

THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT
Minutes of the MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS and ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
held on SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023.

	<p>There were 41 people in attendance. The Parishioners meeting started at 11:35am. As part of our EcoChurch initiative items have been produced by the group at the recent Messy Church session. A presentation was made by Janet Robinson: an insect box for SJWES and a bird box for HTBOT. (In collaboration with the Bridport Shed group too.) The Team Rector (DS) opened the formal meeting with prayer.</p>
A	<p><u>ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS</u></p> <p>1 DS thanked all those who she had asked to consider the role of Churchwarden; a lot of soul searching has taken place as they have considered this role. Those who have been churchwarden in the past continue to serve in many ways. The lack of nominations indicate that it's a sign of the difficulty of the role. The PCC are aware that this was likely to be the situation.</p> <p>DS offered her thanks to Heather Purse, for her service last year, although she's unable to be here today.</p> <p>No nominations had been received. DS has spoken with the Bishop of Sherborne and will liaise with the Archdeacon of Sherborne to identify a way forward.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 11:38am</p>
B	<p><u>ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING</u></p> <p>35 Electoral Roll members were in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from: Rosi Wilton, Ginny Bowley, Roy and Daphne King, Martin Whiting, Jane and Tyrone Trower, Heather Purse, Jane Dibden, Mike Gittins, John Cook, Sylvia Gardener, Yvonne and Barry Welch. Revd Lorna Johnson.</p>
1	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2022 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DB, Seconded by John Adams. All in favour.</p>
2	<p>The Electoral Roll was presented by Bridget Trump (BT), who thanked the individual officers in the local churches and also Di Sinclair for keeping the master copy.</p> <p>There were 314 members on the Electoral Roll before this year's revision, held between 8th – 23rd April 2023. As a result of this revision the current total membership of the Electoral Roll is 313. New members can be added throughout the year.</p> <p>DS offered her thanks to all who took part in keeping this list.</p>
3	<p>Janet Shaw (JS), Parish Treasurer presented the Annual Report and Accounts, previously approved by the PCC on 25 April 2023, and circulated widely.</p> <p>Thanks to all who helped, treasurers and others behind them who help the process to be carried out with confidence. Always looking at ways to streamline the process. Surplus recorded at the end of the year, due to generous gifts and legacies that the parish has received.</p> <p>DS thanked JS, the Finance Sub-Committee and BT, PCC Secretary for compiling the report. The PCC have proposed that we accept the report; it was accepted by the meeting.</p>
4	<p>There were 5 vacancies to be filled as this year is the first year of a new synod. Parish Representatives will serve until the APCM 2026.</p> <p>The following two nominations were accepted and elected: Stephen Bartlett and Philip Sturrock. Both are automatically members of the PCC.</p>

5	<p>PCC members whose term of office has concluded are Rosemary Russell and Bridget Trump. There are now 4 vacant places to fill.</p> <p>Heather Purse wants to stand for the PCC, but being unwell today we will propose her at a later date.</p> <p>The following were nominated to serve for the three-year term: Madeleine Sturrock, Jane Trower and Bridget Trump.</p> <p>The nominations were accepted, and all elected unanimously.</p> <p>DS extended her thanks to those who have completed a term of office and are standing down today; also, to those who have put themselves forward to serve.</p> <p>DS spoke of her particular thanks to RR for her 33 years of service to the PCC. In addition to being a PCC member, she was also chapel warden at SJWES, and for many years was PCC secretary. Rosemary has supported many members of the clergy through her time in office. On behalf of us all she thanked Rosemary for all that she has or will continue to do.</p>
6	<p>Fabric Report.</p> <p>The report had been approved by the PCC on 25 April 2023. It was read out by Graham Purse in HP's absence. It detailed points relating to each church building and the work completed or maintenance identified within the year.</p> <p>DS thanks to all those who do that work, it's a big responsibility continued through the ages, and is now our turn to maintain the records. Thanks to all those who maintain our buildings. The formal report was accepted. Proposed by HP, seconded by GP, all in favour.</p>
7	<p>Revd Philip Ringer presented the report from Deanery Synod.</p> <p>Proposed by PR, seconded by BT, accepted by the meeting.</p>
8	<p>The re-appointment of Scott Vevers as the Independent Examiners for the forthcoming financial year was proposed by JS, seconded by GP and passed nem con.</p> <p>DS – commented that working with Scott Vevers has improved through this second year.</p>
9	<p>Team Rector's Comments.</p> <p>DS commended the Annual Report and also the Year in the Life of the Parish 2022, an opportunity to share with each other all that has happened; a flavour of the life of our parish. It's a small town, and it's good to see what the other church congregations are doing. Today is about looking forward, identifying the challenges that face us, the opportunities to serve our community.</p> <p>Bishop Stephen's vision – Making Jesus Known, by our words, actions, the choices we make and our lives. Archbishop Justin visits this diocese in June, for a mission weekend. We are now challenged to pray for that weekend, focus to look outwards, to share Jesus' love.</p> <p>Bridport – looking outwards, prayerfully.</p> <p>We've said farewell to Revd Pete, and DS is now working with the diocese to prepare for a new colleague. Revd Helen is leaving soon; her energy and enthusiasm will be missed. Revd Kay - we pray for her in her retirement.</p> <p>Lay Ministry/Clergy team, DS thanked them for all they contribute.</p> <p>The challenges of caring for our buildings and using them for the good of others, the vacancies for CWs, joy and frustrations of being one parish and six churches while remembering our call to follow Jesus and to Make Jesus Known.</p> <p>Today let us focus on the energy and creativity of those working with children. For the 'real' work, for those who we don't see in church. Those involved in social action, pastoral visiting, Citizen's Advice and many other agencies in the town.</p> <p>For those working on our new website (soon to be launched) particularly Sue Pollock. For all our means of communication, The Bridge, our Parish News each week, phone calls keeping others connected.</p>

	<p>Those getting buildings ready for worship, for welcoming, those gathering others for prayer. Eco Church – demonstrating good news for the earth, for those who nurture our churchyards, Refreshments at events and the ministry of hospitality. Those who pray for us, for all our work, individually and in groups. For the bell ringers, musicians, house group leaders and Christian Aid supporters. All examples of outward looking activities, aim to point us out into the community, to serve – what we are for.</p> <p>All being done by you, and others. I look forward to us developing all of this.... Keep going, making Jesus known in this place.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandi Sturrock: would like to know who the members of the sub-committees are, who have contributed to the reports in The Year in the Life of the Parish 2023. BT – said that in future the lists will be more widely circulated. DS – commented that the Fabric Sub-Committee needs strong leadership; PCC to consider. 2. Sue Fryer asked if we could encourage local flower arrangers to assist us on occasions when we are doing special arrangements. DS – liked this suggestion. 3. JA – thanked DS in particular, for all that she does through her ministry in this town. 4. PR – with reference to PS’s recent induction in Jersey (when Bishop Stephen was fog-bound on the mainland), and the Dean officiated at the service. He said that a priest is called to love his people; and the people are called to love the priest. Deb – we love you. (Happy Birthday was sung to commemorate her birthday later this week.)

The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.19pm



