

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2010

Minutes of the **VESTRY MEETING** and **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin with Gussage St Andrew

Date: 25th April 2010
Venue: St Mary's Church

Started: 10:45am
Ended: 11:40am

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Rev. Mel Durrant who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Jeremiah 29 v11–13;

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Apologies for absence

Mrs Naomi Booth, Mr John Davis, Mr Mike Dyer, Mrs Jackie Molnar, Mrs Jo Scott, Mrs Maureen Penrose.

VESTRY MEETING

A sheet was circulated for attendees to sign.

Election of Churchwardens: There was one nomination: Miss Carole Wyatt. The nomination was approved. The Rev Mel Durrant added that Mrs Sheila Bradley was standing down so that she could concentrate on management of the building project and Mothers' Union. There is no legal problem with having just one church warden.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1) Minutes of last APCM: The minutes of the APCM held on 26th April 2009 were unavailable due to technical problems. They would be circulated at a later time.

2) Matters arising: – there were none.

3) Elections: To the PCC: There were six vacancies and four nominees, namely; Mrs Naomi Booth, Mr Michael Carter, Mrs Jackie Molnar and Mr Ted Cox. They were duly appointed.

4) Appointment of sidespersons: Carole Wyatt read through the list of current sidespersons (14) and thanked them for the tremendous job that they do and commented on the friendly welcome noticed by visitors to the church. Anybody willing to join the team would be very gratefully received.

5) Electoral Roll Report: David Salmons, acting electoral roll officer, reported that we have 102 members on the roll (down 7 since the last APCM). David suggested that we should look at the list in a future meeting to better understand who is actively contributing to the life of the church and how we can encourage every member to do likewise. A request for a new electoral roll officer was made for all to consider.

6) St Mary's and St Andrew's Inventories Report: The Rev Mel Durrant reported that there were no changes to the inventories.

7) Annual Accounts and Financial Summary: Copies of the financial report were circulated to all members with the last Sarum Link distribution.

Mr David Lockyer started by thanking James Reed, our independent examiner, David Salmons (deputy Treasurer) for all his hard work with the cash, and David Smart, a member of the Sherborne Stewardship Group, who has provided a lot of support sorting out our finances in 2009.

David summarised the accounts; highlighting that our routine fundraising was up in 2009, but contributions towards the 50K Challenge were down on 2008. The amount of our Share was now lower after the Diocese re-evaluated our Share contribution. This has helped us enormously and has removed the need, in 2009, to draw down on our reserves, which we had been doing for a number of years to meet our Share.

David explained that changes to the breakdown of expenditure had been made due to the new accounting software which has simplified some of the headings under which we put items of expenditure. The PCC's intention to pay our Share in full through Direct Debt has had to be stopped because our income is not uniform enough, although we still expect to pay it in full by the end of the year.

A vote was taken to adopt the accounts: All in favour.

8) Appointment of Independent Examiner: A vote was taken to ask James Reed to continue as independent examiner for 2010: All in favour.

9) Secretary's report: Mark Wolstenholme thanked everyone for their patience whilst he got used to the job, and Sheila Bradley for her help. Mark reported that the PCC had met six times since the last APCM and noted how impressed he was with all the hard work that the PCC had put in during a busy year coordinating the building work.

10) Gussage St Andrew's Chapel Report: Mark Wolstenholme presented the report on behalf of John Davis.

There were 24 services in the last year and the average attendance was up from 10.5 to 11.7. He warmly thanked everyone who contributed to the upkeep of St Andrew's, including the 'flower ladies', the brass cleaners, the Vicar for all he does. Also Anne McCall for playing the organ and Carole for her help in running the chapel.

11) Fabric Report for St Mary's and St Andrew's: Sheila Bradley reported on a very busy year behind the scenes, filling in forms and progressing projects! The bells have been repaired and the clock cleaned, refurbished and has had an auto-winder installed. Thanks go to Chris Wadge for his help with this. All 'must do' items on the current quinquennial have been done, especially the electrical rewiring. The repointing work needed on the east-facing slope of the north transept will be done shortly.

Our conservator, Peter Martindale, has carried out a survey of the mediaeval wall paintings in St Andrew's. They are in fairly good condition, but will require some attention to stabilise them at an estimated cost of £3,000. The survey of the electrical system has resulted in the removal of broken heaters and plans to replace the wiring and heating is in hand for a cost of about £10,000. The gullies and gutters have been cleaned out which helps minimise dampness in the walls and floor.

12) The 50k Challenge: Margaret Durrant reminded everyone that it has been two years since the 50K Challenge was launched and the vision was to improve the fabric of our beautiful churches as well as updating the facilities that they offer. Margaret explained why things take so long, besides the need to raise the money, but that work on Grade I and Grade II buildings require an awful lot of paperwork and approval from various bodies including the Diocese and English Heritage. However, significant progress has been made with completion of the tower works which has seen the installation of a toilet and storage cupboards behind a beautiful opaque glass screen and doors. Graham Dye and his builders were praised for the way they minimised disruption to the church during phase one of the building work.

The money is now in place for completion of phase two which will see the area at the back of the church at St Mary's opened up and the font restored and placed in front of the tower. Some of the pews being removed will be put elsewhere in the church. The triptych reredos (decorated wooden screens) are now in storage until they can be restored and suitably placed in the church. After phase two we'll be concentrating on the heating and sound system at St Mary's as funds allow. Grants are being sought.

13) The Vicar's Report: The Rev Mel Durrant briefly recapped on the steps we've gone through to reach this, his fourth year. He thanked the project managers and builders, the PCC (both the leaving and the new), our service leaders, the churchwardens, the musicians, the choir, the cleaners and coffee makers, the flower arrangers, the Lay Pastoral Assistants, and those who help with the groups and those that have worked so hard on the Share. Although Mel couldn't name everyone, he also wanted to thank Graham Smith for his fundraising on Sheila's quilt, for Mike Dyer for the Band Concert, Bobby Carter and Jean Mayne for the Christmas Fayre and everyone else – too many to name – who have helped over the year.

"We are moving forward – this is my good news for this morning – we can give thanks. With the building we have had to balance the fact that it serves the living body of Christ with the fact that we worship in a very beautiful old building which is part of our heritage and holds a very special place in a lot of people's hearts and this is why we've worked so hard on the 50K Challenge. We are a community with a mission, telling people about something good. I believe God has such exciting plans for the people in this place."

14) Any Other Business: A question was asked about the path which is in a bad state. It was explained that it is on the list but cannot be done until all the work requiring heavy machinery is completed.

Signed:

Date: