God. It was important to us that we should be able to approach the future with him. This was agreed by acclamation.

5. Annual Report and Accounts.

Malcolm Graham thanked Beryl Moorman for her work on gift aid and banking the cash, Jenny Masters for running the Friday lunch account, and Jenny Vickers for acting as Stewardship recorder. He also thanked Linda Shaw for

helping with the children's and youth accounting, but she was now standing down.

He said that, compared with 2017, we no longer had income from the flat. We had received one legacy (from Ray Sherlock) of £10,000 compared with some £41,000 from three legacies the year before. On the other hand a major donor had made two one-off donations in 2018 compared with none in 2017.

The stewardship campaign led by Mike had been successful and had raised over £10,000 on an annualised basis, but the benefit would not come through until 2019. However our annual deficit had been more than twice that.

The effect on our accounts of deconsolidating the Gerald Sanders Trust had been shown in Note 2. The gift had been made in 1956. The only documentation we had was a note in 1980 by Ernest Caffell, then a churchwarden. The fund was to distribute its income to the clergy with a wide range of expenses allowed: the disbursements were to be made by the churchwardens.

The fund was incorporated into our accounts in 2012 as a restricted fund. It held shares in Signet Jewellers then worth about £25,000 and £12,000 cash. The shares had risen significantly in value and, in order to spread the risk, in 2016 they had been sold and the proceeds used to bring in investments then in the Fabric Fund to an equivalent value. Its annual income was just under £3,000 and this had been more than sufficient to cover the disbursements. At the end of 2017 the fund held bonds valued at £96,000 and cash of £11,000.

It had now been agreed, with advice from the Diocese, that the fund should be in a separate trust and not in our accounts. The assets would be held by the Diocese as custodian trustee, in the same way as was Church Gate House, and the income disbursed in line with requests by the churchwardens. Any surplus income could be spent on the fabric of the church. Overall financially there was little change: only greater bureaucracy and greater control. He had recommended that the churchwardens should report annually on the income and disbursements of the trust.

In response to points raised in discussion, he said that it was an endowment fund and the capital could not be spent. Only the income could be spent, and this included income which had not been spent and had built up over the years. He confirmed that, even though the funds would be held by the Diocese, the use of the income would be decided by the churchwardens in line with the wide range of expenses set out in Ernest Caffell's note (which was read out by Michael Elson) and the Diocese would pay out monies in line with their requests.

Leonard Beighton expressed concern that the meeting had spent so much time on the fund and had not considered the deficit. During his time as a member of the church, taking one year with another its income had met its expenditure until about 2012. But since then there had been a significant deficit every year, even setting to one side the expenditure required for Folli's

training. The Vicar said a living church should meet its expenditure. It could not rely on legacies for this: they could be used only in line with any wishes expressed.

On a motion proposed by Ken Aitken and seconded by Geoff Morris the report and accounts were approved unanimously. They were signed immediately after the meeting by the Vicar and Secretary.

6. Safeguarding report.

The Vicar said that we had a focus on safeguarding. We abided by all the rules and procedures set down by the Church of England and by the Diocese. Sue Kilpatrick added that all PCC members had taken part in the training appropriate for them. Michael Elson said that the culture had to be that safeguarding should be taken very seriously. Peter Kelly proposed and Sue Kilpatrick seconded a motion that we should continue to follow all the proper safeguarding rules and procedures. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Report on the fabric of the Church

The Vicar said that a report on the fabric of the Church was included in the Annual Review. David Taylor added that we had just received the report of the quinquennial inspection. The overall conclusion had been that the Church was well looked after and in a good condition. There were no repairs in the top priority which had to be done immediately, but there were a number in the second priority which had to be done within 18 months, including tackling damage done by woodpeckers pecking at the spire. The Vicar said that the overall conclusion was that there was nothing which had to be done urgently or would be very expensive.

In reply to Daphne McFarlane, the Vicar said that the spindle connecting the two faces of the clock had broken beyond repair and there could not be a quick fix. Zoe Ostley had obtained quotes around £3,500 for fixing it, but the work needed to be brought together with the other work needed in the belfry.

8. Report from the Deanery Synod.

Michael Elson said that one of the roles of the members of the Deanery Synod was to keep PCC informed. With the arrival of Mike at St Andrew's, every parish in the Deanery had an incumbent. There was a group co-ordinating work with children and young people: this was developing well. More generally the Deanery was still working on ways in which the churches could better work together: it was still in the early stages.

At the next meeting of the Synod the Vicar and Charleen Hollington would be leading a discussion on justice and mercy. He confirmed that it would be an open meeting. It would be at St Mary's, West Horsley at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 12 June.

9. Election of lay members of the Parochial Church Council.

The Vicar said that there were 7 vacancies and so far 5 nominations. He asked if anyone else wished to stand, but no-one responded. He said that it did not matter that there would be 2 vacancies. We wanted people on the Council who would take an active part.

The following people were duly elected:

Keith Baird	proposed by Sam Acquaye	seconded by Peter Gray
Kim Constable	David Taylor	Elizabeth Marshall
David Greenwood	Judith Franz	Geoffrey Morris
Freddy Marshall	Kim Constable	David Taylor
Clive Moorman	Michael Elson	Daphne McFarlane

The Vicar thanked Daphne McFarlane, Shirley Mensah and Lindsay Sainsbury, who were standing down, for their work on PCC.

The Vicar said that Daphne McFarlane would also be retiring as editor of *Family* and he was now able to say that her successor would be Zoe Ostley. Daphne said that the last issue which she would edit would be that for June. Edna Tipping and Dave Greenwood would continue to share responsibility for design and publishing.

10. Election of sidesmen and sideswomen.

The Vicar asked whether anyone other than those listed would be willing to stand. There were no responders. Leonard said that the duties of the sidespeople were to welcome those coming in to a service and to give them the materials which they would like. Accordingly the election was agreed of those listed:

Leonard Beighton, Joan Bingley, Simon Bray, Judy Brickett, Derek Bullman, Dominic Combe, Kim Constable, Nick Constable, Tanya Hall, Mary Hart, Sue Kilpatrick, Jenny Masters, Dorothy Mitchell, Kerstin Mitchell, Beryl Mooney, Ed Mooney, Clive Moorman, Geoff Morris, Kelly Morris, Elizabeth Robinson, Lyn Sahami, Lindsay Sainsbury, David Tipping, Edna Tipping, Jenny Vickers, Sheila Winterbottom.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Malcolm Graham said that Aidan Crilly had agreed to serve again as our independent examiner. His re-appointment was proposed by Jenny Vickers and seconded by Keith Baird and agreed unanimously.

12. Electoral Roll.

David Greenwood said that every six years there was a new electoral roll and this was one of those years. There were 165 people on the Roll, 30 of them

new names. Their names would be published, but no longer their addresses. He had looked through the roll for the previous six years and had seen how many changes there had been in that time, in particular as people had moved away.

13. Any other business.

13.1 Esther Holley.

David Taylor said that Esther and James' wedding would be on 26 July. They had been given a wedding present of a holiday in Barbados. It was now proposed that there should be a collection for their fares as her farewell and wedding present and that we should aim to raise £2,000 by crowd funding, but it would probably be made up one way or another.

13.2 Deputy Churchwardens.

The Vicar said that it would be good if the churchwardens could share some of their responsibilities at services on Sundays. He was looking for up to four people who would be willing to be deputy churchwardens. They would not be expected to be present every Sunday and there was no suggestion that they would become churchwardens in due course. He asked anyone who might be interested to speak to him.

13.3 Foundation governor at St Andrew's School.

The Vicar said that there was a vacancy for a foundation governor at St Andrew's School. The governors were carrying out a skills matrix to see where there were gaps on the governing body. The role would suit someone who was passionate about helping children through teaching and learning and social skills to make the most of their potential, and would involve making Christianity explicitly part of all that was carried out at meetings.

13.4 Sunday afternoon,

The Vicar said that there would be one Sunday a month when the 'crown jewels' of Cobham and Stoke d'Abernon – St Andrew's, St Mary's, and the Mill – would all be open. The first of these occasions would be the following Sunday. The Church would be open for three hours and, while he would open it and lock it up, it would be very helpful if other people could be present for some of the time: he asked if they would let him know. David Tipping said that we were still waiting for the publicity material.

14. Conclusion.

The Vicar closed the meeting at 9.15 pm with a blessing.