

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, WELWYN GARDEN CITY

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners, followed by the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 24 April 2022**

Present: The Rev'd Jenny Fennell, Vicar, and parishioners including:

Richard Blanch, Jennifer Blanch, Jennifer Witt, Margaret Hindle, Miriam Nendick, Nikki Clare, Elizabeth Hyde, Pui San Apling, Amanda Williams, Tony Porter, Paul Dunstan, Monste Day, Carol Jager, Fiona Burke, Alison Paterson, Pamela Hawkins, Cathy Bloye, Graham Bloye, Jan Nafzger, Chris Marlowe, Sarah Bucknell, Christine Phillips, Heather Perrin, Craig Lowes, Julie Lowes, David Burling, Lynn Burling, Alec Rhodes, John purgen, Anthony Packer, Nigel Cox, Sally Ewers, Michelle Boylan, Carole Sharp, Mary Jackson, Vi Shannon, Judith Claxon, Susan Marsh, Cynthia Warrilow, Sue Welton, Janet Turnbull, Andrew Watkinson, John Butler, Carolyn Annand, Anthea Salmon, Will Brimley, Rob Smith, Barbara Pavyer, Eric Pavyer, Sarah Branwhite

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Alison Daniels, Rachel Hickey, Tony Boon, Julie Owens, Stuart Richardson, Annonie Butler
- 2. Legal Notice**
Jenny Fennell confirmed that all legal notices required had been displayed
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 May 2021**
The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2021 we signed as a true record
- 4. To confirm Amanda Williams and Rob Smith in their roles as Churchwardens**
Amanda Williams and Rob Smith were confirmed in their roles as Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2021 were signed as a true record

2. To receive a report on the numbers entered on the Electoral roll St Francis electoral roll – report for the APCM 24 April 2022

The Electoral roll has been kept under review since the formal revision made in the May 2021 APCM and the PCC have been informed of all changes. A formal revision was made prior to this APCM.

All legal notices required by the Rules have been displayed and dispatched as appropriate.

The names of those who are now on the roll, and those removed since the May 2021 revision, have been on display for the past 14 days. An electronic copy of the roll is held in the Parish Office and a paper copy is also available there too for enquirers.

There are now 185 names on the roll, 101 are resident in the parish and 84 are non-resident.

Richard Blanch
Electoral Roll Officer

Rev'd Jenny Fennell thanked Richard for his report and work during the year.

3. To confirm Assistant Churchwardens

Stuart Richardson was confirmed as Assistant Churchwarden and Rev'd Jenny Fennell thanked him for all his hard work and support, we wouldn't know what to do without him. Rev'd Jenny Fennell said there is a vacancy for an Assistant Churchwarden and if anyone would like to be considered for this they could be co-opted on to the team.

4. To appoint Sidesmen and Team Leaders

The lists of team leaders and teams were read out by Rev'd Jenny Fennell

5. To elect six representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Four candidates were nominated:

Sarah Branwhite, Julie Lowes, Nigel Cox and Graham Bloye. As there were six vacancies these four candidates were elected, leaving two unfilled vacancies. Rev'd Jenny Fennell said the PCC decides how the church operates and that

opinions were valued, being on the PCC was not a tick box exercise and it really does make a difference to those who are part of the community.

Rev'd Jenny Fennell also thanked those who had stood down for their hard work and commitment.

6. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, and a statement of the funds and property of the Council and to reappoint the examiner and approve the Budget for 2022.

see Annual Report and Financial Statements document.

The 2021 Accounts (A copy of the Treasurer's Report has been placed on file with the APCM documents for 2022)

Will Brimley asked that the Accounts for 2021 to be adopted after giving an overview and an opportunity for questions.

John Butler proposed and Craig Lowes seconded the motion that they should be adopted. All present were in favour and there were no abstentions.

The Budget for 2022 (Please see Will Brimley's accompanying document)

Will Brimley gave an overview of the last 12 months and the impact that COVID-19 was still having on income.

Craig Lowes proposed and Amanda Williams seconded the motion to that the 2022 Budget should be adopted. All present were in favour and there were no abstentions.

Will Brimley also proposed that Clare Parker be adopted to continue as Examiner of the accounts for 2022. Carolyn Annand seconded this proposal. All present were in agreement.

Will Brimley also thanked the Finance team for their continued support.

7. To note receipt of the reports from the various Church Groups (limited this year due to the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions)

A copy of the statutory required reports have been put on file on the SFC website. Rev'd Jenny Fennell noted that the number continued to be reduced this year as most of the groups had still not been able to recommence due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions.

These include a statement that: the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

8. To receive the Chairman's Report

Rev'd Jenny Fennell stated that it was two years since the last Chairman's report due to the pandemic and that it had not been easy for any of us but she was extremely grateful to the Ministry Team, Children and Families Team, the Wardens, Treasurer and team, the PCC, Paul Dunstan for his enormous level of support and expertise when everything had to go online suddenly, and the many others who had supported her and truly pulled together to make things work. A team is always greater than the sum of its parts – Thank you!

Rev'd Jenny Fennell also stated that we were saying goodbye to Fiona Burke, Rebecca Peters, Callum Williams, Alice Elder and Paul Dunstan as PCC members and thanked them for serving the PCC faithfully and for their time and talents over the past years.

Rev'd Jenny Fennell then gave an overview of the highlights from the past year:

- restarting of Thursday Lunches and Coffee for All
- Christmas services welcomed many back into church along with Holy Week services and Easter Day service
- many other acts of worship, mission and have taken place with funerals, baptisms and CTF (this was different but good to have back)
- since September working with Beth Ann from Young Life and been working in Stanborough School twice week which is increasing our work with Young people
- work with children and youth continues to strengthen and improve, with schools week continuing to be a wonderful opportunity for mission, education and increasing relationships with all at Applecroft
- maintenance of the church building and hall is always a big and expensive task and a lot of essential work and some improvements have taken place such as redecorating the hall and the installation of the new audio visual equipment
- we have seen Robin Coxon retire after many, many years of service and we have welcomed Michelle Boylan as our new Assistant Organist
- a huge thank you as well to Eric Pavyer for not just stepping in and becoming our Interim Director of Music but for doing so with such sensitivity and enthusiasm

And the challenges as we move forward:

- how can we continue to transform this community into one where all are nurtured and welcomed in
- fundraising and community events have not happened for a while; with the exception of the scaled back CTF, these events are important for us and the wider community and act as a form of mission
- our finances have taken a big hit during the pandemic, as they have for many churches. Our Stewardship Campaign is being prepared and will begin in May or June. It will need to focus on our financial situation as well as our time and talents
- important that as we emerge from the pandemic we are not just concerned with getting things back to how they were but that we grow. The last few years have shown that we can adapt
- we are a place that is continuing to welcome new families but aware that the pressures on these families is very different now than it was just two years ago. Nikki and her team are working hard to adapt to these new circumstances, talking to parents and families. We need to continue to support her in this.
- those at the older end of spectrum have experienced the last few years differently and have their own needs, with many feeling that their needs are being fully met. We need to look at what we can offer as a community to support all ages

9. Any other Business

Two further candidates were nominated at this point in the meeting for the two unfilled vacancies on the Parochial Church Council

Cathy Bloye and Nikki Clare, as there were two unfilled vacancies earlier in the meeting these two candidates were elected.