

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Begbroke St Michael

Held at St Michaels' Church, Begbroke at 10.45 on 4th May 2024

Present:

In person Revd. Oliver Petter, Revd. Sue Spankie and six parishioners plus Mr Willie Black as co-opted Treasurer.

Apologies were received from 2 parishioners.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the annual meeting held on 22nd May 2022 required one amendment (that Caroline Turnbull, not Caroline Waugh, had been elected to the PCC) and were then proposed for acceptance by Richard Turnbull and seconded by Rosa Cadd

Election of Churchwardens:

The Parishioners meeting prior to the APCM had re-elected Neill Brodey and Caroline Waugh as Churchwardens.

Election of Parochial Church Council members for the coming year:

In addition to the church wardens, Rosa Cadd and Caroline Turnbull continue into the second year of their three-year term. Additionally Stan Rosenberg offered to join the PCC. This offer was gratefully accepted by the meeting. Neill Brodey to provide the appropriate paperwork for Mr. Rosenberg to complete.

Electoral Roll report:

Current roll is 12 parishioners. This does not include Mr and Mrs Rosenberg and Mr Spankie. Mr Brodey to provide blank Electoral Roll forms to the above for them to complete.

Deanery Synod report:

The Deanery Synod report was presented. Neill Brodey remains as St Michael's lay representative as part of his three-year elected period.. He explained the breadth of topics covered by the meetings, including discussion on the crisis in Palestine and the application of "Living in Love and Faith" in our Deanery. He welcomed others to join him in future meetings.

Financial statements:

Willie Black, having taken over the role of Treasurer from Jenny Hands, presented the financial results for the first time. The Rector thanked him for his efforts to get to grips with the numbers of both Begbroke and Shipton.

The results are skewed by three items in particular.

1. We were blessed with a one-time legacy from someone who used to live in the village and consequently have an extraordinary income of £44,002.
2. We were short of funds to pay the £11,800 Parish Share in full until the legacy arrived. By using £1,300 of the legacy we were able to pay the share in full for the first time in several years.
3. We needed to pay £24,055 for the last of the external stonework repairs, not all of which was available in cash at the time and so borrowed £3,131 of the legacy to complete the payment. (Post Script : Since the 2023 year end, we have received a £6,300 VAT refund, courtesy of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and so

the £3,131 has been credited back to the current account, leaving approximately £3,170 still in the McCann Appeal Fund.)

In general terms therefore, 2023 expenditure, including full payment of the Parish Share, exceeded 2023 income by about £1,300. Thank you to everyone who has in any way contributed to our income in 2023. Our expenses are not quite in balance, but they are close.

The PCC has not yet decided how to utilise the legacy, but will in general terms allocate some to restoration and repair, while allowing the remainder to supplement our planned giving and collections etc.

The independently examined accounts were accepted, having been proposed by Neill Brodey and seconded by Rosa Cadd.

Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Andrew Donaldson will be asked to perform this role again for the coming year.

Vicar's report:

Revd. Petter commented on some key points from his annual report which is available on the website;

1. 2023 brought the blessing of Sue and Gordon Spankie to our benefice, just as Jim Turner stepped away from presiding at regular services.
2. Richard Turnbull has been invaluable in supporting with preaching, with celebration of the eucharist and also with co-leading study groups.
3. Our congregation has not grown significantly, but we do have some new faces and the congregation offer a huge welcome of love and caring to all who enter the building.
4. The Tuesday groups have been a great success within the Begbroke and Yarnton parishes in particular. Perhaps that group of people could build on this with a Sunday afternoon service of the word or something similar.
5. He thanked everyone who plays a part in keeping the church looked after and loved.

Churchwardens' report:

Neill Brodey reported that having completed the repairs to exterior stonework in 2023, our plan for 2024 is to tackle some of the repair and refurbishment inside the church. The external repairs had taken a while to complete but should keep the building watertight for another few decades. Thanks were given for the work of Conservation Architects and Classic Builders.

Safeguarding matters

Caroline Waugh reported that there were no issue or concerns. We are still not engaged in unsupervised work with children. We should however continue to pay attention to those adults who may be vulnerable in our parish.

Other business:

We discussed the opportunities presented by the new A44 crossing when it is complete. This will remove a barrier to people visiting the church and we should find ways to encourage people to use the church.

- One suggestion was to have a sign in the village giving the opening times and another was to have a sign at the end of St Michaels Lane. These ideas will be picked up by the PCC.

- We discussed organising a strawberry tea in the churchyard in the summer as these events have been well received in the past.
- Another gentle form of outreach will be the planned benefice walks. These will combine walking and reflection on a number of possible paths between each church. The first one will be 26th May from Begbroke to Shipton.
- We could use more social media, including streaming the services to the Facebook page from St Michael's as well as St Bartholomew's
- Inside the church it was suggested that we could have some laminated invitations to prayer and encourage people to fill in small cards requesting prayers for individuals alongside the votive candles.

Further into the future, we should also consider how we will welcome residents of the new housing. There are examples of best practice within the diocese and again the PCC will pick up these issues during the coming year.

Finally Revd. Petter asked us how we would describe God's work at Begbroke. We suggest that we exhibit love in our welcome and interest in visitors, making them welcome and hopefully encouraging them to return and deepen their understanding of our faith. We also care for our fellow parishioners, spreading word if they are in need of support.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next PCC Meeting

The first PCC meeting of the new committee will be confirmed shortly.