

MINUTES of THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW 6pm, 27th April 2014 St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

Rev Mel Durrant - Chair	Anne Reed	Catherine Chapman – Treasurer
Sheila Bradley	Bill & Trish Chorley	Peter Goldstone
Gillian Wadge	Anne McCall	Mike Carter
Rev Paul Skinner	Mary & Paul Bishop	John Cullingford
Margaret Durrant	Mike Dyer	Maureen Penrose
David & Janette Salmons	Mary & Angus Macleod	Jackie Molnar
Stella Symes	Christine & Roy Warner	28
Caroline Seaton	Maureen & David Lockyer	

Apologies; Annie Dyer, Tim & Christine Reynolds, Heather Eynon, Chris Wadge Jean Mayne, Grace & George Jackson, Jenny Gordon

The meeting opened with Psalm 30 and prayers

Vestry Meeting

- Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting** held on 21st April 2013.
Proposed: John Cullingford, Seconded: David Salmons – All agreed
- Election of Churchwardens** – Thanks to Sheila for all her work over this year.
Nominations: Sheila Bradley and Roy Warner – All agreed

Annual Meeting

- Minutes of the PCC Annual Meeting** held on 21st April 2013.
Proposal: Accept the minutes (with changes as discussed – see below)
Proposed: Christine Warner, Seconded: Stella Symes – All agreed
- Matters arising**
 - It was pointed out that the discussion about Broadband was omitted – this was included under AOB
 - Members approved the finance report, but the accounts, at the time, had not been audited. They were subsequently audited and are available from Catherine Chapman.
 - Questions were raised about how the 'Share' is calculated. Details are on the Diocesan website.
- Electoral Roll Report** – This year the number stands at 72. Thanks were expressed to Bill Chorley.
- Elections to the PCC** – as there are fewer than 100 members on the electoral roll we have 9 elected members, who each serve for 3 years, as well as those who are on the PCC as a result of their role in the parish. Those who were on the PCC in 2013 were:
Rev Mel Durrant, Rev Paul Skinner as Assistant Priest, David Salmons (Deanery and Diocesan Synod), Ted Cox (Deanery Synod), Sheila Bradley as Churchwarden,
Elected members were Paul Bishop, Clair Brown, Bobbie Carter, Sue Curtis, Peter Goldstone, Stella Symes, Maureen Penrose. Roy Warner.
Members co-opted were John Cullingford (as Reader, LLM) and Catherine Chapman as Treasurer
Maureen Penrose and Peter Goldstone step down this year.
Nominations: Jackie Molnar. Accepted
- Deanery and Diocesan Synod Reports** – Reports from both synods were circulated. David Salmons and Ted Cox were thanked for their work on the Deanery Synod. Both have decided not to stand for re-election. No nominations were received.
It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a verbal report at a service, occasionally, to update the congregation on Synod news. A development worker is being appointed to the deanery through Pramacare. They will be based in Blandford in an 'Advice Shop' to give information on a wide range of social issues. We are in discussion as to how this may work.
- St Mary's and St Andrew's Chapel Fabric and Inventories Report – new acquisitions**
St Andrew's: A new curtain, an outside key safe for the main door
St Mary's: new blue altar cloths, porch mat, candle snuffer, cushions for the Bishop's chairs, Roll-of-Honour. Also: restoration of the carved font cover, and a search for a new organ motor.
Proposal: Accept the reports
Proposed: Peter Goldstone, Seconded: David Lockyer, all agreed.
- Annual Accounts and Financial Summary** – Rev. Mel thanked Catherine Chapman, Treasurer, for her sterling work with the accounts and also the work of the Assistant Treasurers,

Maureen Penrose (who has kindly agreed to continue to the end of December) and Peter Goldstone.

Proposal: Acceptance of the audited accounts:

Proposed: Jackie Molnar, Seconded: Peter Goldstone All agreed.

Sheila Bradley raised the issue of numbered envelopes for managing giving.

- 8. Appointment of Independent Auditor:** The auditor of the 2013 accounts is emigrating, so during the course of the year another auditor will be found.

- 9 Secretary's Report** - The Secretary's Report was included in the financial papers.

- 10. Vicar's Report** Challenge – be positive!

As we talked about at the Lent course, what we say and do says everything about what we believe. So the challenge is to live out what we believe! We have seen lots of people being very generous in their giving over the last year – as always – for the sound and vision project, during the Lent Soup Lunches and towards our other outward giving and our everyday running. Lots of people have worked very hard and given very generously of their time, energy and money. Thank you!

And lots of people also work away in the background – the churchyard, cleaning, flowers, hospitality, home groups, church groups, the PCC. For instance, there has been a lot of work behind the scenes getting plans and permission, and raising funds for on the front path and the sound and vision systems – both of which will be done very soon!

Thank you! There is a wonderful, positive feeling about our community and our worship. Visitors always comment on it. You can feel it soaked into the buildings.

And the challenge to be positive soaks into every area of our lives. That includes the bits of our lives we don't like talking about – which includes how we use our money. I am incredibly impressed that we have managed to do so much to improve our buildings, which improves our service to the community – and without decreasing our outward giving.

And we pay a lot of money to our Share, the money that goes to Salisbury. We often grumble about this but, in fact, we get more back in services than we pay for – in particular, a vicar! We are subsidised by the wider Church of England. So our financial challenge is to keep going, as well as move on without becoming obsessed with just looking after ourselves. Looking outwards is what we do. And we are all of us in the situation where we pay for the things we want. So have to want...

But we live in a cynical age. People are looking for things to criticise. As we said – again, on the Lent course, '*Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.*' Well, this is just not true. We know words do hurt. It only takes one negative comment for the whole to be tarnished: One negative experience to undermine all the good ones. The responsibility is on all of us. The challenge is for all of us to talk and work our faith up.

I am not saying everything is perfect. And I am not saying God needs defending. What I am saying is that we are all missionaries. We are all ministers. We all show God's love every minute of our lives. Or not.

The world needs Jesus. The world has always needed Jesus, of course. And there are so many things in the world today that seek to pull us down, to make us be negative. God gives us the task of standing up for what is good – the good that is summed up in that word 'love.'

1 Corinthians 13 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

I know of a certain family who took up being grateful for Lent, and put up large piece of paper on the wall, on which they wrote every time they wanted to say '*thank you.*' I hope we will be able to do something similar thing next year. Let's all say '*thank you*' to God for all that he gives us, and work that '*thank you*' out in the way we live.

1 Thessalonians 5 - 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- 11. Any Other Business:** Mel's sabbatical will be from the beginning of July to the first half of September. Priestly duties will be carried out by Rev Paul Skinner. Mel expressed his thanks to everyone.

Superfast Broadband was discussed. After last year's meeting the vicar contacted the Archdeacon and was told we would need a Faculty. Wessex Internet was contacted, they visited, but then did not provide information needed.

Proposal: That we apply for a Faculty as soon as possible

Proposed: Mike Dyer Seconded: David Lockyer All agreed.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm with prayers.