



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thursday 13th April 2023 at 7.00 pm in Zeals Village Hall

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. **Opening Prayers** were said by Rev. Mike MacCormack
2. **Apologies** – Mona Tyler
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting 19th May 2022 were approved
4. **Proposal to disregard Church Warden Measure 6-year rule** in line with the Churchwarden Measure 2001 Point 3
This was proposed by Catherine Spencer and seconded by Ashley Kemp and approved.
5. **Election of Churchwardens** (*Open to all those on the Civic and Church Electoral Rolls*)
The following Churchwardens were approved en bloc, proposed by Malcolm Affleck and seconded by Barbara Borwell:- Celia Cotton, Chris Reeves, Jane Parker, Crin Fearon and Ross Coad.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Open to those on the Church Electoral Roll (CER)

1. **Church Wardens' reports** on the fabric, goods and ornaments of each Church and presentation of Church Inventories – Crin Fearon signed the Terriers from Margaret Martin for Bourton, Celia Cotton for Kilmington and Jane Parker for Stourton. Terrier for Zeals to be signed later as the Churchwarden was unable to be present.
2. **PCC Annual Report** – this had been emailed to all church members and was on the website.
3. **Treasurer's Report** and Adoption of Accounts
Ashley Kemp delivered his report as per PCC Annual Report. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Chris Reeves, seconded by Liz Kemp and duly adopted.
4. **Appointment of Examiner** of PCC Accounts
All agreed to Charles Vizer's appointment, with grateful thanks.
5. **Deanery Synod Report** - Malcolm Affleck delivered the following report.
For the benefice of Upper Stour the main events for the year were the loss of our parish priest the Rev'd. Ben, the inauguration of the 79th new bishop of Salisbury, Bp. Stephen and the loss of our Supreme Governor, H.M. The Queen, followed in the blink of an eye by a new Supreme Governor, H.M. King Charles III. In the Deanery things were quite woeful. Synod managed to meet just twice and its Mission & Pastoral Committee not at all. To be fair we were coming out of various lockdowns that had upset the normal course of events. Our first Synod in early summer was to consider "The Way Ahead". This became bogged down and newer clergy members felt we should first discover the general 'culture' of the deanery and it was proposed to consider this in the autumn. Finance, that is the payment of Share by the PCCs of Heytesbury Deanery, was reviewed and the overall picture is that of being one of the lowest in the diocese when compared with share request expected at that time. The second Synod was held in November when the Asst. Rural Dean, Rev'd. Lorraine Dobbins, led a small group of fellow clergy in organising parish representatives to produce a Deanery Profile that looked at each church within the deanery. The good and poor points of each building together with other matters that would be looked at in the early months of 2023 were to be listed. Lay-chair Robert Shuler had the previous day attended a meeting with all other lay-chairs from

across the diocese at which Bp. Stephen had requested that they start talks within their deaneries about the future and particularly about parishes working more closely together. Again the poor state of church finance was underlined. As the year drew to a close it was announced that our Rural Dean, the Rev'd. Pauline Reed was standing down.

Malcolm Affleck then welcomed our new Rural Dean, Rev. Caroline Husband who was attending the meeting.

6. **Election of Deanery Synod representatives x 3** (*Open to those on the CER*)

Liz Kemp proposed and George Bullivant seconded the election of Malcolm Affleck and Chris Reeves for next 3 year term. With an electoral roll of 104 we can have a third representative but none came forward, despite the Rural Dean's encouraging words.

7. **Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer** (*Open to those on the CER*)

Elizabeth Hames was appointed with grateful thanks.

8. **Report on and reception of the Church Electoral Roll**

Elizabeth Hames reported that this was a revision of the roll this year. No New Applicants registered on the roll for 2023. At the close of registration for 2022 there were 104 on the roll. Through the year there had been no change. This breaks down as follows:-

BOURTON: No change – 27 Residents

KILMINGTON: No change - 23 Residents

STOURTON: No change - 17 Residents

ZEALS: No change - 34 Residents

NON-RESIDENTS: No change - 3 Residents

In 2023 TOTAL ON ROLL 104 (One hundred and four)

9. **Proposal to allow for six elected PCC members** and for elected members to serve yearly terms

This was proposed by Harry Allen and Jenny Dee and agreed.

10. **Election of Parochial Church Council representatives x 6** (*Open to those on the CER*)

The election of Margaret Martin, Caroline Worthington, Ashley Kemp, George Bullivant and Jane Joyce was proposed by Harry Allen and Jenny Dee, and agreed. There was a vacancy for a sixth elected member.

11. **Vice Chair's Report** – Crin Fearon delivered her report as per PCC Annual Report.

Margaret Martin thanked her for keeping the ship afloat as it had not been an easy year. Crin was asked for an up-date on progress for a new priest. She said that there had been meetings with our new friends in Maiden Bradley, who will contribute to the Parish Profile, that Celia Cotton is working on with a group, of the new Benefice of Upper Stour with Maiden Bradley. There will be two PCCs and Maiden Bradley will be solely responsible for their debts now and in the future. The post will be advertised in July and there will be a meeting with successful applicants in September. The earliest we would have a priest would be some time in January. The Rectory is up for another 6 month rental. The Rural Dean added some encouraging words about joining with Maiden Bradley.

12. **Any other business**

Margaret Martin asked the Rural Dean about the parlous state of the finances as mentioned by Bishop Stephen in Grapevine. She replied that we were not losing any more priests but the diocese is in a fragile state. Bishop Stephen is working on a new vision. Malcolm Affleck added that at the same time a new vision for the share is being worked on. Crin Fearon thanked Margaret Martin and Sue Evans for all they did as Churchwardens.

13. **Date of next meeting** – TBC in April 2024.

14. **Closing Prayers** were said by Rev. Caroline Husband and Rev. Mac prayed for Sue Evans in hospital. She was very much missed and appreciated as Churchwarden for Zeals.

