

St. John the Evangelist, Milford

Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday 26th March 2023

28 members of the Church, including officials, attended the above meeting.

Welcome by Revd. Clive Potter who opened the meeting with prayers.

Appointment of Miranda O'Brien to act as Clerk for both meetings was agreed.

Apologies for absence:

Lynne Callender; Eva Smith; Pier Farrell.

Minutes of Vestry meeting 2022

Minutes were approved and signed by Revd. Clive Potter as a true record.

Matters arising

None

Election of Churchwardens

Clive thanked the Churchwardens for all they have done and do. The meeting went on to elect: -

Judy Downing – proposed by Miranda O'Brien and seconded by Bill Braid.

Jackie Hills - proposed by Miranda O'Brien and seconded by Bill Braid.

Both elected unanimously.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Apologies for absence:

As above.

Minutes of Annual Meeting 2022

Approved and signed by Revd. Clive Potter as a true record.

Matters arising

Nothing further to add.

The Vicar's Annual Report

As read in the report pack.

Clive thanked again everyone in the Church for their support.

Report of the Churchwardens

As read in the report pack.

Jackie presented the Church Log and Terrier which were signed off by Clive and witnessed by Frances Cousins.

Judy said that she and Jackie had done the inventory and nothing was missing. The wooden ladder, which the Insurance Company had complained about, had been got rid of.

Presentation of Accounts

As read in the report pack.

Nick highlighted some key points.

Nick mentioned that our Parish Share is now 100% of our income. We did however get £1,000 from the Diocese as Covid-19 support and also £1,000 towards increased energy costs.

The deficit was just over £16,000 so he had to draw £15,000 from our reserves in order to keep afloat.

Nick said that for 2023 the Parish Share was due to increase by £8,000. At a PCC meeting the PCC had agreed to keep the Parish Share at 2022 rates as we cannot afford the next increase. This means that by the end of 2023 we will owe the Diocese £8,000.

The Quinquennial inspection is due this year and we are hoping that they will find nothing serious to be done. We do have about £5,000 for it.

Nick explained that the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) is now on Page 1 and the Balance Sheet is on Page 2.

The current assets from the Church Board of Finance are down from £202,000 to £178,000 due to the Stock Market. This is the Denyer Bequest and the Miss Price Bequest.

We had a profitable Jumble Sale and also the stalls at the Village Fete. The Christmas events and the Christmas Quiz brought in much needed funds. The Christmas Quiz money will have its own fund for 2023 as it is going towards the Church Doors project.

The hire of the Church Centre, mostly by U3A, was up from 2021. This was as a result of things slowly getting back to normal after the Pandemic.

Nick then went on to our Outward Giving. We try to give about 10% of our income to good causes. We mostly give to local charities such as Chandler (our Church school); the Cellar and Skillway; and the Samson Centre. We did have 1 Overseas Benefit Charity, CHIKS, but this has dissolved as a result of the Pandemic so we have switched to MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). At the end of this Nick had £500 left over so, with the agreement of the PCC, he sent it off to Shooting Stars Chase.

Patricia Boynton then asked about how long we can last if we have to keep raiding our reserves. Clive explained that most parishes in the CoE were in the same position and went on to explain about the Parish Share. Our previous cap has been removed by the Diocese and so the quota is rising

annually. As a result of not increasing our Parish Share the Diocese will send their Mission Enablers to discuss our finances.

There was then a discussion about ways we can raise funds apart from doing a Stewardship Campaign which we did not so long ago. Eileen Notley's contribution to Porch Produce does well as does money for coffee after the Sunday 10.00 Service. In 2022 they raised £500. The Church is here to serve the community.

Bill Braid said that when he was doing our last Stewardship Campaign, he did a number of projections of when we would run out of money. We have put off this crunch by a year or two, but people may not want to give more money to the General Fund if it is just going to the Diocese.

Clive mentioned that there could be parish boundary changes. Relations and communications with the Diocese are not good. However, the Archdeacon of Surrey has said that our parish is too important to lose a full-time vicar even though the Parish Share figures imply that all we can afford is a part-time or shared vicar.

Nick then explained the cost of a vicar and how much of our Parish Share goes towards supporting Clive (about 70%).

Miranda said maybe we should get the Bishop to come and visit St John's.

John Sandy then said that he had been on the Diocesan Finance Committee from 1993–1997 and things don't seem to have changed. Clive said that the capping system was in place then.

John then thanked Nick for looking after the finance so well and this was echoed by Clare.

Nick then asked the meeting to accept and adopt the financial statements which was done. Proposed by Nick O'Brien and seconded by Judy Downing.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Nick said that Alison Sanderson, from St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park, Woking has been our Independent Examiner again this year and she has agreed to do the same for 2023. He asked the meeting for a formal vote of thanks to Alison which was unanimously given.

Clive thanked Nick for all the work he does as Treasurer.

Electoral Roll

As read in the report pack.

140 at the end of 2022.

Clive mentioned that there were some additions to come.

Report of the Proceedings of the PCC:

As read in report pack.

Clive thanked Miranda for her accuracy and promptness of the PCC Minutes.

Election of PCC members:

There was 1 vacancy on the PCC and Nick had put himself forward as a candidate.

He was proposed by Miranda O'Brien and seconded by Judy Downing.

He was elected unanimously.

Election of Deputy Churchwardens

Clive mentioned that there were 5 deputy Churchwardens:

- John Sandy
- Tricia Boynton
- Bill Braid
- Penny Clark
- Christine Bridson

Clive asked the meeting to vote for them and they agreed unanimously.

Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

As the Triennial Elections are due, we need to elect 3 Deanery Synod Representatives. Judy, Miranda and Nick are standing down. There are 2 meetings a year for 3 years.

Maddie Murray has come forward. Proposed by Judy Downing and seconded by Bill Braid.

This was agreed unanimously.

Clive mentioned that there was a new Area Dean: Rev. Chris Bessant of Haslemere. He is due to be licensed on 26th March.

Reports from the organisations (as published)

These are all in the pack but there were some comments:

- **Pastoral Team**
Clive repeated that he would like someone to come forward as a Pastoral Team Coordinator.
- **House Groups**
There are 2 current house groups: the one led by Nick which meets weekly and the one led by Jackie which meets monthly.
Barbara Steele-Perkins is looking to start a monthly house group which will look at scripture.
- **Chandler School**
Peter mentioned that the recent Ofsted inspection had gone well and the inspector was pleased with the Christian values upheld by the school.
- **Churchwardens**
Jackie added a thank you to all the clergy at St John's and especially Clive who is not just a vicar but also a friend.
The meeting agreed with her unanimously.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm with prayers.