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**The Parish of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham**

St James the LESS : St Laurence : St Nicholas

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**Sunday 14th April 2024 at 11am**

**St James the Less, Pangbourne**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

Reverend Mark Hopkins, opened the meeting at **11am** with prayer.

MH welcomed all present.

1. **There were six vacancies and one nomination was received and elected:**
* Julia Sheppard – proposed by Jill Palfrey, seconded by Vanessa Saunders.

No other nominations were received, so Julia Sheppard was elected unanimously.

Reverend Mark expressed his thanks to Jill Palfrey, on stepping down as churchwarden, for all her support she has given to him and to the church.

The meeting closed at 11.04am.

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Reverend Mark Hopkins took the chair and opened the meeting at **11.05am**

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| **1.** | **Apologies**:Emma Barker, Gill Haggarty, Mike Jeremiah, Ellie Thorne**A total of 41 members attended the meeting.** |
| **2.** | **Minutes of Last Meetings**The minutes were signed at PCC and available for parishioners to view.Proposed by Penny Billyeald, seconded by Len Palfrey. **All in favour.**There were no matters arising. |
| **3.** | **Annual Report**  |
|  | Rev Mark gave a summary of activities during 2023. MH expressed his thanks to: * Rev Rachel for her valuable support and work so far, particularly Noah’s Ark and in setting up the Oasis Bereavement Group.
* MH thanked the priests with permission to officiate (PTO) for their ministry and all they have done in the parish over the last year – Rev Barry Ashdown, Rev Tony Naden and a particular mention to Rev Brian Tims who stepped down as a PTO in August.

MH outlined his vision for 2024. He talked about the “Becoming More Inclusive” seminars, which are about removing barriers and obstacles that people face when coming to church. He also endorsed the Diocesan commitment of reaching out to more young people in our churches, and has already made changes to the service pattern to reflect this. Addressing some of the challenges facing our churches MH explained the need to replace the existing loo in St James with an accessible toilet – initial plans are already underway. The heating in St James needs updating and a more sustainable heating strategy is currently being explored. MH reported that repairs had recently been made to the organ and roof at St Nicholas church costing several thousand pounds but explained that if more substantial repairs to the roof are needed it would require fundraising amongst residents of Sulham. He went to say that at as one parish with three churches the PCC will need to consider where to best put financial resources for the mission of the church as a whole. There now have enough duty wardens to assist with managing 10am services in St James. Gratitude to:Julia Sheppard and Jill Palfrey for their work as churchwardensVanessa Saunders – church administratorStephen Billyeald - treasurerSarah Rasmusson and all the flower arrangersWilma Grant and all of the choir and musiciansLen Palfrey and all the bellringersAs well as all who manage the churchyards, the cleaners, welcomers, event organisers, servers and sacristans.  |
| **4.** | **Electoral Roll Officer’s Report**Vanessa Saunders reported that in 2023 there were 133 members. The revised roll in April 2024 has **130** members. Four people came off. Three people moved out of the area but remain on the Electoral Roll. One person has been added to the Electoral Roll.  |
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| **5.** | **Financial Report and Presentation**Stephen Billyeald gave an overview of the Accounts. SB reported that David Norris has agreed to remain as Independent Examiner for at least another year Unrestricted Funds – cover day to day operationsDeficit of £4K on ordinary activitiesIncome £3K higher than 2022Costs £7K higher than 2022Value of investments increased by £9.5KInvestment gain over past 6 years - £48K£44K cash in bankRestricted funds – income and expenditure for specific purposes Net expenditure of £816£46K in the bank and investedEndowment funds – capital funds from which only the income can be used.One other source of income adopted in 2023 was Total Return Accounting (TRA). TRA allows capital gains over and above inflation, in Endowment funds to be applied to income. PCC adopted it on two EFs – FC Sainsbury Fund (St James) and also Lady Graham Hodgson Fund (St Laurence). This resulted in an additional £22.5K to St James and £8K to St Laurence.SB encouraged those who don’t donate through PGS to think about doing so and to support church community fundraising events. |
| **6.** | **Questions From Members*** TN offered congratulations for format of Annual Report.
* Dilys Rogers asked when names of duty wardens will be announced. MH explained that it was likely to be May.
* Sarah Rasmusson asked where the funding for the toilet would come from, and if it was likely to be from the Sainsbury Fund. SB replied that unlikely to come from SF but that funds would need to be raised specifically for it through events and grants.
* Heather Thorne asked whether we know how much the likely cost of the project will be. MH is currently talking to the diocese regarding plans, so no idea of cost yet.
* Charles Hughes thanked SB for his report. He also asked whether there will be an opportunity for us to keep more of our parish share rather than to give 60% to the Oxford Diocese (OD). SB responded that he has a recent meeting about parish share for the whole deanery. He went on to explain that OD had come up for new formula for the Parish Share. Under this formula Bradfield Deanery’s (BD) share came out considerably less than in the past but OD couldn’t reduce it all in one go as it would leave them short of money. SB has told OD that the BD should be paying what is fair and reasonable. BD is fighting hard to reduce the amount of parish share we should be paying. MH reported that deanery clergy are fully supportive of work that SB is doing.
* Beverley Hughes expressed her thanks for the enormous amount of work SB has put into this.
* Nigel Suffield-Jones asked if there is anything that we can do to help in the campaign against the CofE? SB will give it some thought and stated that the Parish Campaign is taking a more collaborative approach with the Oxord Diocese.
* Barry Ashdown commented that the Annual report included a section on Englefield School which we have a close association with and it was a matter of regret that there wasn’t a similar report on Pangbourne Primary School (PPS). He asked if we could somehow get an in-road into the school. MH replied that we don’t have as strong links as we would like to with either PPS or Pangbourne College (PC). He clarified that Englefield is a CofE school and we have a PTS church representative as a foundation governor . PPS is not a CofE school so it is harder to establish links and is very much depends on the willingness of school staff. Rev Mark said he had taken it on board that we should try to build stronger links with both schools.
* Rev Rachel reported that we did have the PPS carol service in St James at Christmas and that MH was invited in for their Harvest assembly. PPS and Englefield School had been asked if they would publicise the Good Friday Hot Cross Bun event. There was a good turn out on Good Friday.
* Jill Palfrey commented on the church’s charitable giving and thanked all who helped with Lent Lunches in 2024. Over £600 was sent to Christian Aid. She also said that we send a large donation to The Children’s Society following the Christingle services. In addition, the whole collection from the Remembrance Sunday service went to The Royal British Legion.
* SB clarified how charitable giving is recorded in the financial statement. If the money is taken in the church itself it does go through our accounts. Total in 2023 was £4,700.
* Sarah Rasmussen asked about advertising and getting more people into church through more public awareness. She asked whether it would it be possible to have an A-board in the village to advertise church events. Heather Thorne said Garlands would be very happy to put posters up on their board outside the shop.
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| **7.**7.17.27.3 | **Elections and Appointments** (*only those on the Electoral Roll were entitled to vote)***Election of Deanery Synod Members – one vacancy**There were no nominations.**Parochial Church Council Members – 5 vacancies**MH thanked Jacky Rix Brown for her service on the PCC and for her representation of Sulham Church in particular. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**PCC expressed its gratitude and thanked Mr Norris for his audit of the 2023 accounts. It was proposed that Mr Norris be appointed as the Independent Examiner for 2024.Proposed by Stephen Billyeald, seconded by Jill Palfrey. **All in favour** |
| 7.4 | **Any Other Business**JP expressed thanks on behalf of the church to MH for everything he does.  |
| **8.** | **Date of Next APCM**11th May 2025 |
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| **9.** | MH closed the meeting with prayer at **12.01pm**  |

Vanessa Saunders

PCC Secretary

Signed:

Date: