

MINUTES of THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE
VIRGIN WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW

6pm 21st April 2013 Venue: St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley

Rev Mel Durrant - Chair	Clair Brown – Secretary	Catherine Chapman – Treasurer
Sheila Bradley	George Jackson	Peter Goldstone
Gillian Wadge	Meg & Ted Cox	Mike & Lydia Carter
Rev Paul Skinner	Mary & Paul Bishop	Michael & Caroline Catchpole
Margaret Durrant	Mike Dyer	John Cullingford
David Salmons	Mary & Angus Macleod	Maureen Penrose
Stella Symes	Christine & Roy Warner	Bobbie Carter
Jean Mayne	Maureen & David Lockeyer	Tim Reynolds
Carole Wyatt		35

Apologies for absence; Janette Salmons, Annie Dyer, Christine Reynolds, Heather Eynon, Chris Wadge

The meeting opened with Psalm 23 and prayers

Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 21st April 2012.
Proposed: Ted Cox, Seconded: Christine Warner – All agreed
2. Election of Churchwardens – Thanks to Carole for all her work over the years.
Nomination: Sheila Bradley – All agreed

Annual Meeting

1. Minutes of the PCC Annual Meeting held on 21st April 2012.
Proposed: Peter Goldstone, Seconded: Carole Wyatt – All agreed
2. Matters arising - none
3. Electoral Roll Report – Previously the roll had 98 names; this year the number has decreased to 64 names. This reflects a true and accurate record of the state of the roll. Thanks were expressed to Bill Chorley for his work on this.
4. 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 2012 were: Rev Mel Durrant, Rev Paul Skinner as curate, David Salmons and Ted Cox as Synod members, Carole Wyatt as Churchwarden, Elected members were Paul Bishop, Clair Brown, Sue Curtis, Peter Goldstone, Stella Symes and Maureen Penrose. Those finishing this time: Naomi Booth, Mike Carter and Jackie Molnar. Members seconded onto the PCC are John Cullingford (as Reader – LLM) and Catherine Chapman as Treasurer. Thanks to Ricky Ironside for his work as treasurer, and Catherine Chapman welcomed.
Nominations: Bobbie Carter and Roy Warner. Accepted
5. Deanery Synod Report - David Salmons and Ted Cox were thanked for their work on the Synod, as well as to David for the distribution of the Sarum Link.
6. St Mary's and St Andrew's Chapel Inventories Report - No changes during 2012. Recently a new curtain and Keysafe at St Andrew's, which will be included in the 2013 report.
7. Annual Accounts and Financial Summary – Share for 2012 - £30,372. Share for 2013 - £29,657. The Share is paid in 4 quarters, one being paid in the previous year i.e. 1 part – 2011, 3 parts – 2012. There was a query as to how the Share is calculated and if the reduction in the electoral roll will influence it. The Accounts were approved.
8. Appointment of Independent Auditor – *Fawcetts, St Ann Street, Salisbury*
This was necessary due to timescales, however for 2013 it is recommended that a volunteer auditor be found. Proposed: Carole Wyatt, Seconded: Ted Cox – Agreed.
This was referred back to the PCC for discussion.
9. Secretary's Report
Clair Brown reported that it had been another busy year for the PCC, meeting 7 times.

The Share has been paid and the Outward Giving is up to date. There has been a successful set-up and attendance of Teddy Bears – our drop-in for pre-school children and their carers, as well as the installation of a folding change table in the toilet. The Churchyard received a 'Highly Commended' in the annual Dorset Trust Nature Conservation Awards. The Bishop of Sherborne consecrated the extension of the Churchyard and the glorious show of snowdrops reached the heady heights of the national press, featuring in The Guardian.

Looking ahead to the next few months: the Lee Abbey Retreat weekend in May and the Church Fete on the second May Bank Holiday. The Heating, Sound and Vision projects are on going and we look forward to the resurfacing of the path from the lynch gate to the front door.

Headstone Recording is still continuing by Nick Sherman and will be on the website, with GPS locations and photos, building on the WI Survey.

10. The Vicar's Report –

Once again I have to start by thanking far too many people to name - Service Leaders, Churchwarden, the churchyard team, the musicians, flower arrangers and cleaners, the PCC, people who have organized events, our deanery reps, sides-people and coffee people, readers, LPAs, people who help with the drop-ins and garden party and street fayre and Christmas fayre, the Fellowship Group and Mothers' Union and Men's Group and Bible Study... and everyone who keeps our church running and alive. We couldn't be who we are without you!

A regular comment from visitors and from new people is how lively and friendly we are and how included they feel. And we all have a role in the worship and mission of the Church.

Nobody is better at bashing the Church than the Church. But we are still here, and we are still needed. Bishop Nicholas gave a very encouraging talk at the Diocesan Synod – I would like to pass his thoughts on to you, and he has asked for some comments back. What impressed me was hearing such positive things about the Church – and I will pass them on now.

He gives a refreshingly positive view of our place in the world, and reminds us that we are always seeking to understand our place in it, to find where God wants us to be in our context...

The Church has always been countercultural, inclusive and local. Perhaps you heard The Queen praised the C of E for creating an environment where different ideas are possible – so much so that we find it hard to imagine what it must be like in countries where different ideas are not possible. And we are an organization that exists not for itself, but for others...

The media would have us believe we are on our last legs, but we are not. So what are we here for? The Bishop of Salisbury has asked us to consider the following questions:

1. What is the 'Personality and Character' of your local church?
2. What are the priorities of your local church?
3. Is there one thing you would like to take on or develop in the coming year (recognising that may mean you may need to stop doing something else)?
4. Are there ways in which we can work together with neighbouring churches to achieve more?
5. How can we best measure the quality and impact of church life?

It was agreed to circulate the questions on email to allow more time for contemplation and feedback. *(A compilation of this feedback and the discussion has since been circulated and sent to the bishop).*

Worship is not a spectator sport. And mission is not something *other people* do. We are all missionaries. This is our challenge – we have put in a great deal of work into the fabric of our churches to make them comfortable and attractive as well as functional. This is a continuous process and we shall continue to work at this – but *each one* of us is a missionary.

This is a big building, and I have said this before, but just think that if we all invited one person to church each year, and that person stayed, within a few years our building wouldn't be big enough!

11. Any Other Business

Superfast Broadband – The possibility of using the tower as a transmitter/receiver for superfast broadband in the village was discussed.

Extension to the Churchyard – Any plans to leave it fallow or create a meadow? Ted Cox, who is in touch with the Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation, reported that the Trust has suggested to spray to rid the Hogweed, selectively trim areas and seed with wildflowers. Within the Churchyard there are some unusual species growing and it would be a good opportunity for a species identification survey. Areas around the headstones to be kept mowed. Remembrance Garden for ashes

Gillian Wadge proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar.

The meeting ended with prayer, committing this meeting to God and asking His blessing on the new PCC and asking for help in discerning His will for this place.

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OF THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN WITH GUSSAGE ST ANDREW
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1. MD expressed thanks to everyone
2. Co-opt John Cullingford onto PCC as LLM and Catherine Chapman as Treasurer
Proposed: Ted Cox, Seconded: Peter Goldstone – Agreed.
3. Appoint Vice-chairman (John Cullingford)
Secretary (Clair Brown)
Treasurer (Catherine Chapman)
Assistant Treasurers (Maureen Penrose, Peter Goldstone)
Electoral Roll Officer (Bill Chorley)
Proposed: Bobbie Carter, Seconded: Clair Brown - Agreed
4. Meetings – Suggested dates;
Wednesday 29th May, 4th Sept, 23rd Oct, 4th Dec, 22nd Jan (finance), 12th Mar, 20th April (Annual Meeting)

Standing Committee meetings tbd