

St John and St Luke Bilton

Minutes of the Meeting to Elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11.45am St John's Church, Bilton Lane

Present: Simon Dowson (PCC Chair), Laura Martin, David Williams, Pam Mills, Jan Johnson, Nigel Thompson, Jane Reichert, Alethea Fry, Stephen Fry, Pat Fenton, Jean Burton, Sarah Shepherd, John Carr, Val Carr, Caroline Wise, Rob Bath, Patricia Johnson, Michael Guy, Andrew McHutchon, Cathy McHutchon, Judith Hooper, Caroline Harkness, Clive Davis, Daffyd Pritchard, Jane Thompson, Fiona Dowson, Mike Illingworth, Paula Illingworth, Jenny Caldwell, Beryl Tierney, Barry Stoddard, Cathy Price, Noel Duke, Ann Moorey, Sheena Hodgeon, Rita Nuttall, Alison Sykes, Brian Sykes, Jenny Winchester, Madeline Wolfe, Phillip Holdsworth, Daniel Worsall and Helen Mayers (Secretary)

Meeting to Elect Churchwardens

1	Welcome and Opening Prayer – Simon Dowson welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.
2	Election of Churchwardens – The following 3 nominations for the position of churchwarden had been received: St John's: Nigel Thompson and Jane Reichert St Luke's: Alethea Fry There being no further nominations, the three above-named were duly proposed by Jan Johnson, seconded by Jenny Caldwell, and elected by unanimous vote of the meeting. Nominations are held in the PCC file. Simon thanked the wardens for their service, noted that it would be preferable to have a second warden at St Luke's and invited attendees to prayerfully consider if they might serve in this way.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1	Apologies for absence – Before apologies were received Simon invited the meeting to approve that our curate, Laura Martin, be permitted to take over the role of Chair for the APCM. Laura was duly approved by unanimous vote. Apologies were then received from Liz Meade, Felicity Hildred, Claire Golightly, David Brown, Emma James, Terry Harrison, Pete Fenton, Karin Shaw, Graham Shaw, Linda Williams and Paul Hooper.
2	Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th May 2022 – The minutes of the last meeting were approved, without amendment, by unanimous vote of the meeting, and there were no matters arising.
3	Electoral Roll reports from St John's & St Luke's – St John's – Jean Burton reported that, since the last APCM, 2 people had died and 8 people had joined, giving a current total on the St John's roll of 212. St Luke's – Sarah Shepherd reported that one person had died and 3 people had joined, leaving a total on the St Luke's roll of 57.
4 & 5	The Annual Report & Financial Report – The Annual Report for 2022, had previously been distributed to attendees. Laura advised the meeting that the Annual Report on church activities and the Financial Report and Accounts for 2022 should really be considered as a single document, and she invited everyone to read through them, if they had not already done so, and

	<p>consider any questions. There were no questions arising from the annual report of activities and, in the absence of the PCC Treasurer, Simon was invited to deliver the Financial Report, as follows:</p> <p>Referring to the accounts for 2022, Simon noted that there had been an increase in giving compared to 2021. He thanked all those who give regularly, especially via the parish giving scheme, which, amongst other things, makes gift aid recovery much easier. Our Gift Aid Officer, Andrew McHutchon, is now standing down and Simon thanked him for his diligent work in the role.</p> <p>It was also noted that income had increased from lettings following a period of downturn during the pandemic and that, overall and without reference to the financial arrangements for the Young People’s Worker, the accounts showed a surplus of some £2,000. But outgoings have also increased - on mission giving, parish share payments and energy costs, which will again be higher in the coming year. Building and maintenance costs will also be higher this year as reconstruction work begins on the church hall bell tower. This work will, however, be offset by a generous legacy specifically for improvements to our church buildings. On the subject of the Young People’s Worker, Simon advised that there had so far been a good response to the fundraising appeal and it was hoped this will continue in the coming year.</p> <p>Simon expressed his thanks to Vicky Iley, our new Independent Examiner, who had done a thorough job on the accounts. The figures had been approved but Vicky had noted some changes to the format of the Annual Report which need to be made to fully comply with Charity Commission regulations. He also thanked Belinda Worsell, who has taken over as Payroll Officer, and all those who count the collections each week.</p> <p>There being no questions on the accounts, Laura thanked David Brown for all his hard work over the year as PCC Treasurer and then also expressed thanks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Churchwardens for their long and diligent service, including Pat Fenton, who stood down as warden last year but had continued to support Alethea Fry as she started her term of office. - Our Deanery Synod reps, especially Jane Reichert and Pat Fenton, who were standing down after a number of years in the role. - Jean Burton and Sarah Shepherd for their work as our Electoral Roll Officers. - Claire Golightly for her leadership of the Green Team. - Emma James, for her continuing excellent work as our Young People’s Worker. <p>The meeting was then invited to formally approve the Annual Report as drawn:</p> <p>Proposed – Jane Reichert Seconded – Sarah Shepherd All in favour</p>
<p>6 & 7</p>	<p>Fabric and Deanery Synod reports –</p> <p>The Churchwardens and Deanery Synod reps had no updates to the reports already set out in the Annual Report for 2022.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Election of parochial representatives of the laity –</p> <p>To the Parochial Church Council –</p> <p>This year there were 4 possible PCC vacancies, with 2 nominations received:</p> <p>Michael Crone - proposed by Jane Reichert, seconded by Nigel Thompson</p> <p>Noel Duke - proposed by Jean Burton, seconded by Jenny Caldwell</p> <p>All candidates were elected to a full 3-year term by unanimous vote of the meeting.</p> <p>To Deanery Synod –</p> <p>There were 5 possible vacancies, with 3 nominations received:</p> <p>Caroline Wise – proposed by Sarah Shepherd, seconded by Pat Fenton</p> <p>Val Carr – proposed by Caroline Wise, seconded by Judi Hooper</p> <p>Liz Meade – proposed by Sarah Shepherd, seconded by Fiona Dowson</p> <p>All candidates were elected for a 3-year term by unanimous vote of the meeting.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Appointment of the Independent Examiner – The PCC wished to express thanks to Vicky Iley for her meticulous work in examining the accounts and her generous giving of time to do so. The meeting was informed that she would be happy to continue as the Independent Examiner and Vicky’s reappointment was put to the meeting for approval: Proposed by Val Carr, seconded by Ann Moorey. All were in favour.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Message from the Clergy (<i>delivered by the Team Rector and minuted verbatim</i>) – A few months ago I was talking to a friend who has for some time been struggling with a sense of belonging at the church that he has been part of for many years, with the hiatus that came with the lockdown causing him to look at things with fresh eyes and question what it was like and why he went. And I think that it was his assumption that the church had changed in ways he wasn’t comfortable with, but I said to him, <i>‘Maybe it’s you who has changed just as much if not more than the church’</i> – for the truth is that we evolve and grow as individuals and thus what suited us once might not suit us in the present. Now of course, the risk with saying this is that it makes church all about us and not about God and about our playing our part in his family which is the church – but nevertheless the truth is that our relationship with the church is one of constant evolution and it is one that needs working at. So, as we come to this annual meeting, I would ask all of us to take some time over the coming weeks to ask ourselves these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I still love the church/being part of it? • Did I ever love the church? • Have I fallen out of love with being part of the church? • What could I/we do to grow in love for the church? <p>Now it might seem odd to you that I am talking about our loving the church, but actually, I think to do so should be an integral part of our faith, because the church is not an institution, not a building, but a wonderfully varied family with all sorts of individuals who are our brothers and sisters, with whom we are being built up and becoming, in St Paul’s words, <i>‘in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is Christ’</i>.</p> <p>In other words, we are in this together and, as we work out our questions, and even question our certainties about faith and about the place and role of the church, we need to work out together how God would have us serve him in this place and beyond. So, we really do need each other - we need that mutual support, we need to keep on cultivating an unjudgmental, generous mindset that appreciates and welcomes difference. And this is going to be particularly true as the church as a whole, and the church here in Bilton, works out how to move forward with the opportunity and challenge of being able, in the near future, to offer blessings of same-sex marriages.</p> <p>And I think this means that I would urge us, in the coming year, to be a church and a people who resist black and white answers, binary approaches that risk separating us from each other, and instead adopt a generous and broad orthodoxy. After all, Jesus only really got cross with those who thought they knew all the answers and stood in judgment over those who didn’t think and act like them.</p> <p>And very practically when it comes to differing perspectives, I want to let you know that from the beginning of next month in both our churches we will be returning to offering the common cup at communion, not least as a sign of our unity. But there will still be some who are uncomfortable at the thought of doing so, thus we will be offering a hybrid model for the time being. I won’t go into all the details now, but in the 1st instance at St John’s it will mean having two different stations to receive, while at St Luke’s those who wish to continue to receive an intincted wafer will be invited to come forward first.</p> <p>Also, please pray for the Team Vicar shortlisting on Wednesday.</p> <p>I finish by saying thank you – many, many people contribute above and beyond – but particular mention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura – especially for all she did while I was on sabbatical • The wardens – Jane and Nigel and Alethea

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired clergy - Paul and John (also Val – Thirst) • Gill and Emma and Jan • Baptism Information team • PCC members – especially those stepping down – this year Pat and Andrew • Ian, Ruth and Fiona and the choir and our other musicians • Sunday coffee servers and the coffee morning team and the community lunch team • Bereavement team and comfort café • The flower team • The green team – well done on achieving the Silver Award • The Little Fishes team, The Well-being Café and Thirst • All who help with youth and children’s work, especially Anne Saxon at St John’s & Megan and Rebecca at St Luke’s • Cleaners • Small group leaders, especially Sarah • Service leaders • Sound team -which needs new members to operate our new video system • Fiona
11	<p>Safeguarding Policy Approval – Laura confirmed that the meeting needed to vote to continue to delegate safeguarding policy responsibilities to the PCC.</p> <p>Proposed - Jan Johnson Seconded – Jenny Caldwell All were in favour.</p> <p>Special thanks were offered to Gill Clarke, our Safeguarding Officer, for all her work in this most important area of church life, and Laura reminded the meeting that, not only must we show compliance from a legal point of view, but that we want our churches to be happy and safe places. To achieve that safeguarding has to be the responsibility of everyone.</p>
12	<p>Any other business that may properly be discussed at this meeting – No other business was raised.</p>
13	<p>Closing Prayer – Laura closed the meeting in prayer at 12.45pm.</p>

<p>PCC Meeting held immediately after APCM</p>	
<p>Present: Simon Dowson, Laura Martin, Jan Johnson, Jane Reichert, Alethea Fry, Caroline Wise, Val Carr, Rob Bath, Michael Guy and Daffyd Pritchard</p>	
<p>In attendance: Helen Mayers</p>	
<p>A brief meeting of the PCC took place straight after the APCM to elect a Treasurer and Secretary.</p>	
<p>David Brown was proposed as Treasurer and Helen Mayers as Secretary</p>	
<p>Proposed – Jan Johnson Seconded – Daffyd Pritchard All in favour.</p>	