

THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
held on SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022.

	<p>There were 38 members of the laity in attendance. The meeting started at 11:12am The Team Rector (DS) opened with prayer</p>
<b>A</b>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS</u></b></p> <p>1 DS thanked all those who she had asked to consider the role of CW for their commitment to consider the role. A lot of soul searching had taken place.</p> <p><b>Election of Church Wardens</b> One nomination had been received: Heather Purse (HP), and she was duly elected unanimously to serve for a term of one year. DS expressed a huge thank you to HP; we can't let her stand alone in this task, we must support her. The Rector thanked Lesley Hill (LH) the retiring warden, for her valued, loyal contribution over the last four years. With HP, she has brought people together. Peter Wright made a presentation to LH to reflect our grateful thanks for her service.</p> <p>We are now modeling a changing role of Churchwarden – moving to more of one of oversight, offering support and guidance to many people. Think and pray for who might want to join HP for the year, how we can each support HP and all those who act in deputy warden roles across the parish. The meeting was closed at 11:21am</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>Apologies</b> had been received from: Jane &amp; Tyrone Trower, Mandi &amp; Philip Sturrock, Mike Gittins, Rose Harvey (RH), Jill Coe, Jackie White, Mish Bartlett, Rosemary Russell (RR), Ros Wilton, Revd Helen Croud, Diana Wright (DW) and Martin Whiting.</p>
1	<p><b>The minutes</b> of the meeting held on 23 May 2021 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DB, Seconded by the Revd Philip Ringer. All in favour.</p>
2	<p><b>The Electoral Roll</b> was presented by Bridget Trump (BT), who thanked the local church sub-committees for their assistance in revising the Roll and also Di Sinclair for keeping the master list. There were 330 members on the Electoral Roll at the APCM 2021, of which 25 have been removed from the roll but 8 names added. The current total is now 313. New members can be added throughout the year. The number determines our representation on PCC and Deanery Synod and the places are not linked to any particular church. DS expressed a warm welcome to new people if they are here today.</p>
3	<p><b>The Annual Report and Accounts</b> – presented by Janet Shaw (JS), Parish Treasurer. JS said that it is good to be here; it's nearly a year since I became PCC Treasurer. Thanks to PCC for welcome and support, in particular Philip Sturrock, (for his patience as he explained and handed over the accounts). To Sue Wellman-Herold who has worked behind the scenes, checked the accounts, and to Graham Purse as chair of the Finance Sub-Committee. Together they are working to streamline the processes. To the support she'd received from DB, Revd Pete Stone, BT, and Di Sinclair. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year working with Scott Vevers (Accountants) to produce accounts. The information went to them by the beginning of February, the draft was received by end</p>

	<p>March, but many things still needed clarifying or correcting. SW-H helped considerably with these. BT provided the first part with the report of the activities of the PCC. The final version arrived mid-April and was approved by the Standing Committee.</p> <p>We show the consolidated figures of the churches. The main statement is shown on Page 8, £283,045 (total income) and £310,02 (total expenditure – being mainly the transfer of funds to the Bridport Food Bank and a major repair at SMWAL). Overall, they show a gain of £26,975 so the picture across the parish is okay.</p> <p>JS has requested a meeting with SV to talk through the process of how we present the accounts to them. JS has begun to standardise various processes to help.</p> <p>DS thanked JS, particularly in the last little while, but we are delighted that she has taking on this role. We are grateful that lots of people have supported JS, demonstrated by the treasurers working together as a team across the parish.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Jane Dibden asked if the accounts could be available before the meeting so that the questions would be more meaningful. She appreciated the difficulties that this can cause and acknowledged that the full Report had been displayed correctly on the church noticeboards as required.</p> <p>DS thanked Janet Shaw and the Finance Sub-Committee. The Report was accepted by the meeting.</p>
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4	<p>There were 3 vacancies to be filled as Parish Representatives to Deanery Synod, to serve until the APCM 2023, but prior to the meeting there had been no nominations. There were none during the meeting.</p> <p>DS reminded the members of PCC who are interested that the synod meetings are open, and it is important to see the wide picture beyond the parish. We do adopt a car-sharing policy.</p>
5	<p>DS thanked those who are stepping down from PCC: Rose Harvey (RH), Mike Thomas (MT), Lesley Hill (LH) and Ro Windsor (RW) and briefly explained how they each have contributed to the PCC.</p> <p>There were 4 Nominations for the 4 places of Parochial Representatives of the laity to the PCC to serve until the APCM 2025.</p> <p>The following had been nominations and were elected to serve for the three-year term: Lesley Hill, Jo George, Paul Groom and James Craddock.</p> <p>DS thanked those who have put themselves forward to serve. The PCC is lay-led, and each member is representing the whole parish.</p>
6	<p><b>Fabric Report.</b></p> <p>The Terrier and Inventory of each of our churches reflect the fabric of our life together. In the coming year, DS would like us to work together to make the terrier and inventory records more user-friendly. This will be important for those who look after the churches throughout the year and make it easier to record the work that has been done.</p> <p>The churchwardens presented the documents to be signed as a true record.</p> <p>HP presented: HTBRA, SSALL &amp; HTBOT</p> <p>LH presented: SMBRI &amp; SMWAL. SJWES to be signed by the Rector at a later date.</p>

	<p>DS offered her thanks to all those who do that work, it's a big responsibility, continued through the ages, and it's now our turn to maintain the records. Thanks to all those who have checked the buildings.</p>
7	<p><b>Report of Deanery Synod</b> meeting during 2021 was presented by the Revd Philip Ringer (PR).</p> <p>Due to the exigencies of the COVID 19, Deanery Synod only met twice during the calendar year 2021. I am pleased to report that the parish now has an active member of Synod, Mr. Steve Bartlett. His wisdom and experience will make a valuable contribution to our discussions and debates.</p> <p>Our first meeting of the year was on 11th February and conducted on Zoom with 9 clergy and 26 laity present, in which we received reports from across the Deanery about how parishes and benefices were adapting to the constraints of lockdown.</p> <p>The Rev'd Chris Martin and Virginia Luckett were welcomed to the Golden Cap Team and the Rev'd Helen Croud was welcome to the Bridport Team Ministry. It was noted that we have three ordinands from the Deanery under training. The Synod also took note of the impending retirement of the Bishop of Salisbury, and a former Bishop of Sherborne. The Rev'd Lorna Johnson was congratulated following her recent ordination.</p> <p>Members were thanked for raising 85.7% of the Parish Fairer Share which was an outstanding effort in the current climate.</p> <p>Our second meeting took place here in St, Mary's, Bridport on Wednesday 8th September 2021 with 9 clergy and 22 laity present. It was noted that Deanery Synod is still 39 members short of full representation! Election of officers follow with no nominations being made for either the role of Treasurer or Secretary.</p> <p>Information was received by Synod of the proposal to transfer the parishes of Abbotsbury, Langton Herring and Portesham to this Deanery. It is a long and complicated legal process.</p> <p>There followed a detailed and lengthy presentation about the finances of the diocese, by David Pain, The Diocesan Secretary. He posed the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What does it mean to be in Ministry and Mission in our communities?</li> <li>▪ What is the mission and pastoral plan we want to be following and how can we collectively shape this vision?</li> <li>▪ What does it mean to encourage disciples to find their vocations?</li> <li>▪ Who is going to provide a thriving Christian presence within our communities?</li> <li>▪ Who is going to serve and how will they be equipped?</li> </ul> <p>It was acknowledged that sustaining Parish Fairer Share and the future looked bleak. A number of questions followed including those on the sale of glebe; the legacy campaign; the ethical investment policy of the Diocese and the future of Church buildings. It was a thoughtful and though provoking evening.</p> <p>A highlight from today's thought for the week: "Our faith is not passive. Our God is a God of transformation, and by our actions and words we are part of that process to see positive transformation of lives and situations." PR prays that we have full representation on DS from tomorrow.</p>
8	<p><b>Independent Examiners</b> - JS recommended the re-appointment of Scott Vevers. JS proposed, seconded by GP, all in favour: nem com.</p>
9	<p><b>Team Rector's Comments</b></p> <p>Today's sermon said a lot of what I wanted to say; we're often in church bogged down by things of fabric, the mechanics of the externals of our life together. But remember what is at the centre and what we are for as the church, lots of business, lots of work so hard, those we've cared for, prayer happens, they're important things, and so thank you. But also remember why we do, what we do. Last year had a 'stop-start' quality. The relief of lifting of covid pandemic restrictions, then things getting better for us, but not for all across the world. It's frustrating, but DS commends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Signs of hope and new growth.</li> <li>✓ The Year in the Life of the Parish 2021</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Our Mission Day,</li> <li>✓ DW/PR's Bereavement group providing care in our town,</li> <li>✓ The way some of you are working across the parish, (Finance, Fabric, Mission &amp; Pastoral, Health &amp; Safety). Working together, sharing good practice and good wisdom. We're bigger than the sum of the parts.</li> <li>✓ The two Ministry team away-days that have already happened, and one for the PCC next Saturday; looking across the town, at who we are in this context. What do we do best together, to serve those whom God has called us to serve? Lights in this community.</li> <li>✓ We're discussing the building project at SSALL. It's to be a team project but we're not there yet.</li> <li>✓ We'll work together in terms of our buildings, to share together, (ref HTBRA lighting project), but we need to use our buildings and worshipping together.</li> <li>✓ We can offer each other so much, share who we are, share the story that God has entrusted to us so that it brings life to others.</li> <li>✓ In 2022 – some laity are asking for training in leading worship, or to help as LPAs. We aim to offer the preparation for this leadership role across the deanery, to those offering themselves.</li> <li>✓ There was a growth in lay-led worship during last year. A blessing to us.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you to everyone who has served in our churches, to those on the PCC laying down a responsibility, none of what you have given has been wasted. Although Julie Gardner has stepped back, she is still helping with some tasks, for MT's in the Governance Group, LH in so many ways, HP for her continuing ministry and to RR sadly bereaved today, as chapel warden and leading that congregation at St John's.</p> <p>DS also thanked JS, BT, PS, L J, HC, and her other clergy colleagues, the lay ministers; all of whom give so much to this place.</p> <p>There continues to be a lot of illness, for those who have not been well: pray for them.</p> <p>Moving closer to the one who we serve.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SSALL have discovered many Choir Robes in a cupboard. Please say if they could be of use to the other churches or they will be found another home.</li> <li>2. The Year in the Life 2021 was commended; demonstrates a valuable ministry.</li> <li>3. There is a vacancy for a Foundation Governor at St Mary's School. See PS for more information.</li> </ol>

The meeting closed with The Grace at noon.

End.