



**PARISH OF ST ANDREW, RUSHMERE  
ANNUAL MEETINGS**



**Minutes of the meetings held Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at  
7.30pm in the church hall and on Zoom**

**Present:** 31 members of the electoral roll

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Vice-Chair, Tim Oxbrow, and opened with a reading and prayers led by Chris Yule.

**Annual Vestry Meeting**

1. Hilary Platts was elected as clerk of the meetings.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved as a true record and signed.

3. Election of 2 Church Wardens

Teresa Rose: proposed by Mary Odam, seconded by Margaret Mellor.

David Chaplin: proposed by Russell Scates, seconded by Hilary Platts.

There being no other nominations, Teresa and David were elected for the coming year and Tim thanked them for standing.

4. Election of 1 Deputy Church Warden

Ruth Silburn: proposed by Russell Scates, seconded by Robert Batchelor.

There being no other nominations, Ruth was elected for the coming year and Tim thanked her for standing.

***There was a short interval before the APCM***

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies:** Ros DeLapeyre, Claire Driver, Jack Earwaker, Paul Hesketh, Meg Mateer.
- 2. Appointment of tellers:** Jim Ainslie and Kevin Brazier were appointed as tellers for the meeting.
- 3. The Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022** were approved and signed as a true record. There were no Matters Arising.
- 4. Electoral Roll Report:** Gill Ainslie, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there were currently 93 members on the Electoral Roll, 43 resident and 50 non-resident. There will be a full revision of the Electoral Roll in 2025. Tim thanked Gill for work as Electoral Roll Officer.

### **5. Election of 4 members of the Parochial Church Council:**

There were 3 vacancies to be filled for a term of 3 years.

The following were nominated:

- Margaret Mellor: proposed by Teresa Rose, seconded by Tim Oxbrow.
- Mary Odam: proposed by Ruth Silburn, seconded by Teresa Rose.
- Tim Oxbrow: proposed by Gill Ainslie, seconded by Hilary Platts.

There was also a vacancy to be filled for one year due to the resignation of a member.

The following was nominated:

- Claire Driver: proposed by Kevin Brazier, seconded by Gill Crisp.

There being no other nominations they were duly elected and Tim thanked them for standing. He also thanked those members who were standing down.

### **6. Appointment of David Gill to the PCC:**

David may be appointed by the APCM as a member of the PCC for the coming year in his capacity as Reader Licenced to the parish. This was approved unanimously and Tim thanked him for his continued ministry and support.

### **7. Election of 2 members of Deanery Synod:**

Due to the Electoral Roll falling below 100, St Andrew's is now entitled to elect 2 people to Deanery Synod, for a 3-year term. The following were nominated:

- Robin Brown: proposed by David Chaplin, seconded by Sue Scotchmere.
- Hilary Platts: proposed by Gill Ainslie, seconded by Mary Odam.

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

### **8. Appointment of an Independent Examiner:**

Sandy Lloyd was thanked for his diligence and care in examining our 2022 accounts, and for agreeing to act as Independent Examiner for another year. His

appointment was proposed by Tim Oxbrow, seconded by Chris Gibson and approved by all.

### **9. Annual Report:**

- The Review of 2022: Tim highlighted the Parish Plan and our objectives
- The Safeguarding Report: the importance of training was highlighted

Both reports were accepted with no questions.

### **10. Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement:**

The Annual Report and Accounts had been displayed in church since Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March and made available online and in hard copy. The Treasurer thanked all who were involved with financial matters: Sandy Lloyd as Independent Examiner, the Churchwardens, Sides people, Cashiers - Dianne Davey, Russell Scates and Jill Pryke (who is retiring after many years) - and Robin Morrow and David du Boulay.

Income & Expenditure: 2022 was a better year than expected and the Deficit was just under £3k (lower than the predicted £10k). Giving had fallen during Covid, but has fallen even further, due to the loss of several generous givers. Income from Hall hire and Outlook advertising were improving and there were 3 substantial donations and legacies. Some savings during the year were due to the parish vacancy and the fact that we did not have a Director of Music, but some costs eg heating had increased considerably.

Funds: the Treasurer explained the various types of fund and how they operate. Due to legacies and bequests and the grants for roof repairs, the funds were looking healthy, and overall the balance has gone up by c.£5k on 2021. Interest rates were increasing and may improve further during the year.

Budget for 2023: based on the assumption that activities will be back to 'normal' (ie pre-Covid) levels, regular giving will be fairly static, and investment income will improve. The Parish Share has increased by c £4.5k and power costs and clergy expenses are expected to be higher than 2022, meaning a potential deficit of £12k. *n.b.* figures do not include £1k Energy Support Grant from the Diocese, received after the Budget was drafted.

Chris ended by looking back to 2015 and showing that if the trends in income, expenditure and budget deficits continue, the free reserves will have all gone by 2025, apart from the 4 month 'buffer fund'.

Thanks were recorded to Chris for all his hard work as Treasurer, and to Bob Mellor and the working party for the considerable amounts they save the church every year through the work they carry out both inside and outdoors.

**11. Churchwardens' Report:** the report was received and there were no questions. Tim added that the church was now working towards a Gold Eco-Church award.

**12. Deanery Synod Report:** the report was received and there were no questions.

**13. Chairman's Report:** a year of change, saying goodbye to Revd Sue and awaiting the arrival of Revd Alan. The Wardens thank everyone who contributed to keeping the church vibrant, loving and caring during the vacancy. Especial thanks to our Parish Representatives, Jim Ainslie and Margaret Mellor for seeing the interview process through. We look forward to the Service of Institution and Induction on April 17th.

**14. Any Other Business:** there was no other business, but Dianne Davey thanked the churchwardens for all their hard work during the vacancy.

Revd Marion read a passage from Isaiah and led the closing prayers, remembering those from the parish who died during the year - Kit Gray (Priest), Brad Bradbeer, Ann Leveridge and Pamela Hatfield – and praying for Revd Alan and Jill Comfort as they prepare to move to Ipswich.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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