

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 23rd April 2023**

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

Amanda Williams, Simon Fennell, Barbara Pavyer, Eric Pavyer, Margaret Hindle, Jennifer Witt, Miriam Nendick, John Butler, Sally Ewers, Tony Boon, Andrew Watkinson, Janet Turnbull, Rachel Wakefield, Zoe Jasko, Montse Day, Anthony Packer, Scully Brimley, Margaret Donnell, Pam Doyle, Fiona Burke, Cathy Bloye, Graham Bloye

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Stuart Richardson, Jan Nafzger, Margaret Breeze, Gavin Johnstone, Rachel Basch, Richard Blanch
- 2. Legal Notice**
Jenny Fennell confirmed that all legal notices required had been displayed
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2022**
The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2022 were signed as a true record
- 4. To confirm Carol Jager and Rob Smith in their roles as Churchwardens**
Carol Jager and Rob Smith were confirmed in their roles as Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2022 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 23rd April 2023

The Electoral roll has been kept under review since the formal revision made in the April 2022 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 April 2022 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 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 Canon 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 Canon Jenny Fennell thanked him for all his hard work and support, we wouldn't know what to do without him. Rev'd Canon Jenny Fennell said there is a vacancy for an Assistant Churchwarden and if anyone would like to be consider taking this on, they could be co-opted on to the team.

4. To appoint Sidesmen and Team Leaders

The lists of sidespeople and team leaders and were read out by Rev'd Canon Jenny Fennell and agreed

5. To elect four representatives to the Deanery Synod

Three candidates were nominated:

Anthony Boon, John Butler and Pui San Apling. As there were four vacancies these three candidates were elected, leaving one unfilled vacancy. Rev'd Canon

Jenny Fennell thanked those who had stood down for their hard work and commitment.

6. To elect three representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Three candidates were nominated:

Rachel Basch, Gavin Johnstone and Jo Dunstan. As there were three vacancies these three candidates were elected, leaving no unfilled vacancies. Rev'd Canon 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 Canon Jenny Fennell also thanked those who had stood down for their hard work and commitment.

7. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, and a statement of the funds and property of the Council and to reappoint the examiner and approve the Budget for 2023.

see Annual Report and Financial Statements document.

The 2022 Accounts (A copy of the Treasurer's Report has been placed on file with the APCM documents for 2023)

Will Brimley asked that the Accounts for 2022 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 2023 (Please see Will Brimley's accompanying document)

Will Brimley gave an overview of the last 12 months but we still need more financial support and we need to understand the financial constraints.

Alison Daniels asked if the parish share had been paid in full and whether there had been any consideration to paying a reduced share. Will Brimley replied that this had been discussed at PCC and it was not something the PCC wanted to do as there were consequences to doing this.

Craig Lowes proposed, and Amanda Williams seconded the motion to that the 2023 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. Jennifer Witt seconded this proposal. All present were in agreement.

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

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

A copy of the statutory required reports have been put on file on the SFC website. Rev'd Canon 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 limitations.

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.

9. To receive the Chairman's Report

Rev'd Canon Jenny Fennell stated that she was continually amazed at the number of people involved in running the church. She thanked the church wardens for all their help and support, thanking Amanda Williams in particular as she was standing down as a church warden. There was a warm round of applause from those at the meeting.

Rev'd Canon Jenny was extremely grateful to the Children and Families Team, Treasurer and team, the PCC and the many others who had supported her and truly pulled together to make things work. She also thanked the PCC for their willingness to engage in open discussion.

Rev'd Canon Jenny Fennell also stated that we were saying goodbye to Montse Day, Rachel Hickey and Louise Viner as PCC members and thanked them for serving the PCC faithfully and for their time and talents over the past years.

Rev'd Jenny also thanked Richard Blanch for the many years he had served as Electoral Roll Officer as he was standing down. She also thanked him for many ways he had served St Francis, and he and Jenny would be missed by many as they are moving away from the parish. A new Electoral Roll Officer would be appointed at the first meeting of the new PCC.

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

- Music – this has been a huge source of celebration and very high quality. The choir week in Salisbury was very successful and they were now preparing for July when they will be in St Pauls and Westminster. Eric Pavyer had been appointed as interim Director of Music and Michelle as Assistant Director of Music.
- Safeguarding Team – as always Rev'd Jenny was grateful to Alison Paterson and her team for all that they do to keep us safe and compliant.
- It's lovely to see the different church groups starting to come back together, such as Thursday Lunches, Coffee for All, Wild Church, Frankies @5, Rev'd Jenny thanked everyone involved.

Rev'd Jenny then focused on the challenges ahead, there are many things to focus on. We need to nurture the community, looking at how we become a community again and welcoming to all. We also need to take an imaginative approach to increasing our income. It is also the first time in many years that St Francis would be without any Readers or a Trainee, but we can adapt.

Rev'd Jenny then thanked Rev'd Rachel for all she had done during her time at St Francis and that she would be moving on to Redbourne.

10. Any other Business

John Butler gave an overview of Friends of St Francis. It is not the PCC and is a separate charity that provides money for extra things in church such as the banners, vessels, noticeboards, etc. Money comes from individual donors which is also separate to any other regular giving. This is because some want to support the work of the church but are not always within the mainstream of the church.

The Friends of St Francis as made up of a small group of trustees, Jackie Giberti, Pui San Apling, Mary Jackson, John Butler, Jan Nafzger and Rev'd Canon Jenny Fennell.

If anyone wants to help with the Friends of St Francis please do volunteer.