

SWITHLAND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING was held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at the conclusion of the meeting of the Parishioners.

Present: Rev Colin Resch (Chair), Sally Allen, Virginia Aspinall, Penny Craven, Derek Cranage, Jayne Cranage, Martin Greenwood, Olga Harris, Jeff Harrison, Clive Hilton, Gary Lee, Janet Lee, Geraldine Mason, Alice Page, Lizette Pugh, Mary Toone, Christine Watts, Ali Wright

1. Apologies .

Valerie Capewell, Corinne Greenwood

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th April, 2021

Mr Cranage proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Mrs Wright, and it was agreed they be signed as a true record.

3. Reports

The 'Report for the Annual Meeting' booklet was circulated electronically as well as being made available in the church porch.

a. Electoral Roll Report

76 members were confirmed and Mrs Wright was thanked for her work as Electoral Roll Officer. It was mooted that couples getting married in St Leonard's could be added to the Roll, as they are asked to attend services regularly for six months.

Rev Resch asked for any thoughts to be passed on to Mrs Wright.

b. Acting Rector's Report

Rev Resch said it was clear from the Annual Reports that even through lockdown the church has continued to worship God and love our neighbours, both within the church and in the wider community.

Mrs Page asked how many people were involved in home visits to the sick, and Rev Resch confirmed there is a team including Alison Prince and Steve Delaforce. Olga Harris is also available for pastoral visits.

c. Churchwarden's General Report

Apologies were given that the churchwarden's report for 2020 was included in the booklet in error. Sally Allen read her report for 2021 to the meeting. She highlighted the need for a revision of the burial plan following numbering corrections to the burial register.

d. Financial Report

Valerie Capewell was thanked for her continuing work as Treasurer.

Several concerns were expressed at the size of our parish contribution, particularly in the face of diminishing income. It was confirmed that our contribution has increased steadily in recent years to keep pace with inflation, the last increase representing approximately 3%. Although our contribution is above the average, we have had the reserves to do this, but the figure is under annual consideration by the PCC who try to balance generosity with practicality. The way in which the Diocese uses its funds was queried, and it was confirmed their accounts are published and available to view but are not on their website. It was recognised that there is wealth in the village and we should try to appeal to the wider community to support the church. The upcoming funding drive will aim to address this.

e. Fabric Report

Chris Watts added that the faculty for the new gas bunker has now been submitted.

f. Deanery Synod Report

This was noted with no questions.

g. Other Reports

Safeguarding: safeguarding requirements have changed again since the last report to the PCC, and Ali Wright will keep the PCC informed.

No questions were raised on any of the other reports in the collection.

4. Elections/Appointments

a. Election of PCC Members from the laity (3 vacancies)

Four people are retiring as members of the PCC, Penny Craven, Martin Greenwood, Christine Watts, who have each served for three years, and Virginia Aspinall, who was co-opted for one year. They were all thanked for their service. Three nominations had been received for the elected vacancies (2022-2025):

Mrs Virginia Aspinall	nominated by Olga Harris, seconded by Penny Craven
Dame Hazel Byford	nominated by Olga Harris, seconded by Geraldine Mason
Mrs Olga Harris	nominated by Penny Craven, seconded by Mary Toone

There being no further nominations it was confirmed that Virginia Aspinall, Hazel Byford, and Olga Harris were all duly elected to the PCC.

Rev Resch explained a change to the regulations in that lay readers are no longer admitted as ex officio members of the PCC unless it is agreed by the Annual Parish Meeting that they be so. Mrs Pugh proposed that they should be admitted, seconded by Mrs Toone and carried unanimously.

b. Independent Examiner / Auditor

Mr Cranage proposed we continue to use Central Business Services, seconded by Mrs Allen, and this motion was carried.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Minster communities

Progress on the introduction of minster communities was queried and Rev Resch confirmed that the first trial was taking place in the parish of Launde.

5.2 Outreach

It was asked whether outreach activities are specifically included in the Annual Meeting agenda. Rev Resch confirmed that this is only through the Annual Report, but that it was clear that activities are picking up this year.

In conclusion, Rev Resch expressed his thanks to all those who have played a part in the life of the church, particularly those who assist in ministry, Olga Harris, Gary Lee, Clive Hilton, and our regular visiting ministers, Alison Prince and Steve Delaforce, who have become part of the team. He also recognised the contribution of servers, organists, choir, and those church members who support services week by week.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm