

PARISH OF ST ANDREW, RUSHMERE

Minutes of the Annual Meetings

held on Thursday 24th March 2022
at 7.30pm in the Church Hall



Present: 23 members of the electoral roll

Apologies: June Collins, Gill Crisp, Rachel Daniels, Claire Driver, David and Joan du Boulay, Andrew and Mary Duncan, David Gill, Mary Odam, Revd Marion Walker.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The meeting was chaired by Revd. Sue Foster, and opened with prayers.

1. Hilary Platts was appointed clerk of the meetings.
2. The **Minutes of the meeting** held on 22nd April 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed.
3. **Election of 2 Churchwardens**
Tim Oxbrow was proposed by Sue Scotchmere and seconded by Jack Earwaker.
Teresa Rose was proposed by Bob Batchelor and seconded by Bob Mellor.
There being no other nominations, they were elected for the coming year.
Revd Sue thanked Tim and Teresa for standing.
4. **Election of a Deputy Churchwarden**
David Chaplin was proposed by Dianne Davey and seconded by Jim Ainslie.
There being no other nominations, he was elected for the coming year.
Revd Sue thanked David for standing.

There was a short interval before the APCM

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies: June Collins, Gill Crisp, Rachel Daniels, Claire Driver, David and Joan du Boulay, Andrew and Mary Duncan, David Gill, Mary Odam, Revd Marion Walker.

2. Appointment of Tellers:

Jim Ainslie and Margaret Mellor were appointed as tellers for the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed. There were no matters arising.

4. Electoral Roll Report:

Gill Ainslie, Electoral Roll Officer, reported there were currently 92 members on the Electoral Roll; 42 resident and 50 non-resident. During the year 4 members have died, 4 have moved away and 1 non-attender has been removed from the Roll.

5. Election of 3 members to the Parochial Church Council

Revd Sue explained that as the Electoral Roll was below 100 only 9 elected members were now required and that there were 3 vacancies. She thanked those retiring - Bob Batchelor, Bob Mellor, Chris Gibson and Mary Odam - for their faithful service.

The following were nominated:

- Gill Ainslie: proposed by Dianne Davey, seconded by Bob Batchelor.
- Bob Batchelor: proposed by Sue Scotchmere, seconded by Gillian Chaplin.
- Chris Gibson: proposed by Teresa Rose, seconded by Dianne Davey.

There being no other nominations, they were duly elected, and Revd Sue thanked them for standing.

6. Appointment of David Gill to the PCC

Revd Sue explained that in his capacity as Reader Licenced to this parish, David Gill can be appointed to the PCC on an annual basis at the APCM. She thanked him for his continued ministry and support. The appointment was proposed by Tim Oxbrow, seconded by Ros de Lapeyre and approved.

7. Election of 1 member of Deanery Synod

The Secretary explained the reason for this election outside of the normal 3-year cycle. Hilary Platts was proposed by Teresa Rose and seconded by Tim Oxbrow.

There being no other nominations, Hilary was elected, and Revd Sue thanked her for standing.

8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Revd Sue proposed a vote of thanks to Sandy Lloyd for his diligence and care in examining our 2021 accounts, and for agreeing to continue for another year. His appointment as Independent Examiner for 2022 was proposed by Tim Oxbrow, seconded by Kevin Brazier and approved by all. Sandy expressed his thanks to Chris Gibson's efficiency as Treasurer which made his job much easier.

9. Annual Report and Accounts

The 2021 Annual Report and Accounts had been displayed in church since Sunday 13th March and posted on the church website. People had been invited to ask for paper copies if required and submit questions beforehand. There were no questions, and the Report and Accounts were accepted.

10. Treasurer's report and financial statement

The Treasurer thanked those who had assisted with the financial work in 2021, especially Robin Morrow, Sandy Lloyd, the Cashiers (Dianne, Jill, Russell, and Roy), the Wardens and Sidespeople. The effect of the pandemic on church finances has been bad: costs have been kept under control, and there have been some generous donations, but since 2019 about 20 generous givers have been lost and again there is a large deficit.

2021 Income & Expenditure Account (p.16 in Annual Report)

The Treasurer explained the format of the accounts. Nearly all categories of **Income** were down on 2020, and the overall figure was down £1K on 2020 and £19K on 2019, a decrease of about 20%.

Expenditure – only a decrease of 13% on 2019 despite the PCC making substantial cost savings each year since 2017. Overall, Expenditure was down £2.5K on 2020 and £11,5K on 2019.

Deficit - the result is a very large Deficit of nearly £7.5K, which has been funded from available Reserves.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021 (p.15 in Annual Report)

This is a picture of the financial health of our Parish taken at end of the financial year and shows what monies we have, where they are (Assets) and how they are allocated (Funds). The Treasurer explained the various types of Fund (Unrestricted/Designated/Restricted/Endowment).

The Unrestricted Funds (the equivalent of 4 months' expenditure) is on target and the Designated Funds have reduced to fund the Deficits of the last 2 years. Overall the Balance Sheet has improved over the year by nearly £18K due to the Anderson bequest for the Fabric Fund and the Roof Appeal Fund. Thanks were recorded to Tim Oxbrow and Teresa Rose for their hard work in applying successfully for a number of grants for the roof repair.

2022 Budget

This has been constructed on the assumption that 'normal' activities will resume early in the year. The Deficit has been budgeted to about £7K. The Treasurer emphasised that there are only 3-4 years of 'free reserves' left at the current rate of deficits, and that income needs to be increased.

There were no questions arising from the reports. Revd Sue thanked Chris Gibson on behalf of the meeting for his work on the church finances and for keeping us so well informed. She reiterated that generating income will be important during the coming year, for general purposes and for the mission of the church.

11. Churchwardens' Report

This had been circulated in the Annual Report and there were no questions.

12. Deanery Synod Report

The report had been displayed in church and posted online. There were no questions arising. The Deanery Plan is being extended for another year, although there is no additional funding. Revd Sue hopes to invite Archdeacon Rhiannon to share good news from across the Deanery with us.

13. Chairman's report

Revd Sue's report is included in the Annual Report, to which she added the following:

I joined you here at the beginning of 2019, and I don't know that I've had two months the same and it has been no different in 2021.

However, today is about celebrating the good things of 2021 and looking forward as we share in God's mission and ministry with this parish. I want to thank you all again, for being present for each other during this past year, and I encourage you to continue as we enter yet another stage in the pandemic - this post-crisis stage - we gather before - moving towards re-building.

Although things have eased in the past year we are not there yet! Our worship and our witness is starting to look more familiar and, praise God, it is the same Kingdom and Majesty we worship and witness to.

Part of the business of Church is reporting on and being compliant with all the different regulations. We here at Rushmere will always make this a priority. Because it is that important. We continue to make the building as COVID safe as possible and I can report we have a robust system and dedicated Safeguarding Officer (thank you Bob) but I know Bob and our licenced officers would say - we must never take our eye off the ball or get complacent.

I know we are all saddened by the situation in Ukraine and before I pray for peace, let us to take a moment to hold before the Lord those individuals from our parish who have entered glory in this past year:

Frank Drew; Tom Tyler; Barry Cook; Doreen Chaplin; John Marjason; Ron Lewis; Henrietta Hesketh; Ivan Clarke; Bunty Fathers; John Ireland; Mary Wakefield; Raymond Bell; Raymond Parish; Jenifer Boast; John Spalding; Christopher Banthorpe; Evelyn and Ted Barnes; Marian Lillistone; Hilda Watkins; Thelma Clarke; Richard Allison; Jancis Pilcher; Richard Underwood; Peter Leveridge; Ann Hutchins; Olive Mayhew; Paul Mijatovic; Anthony Simpkin; Sherri-Louise Brown; Margaret Cox; Vivienne Quayle; Frank Mee; Arthur Nicholls; Pam and Derrick Scott; Cathy Day; Barbara Miller; Chizelle Davies; Roger Barnes; David Gillard; John Stroud; Diane Golding; Peggy Kenworthy; Janet Taylor; Roy Beaumont; Peggy Wilkinson; Barbara Squirrel; Widge Bowman; Roy Gooding; June Eagle; Eric Walker and Glynne Whitehead. Amen.

Revd Sue concluded by thanking everyone who had contributed in any way to the life and work and ministry of the church during the year.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed in prayer at 8.25 pm.

The Annual Meetings were followed by a short meeting of the PCC.