

**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, OFFHAM**

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting, including the Annual Vestry Meeting,**

**held in the Church on Sunday 26 March 2023 at 9.15 a.m.**

19 members of the congregation were present and the meetings were chaired by Rev David Green (Team Vicar).

		<b>Actions</b>
1	Apologies for absence were received from Gary Cowan, Julie Casburn, Sarah Hales-Marshall, Robert Hales, Mike Rowe and Eileen Rowe	
<b>VESTRY MEETING</b>		
2	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May 2022</b> 2.1 The Minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Jane Jordan, seconded by Stephen Betts. Unanimously approved. 2.2 There were no matters arising.	
3	<b>Resolution relating to Churchwardens Measure 2001</b> The resolution was not required as there was no churchwarden standing for election again who has served more than six years.	
4	<b>Election of Churchwardens</b> Rev David reported that two nominations for Churchwarden had been received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jane Jordan, proposed by Eileen Rowe, seconded by Hilda Bodley</li><li>• Sonja Pitcher, proposed by Sally Biggs, seconded by Ken Jordan.</li></ul> Since there were two spots and two nominations, Rev David declared Sonja and Jane duly elected. They were thanked for standing. Rev David also took time to thank Stephen Betts for his many years of service as a Churchwarden. The Meeting thanked Stephen for all his efforts on the church's behalf.	
5	<b>Any other business</b> There was no other business.	
<b>ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING</b>		
2	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May 2022</b> 2.1 The Minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Jane Jordan, seconded by Stephen Betts. Unanimously approved. 2.2 There were no matters arising.	
3	<b>Closing nominations for PCC</b> 3.1 Rev David reported that he had received two nominations for PCC and two for the Deanery Synod. He asked if anyone else wished to stand. There were no other nominations and so nominations were closed.	

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### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting, including the Annual Vestry Meeting,

4	<p><b>The Reports</b></p> <p>4.1. <u>Electoral Roll</u></p> <p>There are 55 people on the Electoral Roll which is down one from 2022.</p> <p>4.2. <u>A report on the last year for the PCC and the Parish</u></p> <p>Rev David presented the 2022 annual report of the year and mentioned his sabbatical, the arrival of a Curate, the formation of the Kent Downs and Malling Team and the process for the appointment of a Team Rector.</p> <p>Questions were asked in the Q&amp;A under section Any Other Business.</p> <p>4.3. <u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>Ken Jordan presented the 2022 financial accounts as detailed in the APCM paperwork. He noted that costs had risen by 7% in the last year, no doubt part of the wider cost-of-living difficulties in the UK at present. He said that while our finances were in reasonable shape, we had received a couple of significant bequests that did skew the figures more positively than would otherwise have been the case and vigilance is needed to ensure that we stay financially secure.</p> <p>We purchase our utilities through a consortium run by the Church of England, which gives us an advantageous price. In winter, at current prices, it costs approximately £25 to heat the church on a Sunday and approximately £25 a month for electricity.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>4.4. <u>Churchwardens Report</u></p> <p>Jane Jordan presented the 2022 annual report and took time to thank Rev David, Rev Jim, Rev Stewart, Rev Kelly and Margaret Moore for all their help in leading services. She also thanked everyone who gives of their time, skills and finances to support St Michael's.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>4.5. <u>Sunday School Report</u></p> <p>Rev David presented the 2022 annual report and noted that Forest Church had been a welcome development for the children but was currently in abeyance because of a lack of leaders. Sunday School and the All-Age service remain in good shape. He also noted that, as part of the new Team, a Youth Group had been established and they were making a good start to life together with 15 to 20 young people across the local area gathering for fellowship and teaching.</p> <p>4.6. <u>Deanery Synod Report</u></p> <p>Jane Jordan noted that Deanery Synod had met three times in the last year to discuss a range of matters pertaining to our local area and the wider church, including eco-church and the arrival of Bishop Jonathan.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>4.7. <u>Diocesan synod Report</u></p> <p>Rev David noted that Diocesan Synod had also met three times in the last year. Financial matters were again a priority as well as the arrival of Bishop Jonathan as Bishop of Rochester as we begin to discuss and plan for the way ahead under his leadership. He also noted that the proposals around <i>Living in Love and Faith</i> had been something of a priority in the wider church. There were no questions.</p>
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5	<p><b>Elections and appointments</b></p> <p><u>5.1 Election of PCC and Deanery Synod representatives</u></p> <p>Rev David noted he had received two nominations for the three available places on the PCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Betts, proposed by Sally Biggs, seconded by Ken Jordan.</li> <li>• Alison Phillip, proposed by Jane Jordan, seconded by Stephen Betts.</li> </ul> <p>Since there were more spots available than nominations, the two people nominated were duly elected uncontested. Both were thanked for standing.</p> <p>Rev David also reported he had received two nomination for the two available places on the Deanery Synod.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Jordan, proposed by Eileen Rowe, seconded by Hilda Bodley</li> <li>• Sonja Pitcher, proposed by Sally Biggs, seconded by Ken Jordan</li> </ul> <p>Since there were more spots available than nominations received, Jane was duly elected uncontested and thanked for continuing to serve in this way.</p> <p><u>5.2 Appointment of independent examiner for accounts</u></p> <p>Tony Young, Pepingstraw Close, Offham, was unanimously appointed as Independent examiner.</p>	
6	<p><b>Questions and open discussion on matters relating to the life of the church</b></p> <p>Pat Lander asked if the PCC could give consideration to placing solar panels on the church roof. Given the rising costs of energy, it would be a way of not having to use gas or fossil-fuel powered electricity. Rev David noted that Dioceses and Heritage Groups had been initially reluctant to allow churches to use solar panels but that was now starting to change. He said it was definitely something that PCC could look at in the coming year.</p> <p>David Godfrey asked if the new Bishop of Rochester was coming to Offham. Rev David responded that he had not been invited yet and there was nothing specific in the diary, although Bishop Jonathan would be leading a Confirmation Service for our Deanery later in the year and would be a good chance for St Michael’s people to meet him and receive his ministry.</p> <p>David Godfrey asked if we could do more Tower Tours since it had been an interesting and worthwhile fund-raiser last year. Rev David agreed and said that he hoped we might be able to do it again once the weather improves and provided Stewart Biggs was able to assist and guide. Stewart agreed that he could help.</p>	<p>DG/PCC</p> <p>DG/PCC</p> <p>PCC/SB</p>
7	<p><b>Thank you</b></p> <p>On behalf of the wider church community at St Michael’s, Rev David expressed his thanks to everyone who contributes their time, talents and treasure to the life of our church and the people of Offham. For fellow Ministers, Churchwardens, PCC members, our Treasurer and our PCC Secretary, and to all who contribute in whatever large or small, thanks were made.</p>	
8	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
9	<p><b>Closing prayer</b></p> <p>Since the meeting took place in the context of a service of divine worship, prayers then continued into the rest of the time together.</p>	

The meeting finished at 10.20 a.m.