



Saint Michael and All Angels, Highworth with Sevenhampton and Inglesham

Minutes of APCM Meeting
 Sunday 26th May 2024 in Church
 46 adults in attendance

Agenda		Action
1	<p>Opening Prayers Phil Goodey (PG) opened with prayer and gave thanks to Phil Sapwell (PS) and Pam Linfield (PL) for making the transition to Highworth so easy. PG has moved many times, and this has been the easiest and smoothest transition into a new ministry. Thanks for looking after the church and church family and to the retired clergy for their guidance.</p>	
2	<p>Annual Parishioners Meeting Election of Churchwardens – nominations for the post of Churchwarden received for Pamela Linfield and Philip Sapwell. Pamela Linfield – proposed by Jean Ashton, seconded by John Spencer, <i>passed unanimously</i>. Philip Sapwell – proposed by Ann Crowley, seconded by Jean Ashton, <i>passed unanimously</i>. Assistant Warden is not an official appointment, but extra hands are always very much needed. Andy Vizer, Di and Peter Dredge and Vicky Jackson all happy to assist.</p> <p>PS – PL and I have been in position for five years and this will be their last year. It's important for everyone to think and pray on whether they may be called to take over in 2025 as this gives opportunity to have a succession plan for next year.</p> <p>PG – in an ideal world, please let the church know by September so they can shadow PL and PS to make a seamless transition.</p>	
3	<p>Annual Parochial Meeting 3.1 Apologies received from Colin and Heather Gunn, Peter Hinton Eileen Sutton, Di and Peter Dredge, Don and Rowena Leonard 3.2 Any Other Business – Current policy of Diocese for receiving communion 3.3 Minutes of APCM of Sunday 21st May 2023 and matters arising - none <i>Phil Goodey proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and passed unanimously by those present.</i></p> <p>3.4 Electoral Roll Report 66 people on roll for 2023-2024. We will need to complete a new roll again next year. Only people on the electoral roll are entitled to vote to elect people to PCC.</p> <p>3.5 PCC, Deanery Synod and Fabric Reports Hard copies available in church. Apologies from Julie as she was on holiday and forgot to ask for the APCM Report to be sent out with the weekly bulletin.</p> <p>3.7 Finance Report Stephen Fasham – income was £172,000, a decrease of £5,000 in 2022. Expenditure was £188,000 which is clearly a problem. We give thanks for those who give faithfully but the reality is income is down, inflation is up, and energy costs continue to rise. The church hall is now acting as a drain on our resources. It looks like income exceeds expenditure but doesn't</p>	

reflect the other issues. It's a health and safety issue and needs to be looked at by the PCC. It is no longer used by the church. We are blessed by Clintons, and this allows us to do things we wouldn't ordinarily be able to do as a church of this size. We need to prayerful consider of how we give and support the church. Stephen is standing down as treasurer. Stephen looks at the bigger picture and Ann Crowley continues to do the details. We are looking for two people to take on the role, one to look objectively at the bigger picture and someone to look at the day-to-day details. Ann would like to give some of what she is doing up. We are looking at a new financial system, Xero, which will make the role much easier to manage and report. A team of people is always helpful. A token of thanks was given to Stephen and Ann.

3.8 Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts

UHY – Ross Brooke – we pay more for the accounts now than a few years back. That reflects the cost of putting the accounts together and we no longer receive a discounted church rate. Stephen proposed to continue using UHY – Ross Brooke for the coming year and we will keep looking at alternatives. All in favour.

3.9 Election of parochial representatives to the Parochial Church Council and Deanery Synod

Proposed:

Re-elect Bobby Bailey, Stephen Fasham, Ruth Huband and Jill Elbourn
Elect Clive Webb. As Clive has only recently completed an electoral roll form, he will sit in for 6 months and then become a full PCC member. All in favour.
Thanks to Julie for taking minutes and all she does in church and the office.
Thanks to Jo for all she does in the office. Jo is also admin for the Area Dean and is helping cover Parks and Walcot following a sudden bereavement within their admin team.

Bobby Bailey is happy to be re-elected
Sandra Goodey is experienced in Deanery Synod and will be joint rep for Blunston and Highworth. All in favour to elect both.

3.10 Date of next PCC Meeting

Immediately following the APCM and 15th July at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

3.11 Appointment of Sidesmen/ welcomers

The sides people help the Wardens and welcome people into church. It is an important role as it gives the initial impression to those coming into church. Please consider if you would be willing to stand and the role can be taken up at any time in the year.

Di and Peter Dredge proposed to join the rest of the team, Vicky Jackson, Phil Sapwell, Pam Linfield, George Tomkins, Ron Oakley, Jill Elbourn, Heather Gunn, Peter and Patricia Croton.

PS confirmed the position is open to younger people as well and any youngsters from the youth group would be most welcome.

Phil Sapwell proposed that these church members *be appointed as Sidesmen/Welcomers for the next year and passed unanimously by those present.*

3.12 Church Report/Mission Plan 2023/2024

Away day at home leaflet – we started the day reflecting on the past, present and future. People were split into groups to look at different areas of church and talked about the past, present and future. People moved around tables. Everyone was asked to jot down thoughts and ideas on post-it notes. We had hundreds of post-it notes with a wide variety of ideas and opinions. John 15 was used as a focus for the day.

It was a powerful service on the Sunday, full of energy and life and owned by the congregation by writing the prayers, reflecting on the passage and choosing the hymns. The interactive nature of the service made it special and enjoyable. What that says to PG is the word abide. We have a wonderful church building and fellowship and need to keep putting Christ at the heart of all we do, in prayer, worship, outreach, community.

Transforming Church. Together (TCT) is the shape and vision of the Diocese across all the churches, not just in Bristol. The purpose is to help churches to explore how to be relevant today.

3.13 Any Other Business

Current policy of Diocese for receiving communion – Bishop Viv explicitly said we are no longer supposed to use intinction, dipping bread into the wine. They believe it is a transmitter of infection with fingers going into the wine. We should share the common cup. It is hard to believe that sharing the common cup is any less infectious.

The cup is silver and has antibacterial properties and the cup is wiped. The wine is over 15% proof so is also antibacterial therefore infection is reduced enough to make it viable.

Use of 'shot' glasses is not approved by the Diocese, they indicate tradition dictates that a shared cup was used although there is no proof of this.

Discussion followed around these points:

We have residents of Gloucester House attend services and used alcohol free wine. It was church hierarchy that deemed we went back to alcohol. If we talk about medical advantages of alcohol and silver, we need to be clear and careful. Alcohol free wine is very high in sugar.

A practical consideration is the time taken to offer both types of communions. It needs two servers. PG will talk with those who deliver the services on how to manage it.

We want to be inclusion and will offer both ways of communion to see how it goes. We will continue to offer alcohol free wine too.

Floodlights – they are being reviewed as part of Eco Church.

Highworth Churches Together, we need a champion from St Michael's. The Link magazine is being reorganised into a charity organisation. Rachael Laing-Smith is temporarily being employed by St Michael's and will transfer back to the once it is set up although we may continue to administer her payroll.

As a training parish are we able to ask for a curate. PG has submitted a bid and spoken to the Diocese. The end of June 2025 would be the earliest we could have a curate.

PG is in conversation with Youth for Christ, and we hope to have an intern come to work with us soon. Bella Fasham and PG meet with Youth for Christ to explore possibilities.

PG will need knee surgery in the coming months and will be unable to walk for 3-4 months and therefore unable to attend church for some of that time.

Sandra and PG are delighted to be living and working in Highworth and it's one of the nicest places to live and work. They feel very blessed.

3.14 Closing Prayer