

## **Minutes of the All Saints' with St. John Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Present: 46 members on the ASC Electoral Roll attended. Fr Charles Sutton was in the chair.

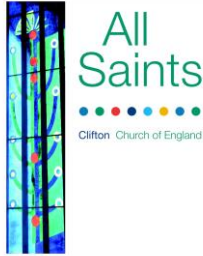
1. Prayers: Fr Charles opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Apologies: Ruth and Richard Harding, Janie Aitken, Mike Benton, Stephen Clarke, Martin Robinson, Eric Tyson, Sister Teresa Mary, Christina Biggs, Sister Rosy.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the last meeting held on 1st May 2022 were shared at the meeting and circulated online for approval. They were proposed as a true record by Sue Perry, seconded by Liz Badman, and approved with all in favour.

### **Meeting of Parishioners**

4. Receiving of the Electoral Roll and the appointment of Tellers: Father Charles reminded the congregation that a new Electoral Roll had been created in 2019 in accordance with Church of England Regulations, and this years' changes were 1 non-resident member removed, 1 resident removed and 10 non-residents joined, with the net effect an increase from 109 to 117. Janice Callow and Sue Perry volunteered as tellers if required.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

5. Election of Churchwardens: Adam Chivers and Annette Young were proposed by Liz Badman, seconded by Sue Perry and elected as Churchwardens with all in favour. Father Charles reflected on the effort and energy put in by Adam & Annette, and how grateful we all are for the work they do.
6. Bristol West Deanery Synod Report: A report on the Bristol West Deanery Synod meetings over the last year was received at the meeting. In common with other Dioceses, National Church is developing the emergent church agenda, Transforming Church, together. Father Charles noted that it is good for decisions to be taken at Denary and Parish level not driven top down, and key discussions will be around recognising new Mission areas, working across boundaries to appoint young people / community chaplains, parish hubs. He also noted that many parishes are not as lucky as we are to have full compliment of roles e.g. safeguarding, Treasurer, and rural areas often don't have enough population to appoint Church officers. It was also noted that a motion to recognise the climate emergency was taken at the Deanery

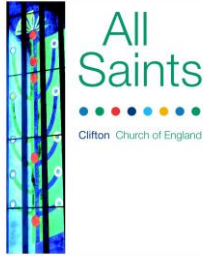


Synod. Father Charles also thanked Liz & Brendan, and Helen Clifton, the lay chair of Deanery Synod. Breandan's role on General Synod working as lay representative across Diocese – thanks to Brendan for this big and important role. Brendan also raised that living in love and faith is also a key topic, and he offered to speak to anyone interested to be accountable to the congregation in how he uses his vote.

7. Election of Deanery Synod Representative: Brendan and Liz were elected during covid, with Liz standing down this year and Brendan continuing automatically.
8. Election of four Parochial Church Council members for a term of three years: Four PCC places become vacant: Stephen O'Keefe, Janice Robinson, Vicky Gordon and Ruth Baker were proposed by Sue, seconded by Chris and elected unopposed to the PCC for three years. Father Charles thanked everyone for their contributions to the PCC. It was also noted that one position remained vacant for one year, and there was an action to send out the PCC dates for the year.
9. Co-option of Licenced Lay Minister: The meeting approved the co-option of Liz Badman to the PCC for one year. Proposed Vera and seconded by Sue. All in favour.
10. Appointment of Sidespersons: Fr Charles highlighted the importance of Sidespeople in impacting how people feel when they come into the building. Mary Benton (Senior Sidesperson), Mike Benton, Fiona Bristow, Karen Haigh, Sue Norman, James Norman, Sue Perry, Robert Sambell and Hazel Thomas were all proposed by Vicky, seconded by Linda and appointed as Sidespersons with all in favour.
11. Approval of Annual Report and Financial Statements: The Annual Report was circulated prior to the meeting and time was given to read.

Stephen O'Keefe introduced the Financial Statements in Eric's absence. Unlike in 2021 our investments have lost capital value in 2022 due to the overall performance of financial markets. They have lost £152,821 compared with gains of £164,958 in 2021. We have also realised £100k from our investments to cover ongoing costs including the atrium preparation work. This loss is apportioned across the various funds.

Total funds at 31 December 2022 £1,188,462 (compared to £1,398,386 in 2021). Our overall excess spend during the year was £54,261 compared with £31,050 in 2021 (net incoming (outgoing) resources). It was noted that the Sacristy is now accessible



to use, and also that we needed to balance the cost of living issues with the need to increase stewardship, and that many contributed to All Saints in multiple ways.

Steve extended Eric's thanks to Philippa and Norman Drewett for help and support in preparing the accounts.

The annual report and accounts were approved by the meeting. Proposed by Fr Charles and seconded by Steve, approved with all in favour.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Steve advised that Balshaws were willing to continue as Independent Examiner for another year. Balshaws were proposed by Stephen O'Keefe and seconded by Sue Perry. All in favour.

13. Chairman's comments:

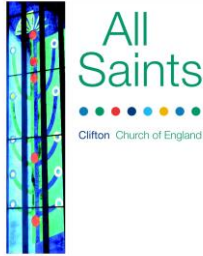
Father Charles reflected that his comments will be shaped by Sister Teresa Mary's sermon this morning, by considering three unseen groups.

We are a hugely busy Church with clear roles in action and a variety of jobs, with a lot of people in the background unseen, making the life and work of the Church successful, not just in activities but also thoughts and prayers. Father Charles sees a lot of this activity taking place which is heart warming and encouraging, and would like to say thank you to all the unseen who support the life and work of All Saints.

Another group of unseen is the people who come to sit in Church to just be, as we are open every day, which could be the Ricard Chapel for prayer, or could be in some anxiety. Father Charles receives a call from Wendy in this situation every couple of weeks, for someone who could be disturbed, but often it is just people who find the Church doors open.

The Randall Room continues to be used by a wide variety of group, Brownies, Flamenco Dancers, LLM's, rehearsal groups, AA, with our list of lettings very diverse. It is very encouraging when you see the list of people coming into this place. This does not necessarily translate into congregation, but has an impact over time – we water and plant, the rest we leave to God as best we can.

What is it that gives this place our sense of place? Of being sacred but also open for the community, it is something that lives here, that comes from ourselves, our prayerfulness, discipline and cycles, comes from us embracing the values associated with this sort of Church, relates as best we can to those who come through the door.



We focus on three layers; busy and prayerfulness, people who come through the door and in the nature of what we do which is created by the worshipping community.

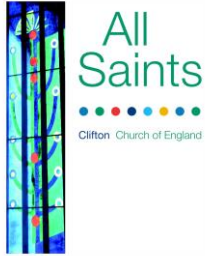
Thinking towards the future and Transforming Church. Together. One of the things we can be sure of, it will create change. We are not talking about losing any of our tradition or sense of what we are as an Anglo Catholic Church and the nature of our foundation, in line with the laying of the original foundation stone, spoken about on Sunday and folded up and put away the rest of the week, this is a place which is living AC foundation and open which will change from generation to generation, it will be different but the foundation remains constant.

We don't want to be what we were 20 years ago or the great heyday, the world doesn't work like that. We maintain our values but progress forward, meeting changes as they come. There may well be opportunities, for example working across boundaries with other parishes, ways to work together and opportunities for growth.

It would be great if we had enthusiasm for young people, Like Woodies or Christ Church, they do it really well. But what we do really well may be different to that. The Diocese has been given funds by the National Church, £6.5m to be bid against. We will have a Parish Conference to focus on what we want to do as a Parish. Perhaps working with Leigh Woods, Cotham on our Missional priorities, just a few to invest energy on, we will have a reflection and consideration to be really positive for the future.

There is concern about us holding our place, as we are a relatively small Parosh measured in human terms, it is a gathered Parish and also an Anglo Catholic Parish which makes us different again to establish our security in the future with our sense of purpose about what we are and our identity and the wider community strikes me as very important for us to focus on.

Father Charles summarised he feels really positive about the future, as All Saints has huge opportunities and is a really fortunate Parish. He also confirmed he had his common tenure extended until 2026, which is a real pleasure, and thanked everyone.



14. Any other matters:

- a. Coronation Exhibition requires stewards for 1 hour each
- b. Cream tea is available on Monday
- c. Mary asked for it to be clear what was going on, with a new sign to be made
- d. Roger confirmed that free fizz and elderflower would be provided after Mass, with a thank you to everyone who made the sandwiches
- e. Mary also asked if cupboards could be built for those who meet in the Randall Room, and also to serve coffee at the same time the bar is open
- f. John asked when we will get the defibrillator

15. Date of the next APCM: The next APCM meeting is proposed to be 28th April 2024. Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting this year.

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Chairman

Date:.....

S O'Keefe  
PCC Secretary 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023