



PARISH OF GRAFFHAM WITH WOOLAVINGTON



Annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Meeting

17 March 2024, 1140 am, at St Giles Church

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Present: The Rev Vivien Turner and 23 parish members (Ginny Barrett, Michael Blunt, Sally Blunt, Marie Bracey, Beanie Bradley, Jan Brind, Robin Brind, Ann Brown, Yvonne Churchward, Barbara Edge, Sonya Gillespie, Sue Hill, Jill Knight, Robert Knight, Brian Lanaghan, Nettie Lanaghan, Bridget Lewis, Stuart Lewis, Fiona Mackie, Howard Pescott, Clive Rowntree, Philip Turner, Janet Wakeford)

Apologies: Diane Bellis

Opened at 11:40am

- 1 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:** Ginny Barrett and Cindy Bradley were unanimously re-elected to serve as Churchwarden.
Proposed Michael Blunt *Seconded* Ann Brown.

Closed at 11:47am

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Present and apologies: As for the Annual Vestry Meeting above

Opened at 11:47am

- 1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the previous year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (26 March 2023) had been posted at stgilesgraffham.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2023-03-26-APCM-minutes.pdf. No questions were raised.
- 2 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

- 2a Three members for three years:** Three existing members of the PCC indicated their willingness to serve for a further three-year term each and were duly re-elected unanimously – Nettie Lanaghan, Fiona Mackie and Howard Pescott.

HOWARD - Proposed Michael Blunt *Seconded* Ginny Barrett

FIONA - Proposed Marie Bracey *Seconded* Ann Brown

NETTIE - Proposed Ginny Barrett *Seconded* Ann Brown

- 2b Two year and single year vacancies remained vacant with no nominations received.**

The Rev Vivien noted that the PCC would consider co-opting two additional members at its meeting immediately following the APCM – Beanie Bradley and Dinah Lamming.

- 3 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OR AUDITOR:** Ros Britton agreed to serve as independent examiner for a further year and was thanked for all of her work. She was duly re-elected unanimously to the role for a further year.

Proposed Michael Blunt *Seconded* Stuart Lewis.

- 4 REPORT ON ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH:** The report by Electoral Roll Officer Fiona Mackie had been posted at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/ In summary, there were 72 names on the roll as it stands, three more than a year ago. A number of individuals had indicated their desire to join the roll but had not completed the necessary paperwork. The next new full roll preparation is due in 2025.

- 5 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** The Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2023 was circulated at the meeting and had been posted at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/ The Rev Vivien commended the document to all attendees, noting a busy year for the parish, which ended with a small financial surplus after paying the diocese its parish share in full. She said she was immensely proud of the huge amount of activity that went on this parish and thanked everyone who contributed. Financially it had been a very good year.

Vivien gave a big vote of thanks to Yvonne for setting the finances of the parish on such a sound footing, as an exemplary treasurer. Yvonne is stepping down as treasurer at the end of the first quarter, after five years in the role. During her tenure, the parish has turned from deficit to a small annual surplus. Vivien presented her with a gift of thanks.

No single individual had offered their services to succeed Yvonne, but a treasury team has volunteered to cover the role between them, with careful oversight. It remains a slight work in progress. An individual has indicated her willingness to head up that team from October. In the interim, Ginny will provide oversight, with Phillip Turner as PCC Finance Administrator, supported by Diane Bellis.

- 6 **REPORT ON THE CHURCH'S FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS:** Ginny Barrett presented this report, which was accepted with thanks by those in attendance

Ginny had redrafted her report as made available in advance of the meeting. The final version, as presented, is now posted at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/

Carbon use had risen rather than fallen, with oil burn the same as before and electricity use rising – making it more challenging for us to meet the CoE's carbon-neutral target.

Thanks were given to Stuart Lewis and Phillip Turner for their contributions towards maintaining the church's building and churchyard. Repairs to internal plasterwork and repainting internal walls is on hold until the current roof works are completed.

- 7 **REPORT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD:** Ann Brown's report on the Deanery Synod was available for review at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/ and received with thanks.
- 8 **SAFEGUARDING REPORT:** The Rev Vivien presented Safeguarding Officer Sonya Gillespie's report, which had been posted for review at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/. Sonya was thanked for her oversight of this important area over the past five years. She is now stepping down from this role at a time when we are in good shape, completing SQP etc. Vivien presented Sonya with a gift on behalf of the parish. Howard Pescott had agreed to take on the safeguarding role.
- 9 **BELLRINGERS, FLOWER ARRANGERS AND MUSIC REPORTS** prepared respectively by Howard Pescott, Diane Bellis and Brian Lanaghan, as posted in advance of the meeting at stgilesgraffham.org/2024-apcm/, were also reviewed and all involved thanked.
- 10 **MATTERS ARISING/ANY OTHER QUESTIONS**

Howard Pescott proposed a vote of thanks to Vivien and Phillip for their all the care and service they give to our community.

Closed at 12:10am