



## Minutes of the All Saints with St John Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Present:** 27 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** were received from: Mthr Nicola, Adam Chivers, Charlotte and Isobel Hopkins, Swarna Simpson, John Davenport, Paul Roberts, Paul and Sandy Gale, Bob and Jenny Bell, Marnie and Jonathan Frere, Georgina Harford, Mike Benton, Christina Biggs.
3. **Minutes** of last year's APCM meeting, 28.4.2024. These had been circulated previously and are available on the ASC website. They were proposed as a true record by Vicky Gordon, seconded by Sue Perry and approved with all in favour.

### Meeting of Parishioners

4. The new **Electoral Roll**, constituted from new this year following Church of England regulations for a renewal every 6 years, was received. There are 91 members on the Roll, 62 are non-resident, 29 resident. (Last year there were 84 non-resident members and 33 resident with a total of 123.) Others have completed a form to be included on the ER since it was closed a few weeks ago. It is an important document, so Fr Charles encouraged people to complete a form if they have not yet done so; the ER is now open to revision. Sue Perry and Fr Paul Hawkins were appointed as tellers if required.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

5. **Election of churchwardens.** Annette Young is stepping down after 5 years. Fr Charles said that we have been fortunate to have such high quality and willing volunteers as churchwardens over the years. He thanked Annette for all she has done.

There were two nominations for the coming year: Martin Robinson (continuing in post) and Vicky Gordon. Both had been proposed and seconded with the appropriate forms. All present were in favour and they were duly elected.

6. **Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report** was received. It was made available in advance on the website and had been circulated. Our Deanery Synod representatives are Elizabeth Thomas and Bob Bell. There is a vacancy for a third representative. Fr Charles attends as Area Dean, Helen Clifton LLM as Lay Chair and Brendan Biggs as Diocesan Synod member. There were no questions on the report
7. **Election of 4 PCC members for a term of three years.** 4 PCC places become vacant and we have 4 nominations: Annette Young, Paul Gale, John Davenport, Mary Benton. They were proposed by Jessica Smith, seconded by Christine Ostler and elected unopposed. There was a casual vacancy caused by the resignation of James Norman. Fr Charles thanked him for his service. This appointment will run until 2027. Simon Davison was proposed by Janice Hopkins and seconded by Liz Badman. The appointment was approved with all in favour.
8. **Cooption of Licenced Lay Minister to PCC.** Liz Badman was proposed by Vicky Gordon and seconded by Sue Perry, agreed with all in favour. Helen Clifton is a PCC member as Deanery Lay Chair.
9. **Annual report and financial statement.**
  - Eric Tyson (Treasurer) presented the financial statement in detail to the PCC meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025. In essence, pledged giving income approximately covers our Parish Share while income from lettings covers our gas and electricity costs. The rest of our running costs come from our reserves, either interest on investments (which has done well) or other reserves.
  - Eric has looked at where we could reduce our income. This is not possible without significantly cutting down on our activity, (eg dispensing with a Parish Administrator, turning off the heating). We need to increase our pledged giving in order to avoid depleting our reserves. £70,000 is approximately our pledged giving total, 10% extra would still only be £7,000 extra
  - A question was asked about lettings: are we charging enough for events where the ticket price and attendance are high, e.g, candlelit concerts? It was explained that there is an upper limit to what people are prepared to pay, some clients have minimum requirements for toilet facilities and heating temperature which we can find it hard to meet. We receive considerable income from the candlelit concerts as they are frequent and regular. The fees are regularly reviewed. The income from Randall Room lets has come down, income from letting the church has gone up. Unlike some other churches, we have a standard rate for letting a room.
  - A question was asked about open plate collections, which we discontinued in the covid crisis. The open-plate income had greatly decreased before this but it could be reconsidered, also putting information in the pew leaflet every week on how to give. It was pointed out that many of the benefits we now enjoy are a result of the generosity of past

worshippers. We should encourage people to consider the church when writing their will. It was suggested that our Dedication Festival might be an opportunity to reconsider our giving.

**10. Appointment of independent examiner:** Eric proposed that Balshaw should be asked to continue in this role. Seconded: Helen Clifton. All in favour.

**11. Fr Charles thanked Eric** for his work as Treasurer, as he retires from the role. Eric has done exemplary professional work, in policy and practice, guiding the activity of the Incumbent and Churchwardens in financial matters.

**12. Chair's comments**

- We thank the previous generations for what they have given to our church. We have sometimes received surprising legacies: once a previous curate went and talked with a man sitting on the forecourt wall and he later left us £50,000.
- We rely on effective use of our space to increase our income, particularly through more daytime letting of the Randall room. Some groups have succumbed to cost of living pressures and no longer run. We all need to advertise the availability to groups who could benefit. We will appoint a team to look at revenue streams, including a Stewardship Campaign, in the course of the coming year.
- We are hampered by our building in some things we would like to do; we cannot take part in the Warm Space initiative with BCC because we don't have an accessible toilet.
- Sunday worshippers do not always get a full picture of how much the church is used through the week. Fr Charles gave some examples: This week he talked to a couple who come in on a regular basis. They don't come to services, but the church is very important to them. They see ASC as their church and come in regularly to 'be'. They had used the Food Point during a difficult time. This morning when the church was being opened before the 9 am service, two people were waiting to come in and light candles. Last night Fr Charles went to lock up, there was a group of Pakistani Christians praying. A member of the family at home was seriously ill and they couldn't find any other church open. Fr Charles stayed and prayed with them. He encouraged us all to be ready to speak to people who use the church, while remembering that sometimes they do not want to be approached. A sensitive judgement needs to be made.
- Fr Charles paid tribute to our Parish Administrator, Wendy. During this week, there was queue of people to speak to her. She describes herself as agnostic, Fr Charles said that nonetheless, 'I hear the heart of God beating within her'.
- He summed up by saying: Between us, as members of this community, we make this place live for others in so many ways. When we look at the numbers-money or attendance at services, it is easy to wish things were different, but we do so much for others in so many ways. I thank God for it.

**13. Matters of general Parochial interest**

- Brendan Biggs asked: Diocesan Synod heard a presentation by Caroline Plaice of HT Horfield about using **Sharesy**, a web-based system which uses search engines to promote our plant for room bookings. Is this something for us to look at? Fr Charles replied that this has been considered. It could be a solution, particularly when

Wendy retires. At the moment, the commission paid to Sharesy does not make it worthwhile. Mary Benton said that this has also been discussed at Diocesan TCT meetings. Sharesy does not necessarily give you control over who books the building. Helen Sutton said that Hubchurch (we use them for the website) offer other services, eg for room booking. It is free, and a Christian organisation. We could investigate this further, if someone has the capacity. Janice Hopkins pointed out that optimising the use of the building does need management which can be extra work for churchwardens.

- Vera Sanders asked about Doors Open day. This should be happening this autumn, it is biannual. We will take part. She also complained that preachers are not always audible if they stand at the chancel steps. Some feel they are not audible from the pulpit.
- Andrew Morgan mentioned the importance of the outward presentation of the church. Alistair the gardener does a magnificent job. Fr Charles thanked him, and the Endowment Trust who make this possible. There is an outside drain issue which involves some gardening work and specialist attention.

### **Meeting of Members of PCC and Deanery Synod**

14. Appointment of PCC secretary: Janice Callow was proposed by Vicky Gordon, seconded by Chris Ostler all were in favour.
15. Appointment of Treasurer: Karen Haigh has provided advice to Church Commissioners on ethical investments. Proposed by Sue Perry, seconded by Vicky Gordon. All in favour.
16. Appointment of Administrants and Sidespeople: The list had been tabled. The lists were proposed by Annette Young, seconded by Mary Benton. All in favour.
17. Fr Charles thanked the Church and Community group for providing sandwiches. He thanked all for attending.
18. The meeting closed with prayer led by Jessica Smith.

**The date of next year's APCM was set: 26.4.26 at 12.30pm.**

Signed..... Date .....

Chair

Janice Callow  
PCC Secretary