

Vestry & APCM Meetings

24 March 2019

Parish of Shiplake with Dunsden (All Saints Church, Dunsden)

Vestry Meeting

Present

Rev Robert Thewsey, Rev Pam Gordon, Rev Michael Seymour-Jones, Rev Sarah Nesbitt, Philip Chaimbault, Neill Cotton, Allen & Rosemary Appleby, Jackie Bryant, Christine Bland, John Bodman, Cyril & Mavis Crouch, Anne Daniels, Jean Eastwood, Margaret Fish, Linda Glithro, Jean Jones, Beryl Lawson, Clare McCarthy, Alan Mitchell, Julian Morse, John Penrose, John & Gillian Pragnell, Maurice & Gillian Robins, Paul & Wendy Robinson, Jean Seymour-Jones, Jim & Yvonne Watson, Yvonne Wright

1. Opening Prayers

RT opened proceedings with a welcome and the following prayer.

Dear Father,

We thank you for everyone gathered here now.

Thank you that you know each of us by name and have caused us to walk with You.

We say that we are dependant on You and our trust is in You completely.

As we surrender ourselves in adoration we ask that You would come by Your Holy Spirit and inspire our hearts today.

Come fill our lives with Your love,

Fill our conversations with Your grace and truth,

Fill this meeting with Your presence.

We ask this for Your glory and praise. Amen.

2. Apologies

Vera Bodman, Phyllis Colin, Tim & Judy Coulson, Hugo & Annabel Gamble, Dennis Gilbert, Jimmy & Jane Gordon, Pippa Hughes, Rosemary Jones, Russ Morgan, Sara Morse, Margaret Thewsey, Tim & Helen Woods-Ballard, John Wilson

3. Minutes of the Vestry, Sunday 18 March, 2018

Michael Seymour-Jones proposed that the minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings. The proposal was seconded by Neill Cotton and passed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

Vestry Meeting for Election of Churchwardens

Philip Chaimbault is stepping down as churchwarden due to increased travel with his job. RT thanked PC for all his hard work throughout the benefice, but particularly at Dunsden, and presented him with a bottle of wine as a small token of appreciation.

RT said that he was happy for the wardenship at Dunsden to be split among a group of people but the Diocese requires a named person to be their contact. Rosemary Jones has agreed to be the named person, provided she is supported by a team.

Yvonne Watson proposed that Rosemary Jones be the named person. This was seconded by John Pragnell and agreed by everyone.

Christine Bland, John Bodman, John Pragnell, Maurice Robins and Yvonne & Jim Watson volunteered to be the support team.

Neill Cotton is willing to continue at Shiplake, providing he has some help. Wendy Robinson agreed to be a second named person. It was again agreed that a team of people should be set up to share the responsibilities.

Philip Chaimbault proposed that NC and WR be the two named persons, seconded by Rosemary Appleby. All were in favour.

The rest of the Shiplake team will be Andrew Mearns, Alan Mitchell and Julian Morse. NC has written a document explaining what needs to be done each Sunday and PC offered to share the rota template that he has set up for Dunsden.

RT explained that the Archdeacons Visitation, when Churchwardens are sworn into office, will take place on 28 May 7.30pm at Dorchester Abbey. He encouraged as many parishioners to attend as possible.

The Vestry Meeting was closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 24 March 2019

Present

As for the Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies

As for the Vestry Meeting

2. Minutes of the APCM Minutes, Sunday 18 March, 2018

Michael Seymour-Jones proposed that the minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings. The proposal was seconded by Neill Cotton and passed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

3. Elections

PCC Members

RT read out the applications received for the PCC, which have been proposed and seconded: John Bodman, Philip Chaimbault, Judy Coulson, Cyril Crouch, Hugo Gamble, Linda Glithro, Jane Gordon, Pippa Hughes, Rosemary Jones, John Penrose, Wendy Robinson, Yvonne Watson.

Mavis Crouch proposed the PCC were accepted as a whole, this was seconded by Christine Bland and agreed by all. They were duly appointed as the PCC for 2018-9.

PCC Secretary

Linda Glithro is willing to continue in this role.

PCC Treasurer

John Ralfs, Shiplake College, will continue to do the accounts and John Penrose is willing to continue as the named treasurer. However, this will be his last year; RT asked that we try to find someone with financial ability so that John can undertake a handover.

Deanery Synod Representatives

John Bodman, Neill Cotton and Linda Glithro are entering the third and final year of their three-year appointment.

Safeguarding Officer

Judy Coulson is willing to continue as the Safeguarding Officer for the benefice.

RT drew attention to the Safeguarding Policy in the APCM booklet. Philip Chaimbault proposed that this policy be adopted by the Parish, seconded by Neill Cotton and agreed unanimously. The signed policy will be displayed in the church porches, on the first page of the website and on the 'A Church near You' website. RT said that more people may be required to undertake Safeguarding Training as the Diocese reacts to changes in the law.

Data Protection Officer

RT was pleased to report that Susan Hunt has volunteered to be the Data Protection Officer for the Benefice. Her appointment has already been agreed by Harpsden.

Neill Cotton proposed that Shiplake with Dunsden also appoint her. This was seconded by John Bodman and agreed by everyone.

Philip Chaimbault proposed that the model GDPR Policy included in the APCM booklet be adopted. This was seconded by Allen Appleby, with all in favour. RT explained that the Policy will be displayed in the same places as the Safeguarding Policy.

Health and Safety Officer

Cyril Crouch is willing to continue as Safety Officer for Shiplake. RT thanked him for all the work that he has undertaken during 2018.

Electoral Role Officer

Yvonne Watson agreed to continue in this role. RT thanked Yvonne for all her work, including the complete revision of the electoral roll. This revised roll is on display in the church porches. RT asked everyone to check that their name is included.

4. Presentation of Accounts and Treasurer's Report

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018, prepared by John Ralfs, Shiplake College Bursarial Department and checked by Paul Wilkinson, have already been agreed by the PCC.

Christine Bland proposed that they be accepted by the Parish, seconded by Maurice Robins with all in favour.

Queries to John Penrose are reported in 7 below.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Paul Robinson is willing to audit the accounts again for 2019.

Julian Morse proposed that Paul Robinson be appointed to audit the 2109 accounts, seconded by James Watson and agreed by everyone.

6. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory

RT explained that there will be an inspection by the Area Dean or Archdeacon in 2020-21 so the terrier and inventory will need to be updated.

7. All other reports to be adopted and questions

The APCM Reports booklet has been available at the back of church for the last two weeks. RT thanked everyone who had contributed reports to the booklet.

Yvonne Watson proposed that the reports be accepted as a whole as a true record for 2018. This was seconded by Wendy Robinson and agreed unanimously.

Finance Queries to John Penrose

John Bodman spoke on behalf of John Wilson, who was unable to attend today. Firstly, JW wanted to say that they were 'the best set of church accounts' that he had seen.

JW would like to see eliminated reference to Dunsden Fabric Fund. He would like this replaced with a clear definition as to why the funds have been raised. The Dunsden Fabric Fund should therefore be replaced with two separate funds-

(a) **Dunsden Ring Fenced Fund** dealing with such matters as Churchyard Maintenance, planting of replacement trees etc. and items not deemed to be Church Fabric to include income from investments, donations etc. to be spent in accordance with the donors wishes.

(b) **Dunsden re-decoration Fund** to include all nominated monies raised from Snowdrop Sunday, refreshments, sale table, concerts, raffles, gifts and donations etc.

The PCC guided by the Rector have agreed to redecorate Dunsden at a cost of more than £20,000. This is money that Dunsden does not have and is a challenging amount for the

small congregation to raise. To date about £3,500 has been raised for the redecoration fund. JB suggested that the money be borrowed and shown as a deficit that is slowly cleared as funds are accrued.

JP agreed to speak to JR about this and to look into Gift Aid being added to the above funds (a) and (b) where white gift aid envelopes had been used. JP will report back to the PCC when he has spoken to JR.

Julian Morse asked where this money would come from. JP explained that it would come from General Funds, as Marjorie White's £490,000 is ring-fenced for Shiplake only. The General Funds are actually higher than the 31 December figure indicates.

JM expressed concern in light of the falling rolls and decreased income that considerable amounts of money were planned to be spent at both churches on redecoration at Dunsden on new pews, lighting and a Music Director at Shiplake. RT explained that the Shiplake improvements would come from MW monies and would make Shiplake more missional. JM feels that unless the church attracts new families and young worshippers it may not survive long term.

RT explained that he has had to employ a slow and steady approach since he arrived. He feels that the proposed Music Director should help improve matters. He mentioned the Mothering Sunday changes and the danger of alienating existing worshippers. The proposed changes (if permitted by faculty) will enable the church to be used in different ways. The church building has great potential is grossly under-used currently. He feels it is everyone's responsibility to invite people into the church and cited 'Back to church Sunday' when parishioners were encouraged to bring their neighbours to church.

RT gave thanks to John Penrose and John Ralfs for their work on the accounts.

RT showed the Parish Giving Scheme forms and asked anyone who has not completed one to do so. He cannot recommend the scheme highly enough. It is free to operate and Gift Aid comes quickly to the church. (He is still working on the unclaimed Gift Aid for the last three years). He also asked anyone who has not completed a GDPR form to complete one today.

AOB

Although not technically part of the APCM, an email sent to Neill Cotton from Annabel Gamble was read and discussed.

In essence, Annabel is concerned that considerable money may be spent on new pews and a Music Director. She feels that money should be spent on modest repairs and on a Family Worker to reach out to younger families.

Neill Cotton's reply explained the reasoning for replacing the pews. He and RT are in full agreement with the need to attract new families but believe that the pews and Music Director are part of the solution. All of this has been discussed at length and already voted on by the PCC. NC concluded that, while AG may not agree with the PCC decisions, he hoped she appreciated that the PCC is working with the best of motivation and intent to manage existing resources wisely, and - critically - to invest in the future.

8. CLOSING PRAYERS

RT thanked everyone for attending and everyone who had contributed to such a splendid lunch. The meeting closed with the following prayer followed by the Grace.

The church doesn't stand on any one person's' shoulders.

Not one of us can further Your plans on our own.

But together, we can complement each other's strengths and cancel out our weaknesses.

As a team, a unified body focused on the gospel of Christ,

we can do great things in Your honour as we were purposed to do.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

PCC Meeting

The first meeting of the new PCC has already been agreed as Monday 20 May, 7.30pm in The Ark, Shiplake. At this meeting the dates for the rest of the year will be set.