

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FOR  
THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW'S, BUCKLAND MONACHORUM  
AND  
THE CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT, MILTON COMBE

The minutes of the Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St. Andrew's Buckland Monachorum on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Present

Bob & Cally Barnes, Barbara & John Girven, Paul Nixon, Jane Oliver, Margie & Richard Goodfellow, Bronia Coulshaw, Terry & Celia West, Rob & Helen Hopkins, Barbara Porter, Audrey Mills, Hugues & Helen Motteux, Philip Corness, Ken Farnham, Richard & Margie Goodfellow, Archy Dobson, Andrew Young, Mark & Rachel Perry, Rumbi Mukono, Barbara Walsh, Richard Mabey, Philip Tuckett, Roger Watkins, Caroline Hammond, Angela & Mark Smith, Catherine Dando, Andy & Debbie Farmer, Trish Topham, Nicola Bovey, Dave & Anthea Cox, Tristan & Sarah Stevenson-Coulshaw, Diana Kilby, Christine Parker, Andy & Karen Price, Phil Coates, Jenny Whybrow, Sally Reid, Lavinia Thorpe, Pat & Roy Matthews, Deborah Corness.

Apologies for Absence

Mark & Julie Tailyour, Simon Bovey, David Oliver, Terry & Heather Keane, Keith Topham, Debbie Farmer, Andrew Corness, Denise Nixon, Anthony & Margaret Adams, Ross & Caroline Mitchell.

**MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

The minutes from the 2018 AGM were accepted as a true record – proposed by Terry West and seconded by Diana Kilby. They were duly signed by Bob Barnes, Church Warden at the end of the meeting.

Philip Tuckett – The Vice Chair, opened the meeting. He explained that before Graham left Philip had said that he would serve as Vice Chair for a further year and would stand down at the next AGM in 2020. He would also be retiring from the PCC at this date. He spoke of James Cracknel rowing for Cambridge this year in the boat race and that he has been on the PCC for longer than James has been alive! He had only had one year off when he went to theological college. He offered huge thank you to Graham and Christine for their long and wonderful service to the church family over thirty-four years and what a great legacy that they have left.

He also gave a generous thanks to Helen as PCC secretary, saying that she had kept everything legal and everything on tract during the year. Also he was really grateful to Bob, David and Andy for ensuring that “the wheels did not come off the bus”! We all need to continue to keep the momentum up as we await the arrival of Andy Bowden. He also asked that we warmly welcome him and give him all our encouragement and support as he and the family settle into the Parish. We should continue to walk out the great commission of Jesus when he said to “Go and Make Disciples of all nations”. Matthew 28 v 19. We need to continue to pray for Andy Bowden in this time prior to him joining us.

**Election of Two Churchwardens**

Bob Barnes was re-elected as Church Warden – proposed by Rachel Young and seconded by Celia West

David Oliver was also re-elected as Church Warden – proposed by Rob Hopkins and seconded by Audrey Mills.

**Election of Deputy Churchwarden**

Terry West was re-elected Deputy Churchwarden, being proposed by Simon Bovey and seconded by Rob Hopkins.

The above people were duly elected and confirmed by all Members present with a show of hand.

## THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The meeting itself was a synopsis of the reports that follow in full. Other reports were included within the separate Annual Report.

### **2019 Electoral Roll New at 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019** - Robert Hopkins, Electoral Roll Officer

My report on the Electoral Roll could be short - If all things played out the way they ought. The process began when I closed last year's Roll; Then to check all the names on that list was my goal. Of the one hundred and sixty-five names; A total of fifty, could not now make claims; of regular worship at one of our churches - Though much time was spent in enquiries and searches.

There is one dear lady I do want to mention, our prayer queen, Snoo Dobson, no more in contention. At rest with the Father, we can't overstate her – Worth, but for Archie her loss is far greater.

Now, back to the Roll and the forms I've received. There's a list of twenty-seven new names retrieved. And so, the total of the whole; On this, the New Electoral Roll, I do declare with no more to-do. Is a final one hundred and forty-two.

### **Hon. Treasurer's Report on the 2018 Accounts** – Bob Barnes

Due to the lateness in receiving the audited accounts from the Independent Examiner it had not been possible to send these out to the congregation prior to the meeting, however, hard copies were available for those in attendance. Bob reported that in 2018 the balances carried forward had been £147K which showed a downward trend from the previous year which was £160K.

PCC Income for the Year was £163K, this was down from £173 in 2017. Also, the expenditure was up on the previous year from £140K in 2017 to £160K. this increase was mainly due to the organ refurbishment that had been £42K however, a gift of £20K had been received. The work done on the organ should now future proof the church for the next 25 years. The claim for gift aid was £26K for the year and he gave a plea for more people to use gift aid for their regular giving. The diocesan share had increased from £62K up to £72K, however the Electoral Roll numbers would filter through in the next few years. Priority to fund our youth worker is critical and we must keep this giving ongoing. He said that we are truly grateful to Rumbi for the hard work that she has done through the year.

### **Appointment of Auditors**

This was not formally done at the time, but subsequently at the next PCC meeting.

### **Secretary's Report** – Helen Hopkins

The PCC met on 6 occasions during the last 12 months, with an average attendance of 14 members, out of a possible 21 eligible to attend. In addition, the Finance Committee met 6 times during that period.

All the PCC meetings are opened with prayer and a bible reading and also end with prayer. We are so very aware that all discussions and topics are being undertaken in the power of the Holy Spirit leading.

Topics discussed at the PCC meetings included the following:

- Pastoral concerns and prayer for those living in the community
- Church finances – which are regularly reviewed.
- Church priorities which were also regularly reviewed;
- Communications and GDPR are regularly featured to ensure that we are meeting current legislation.
- The election of a new school foundation governor when Andy Farmer was appointed.
- Communication, including the website updates and monitoring, with the inclusion of a Privacy Statement that has now been added to the Website. We are very much indebted to Penny Taylor for her work on this.

- Updates on The Church of the Holy Spirit
- Updates on the ministry training for Reuben, Andy & Robin.
- Regular updates from the Buckland Chapel.
- Safeguarding has also been a regular item on the agenda. Trish Topham has now become our new Representative along with Jane Oliver and Helen Hopkins who took on the role of DBS checks.
- The appointment of our New Youth leader: Tristan Coulshaw.

From September onwards the Interregnum was a main topic at the meetings and in September we had a formal meeting with Bishop Nick Mckinnel & the Acting Archdeacon, Nick Shutt who laid out the procedures that we were required to follow. Graham was not in attendance at this meeting.

In November, Trish Topham joined the meeting to update the members on the progress she had made to date on safeguarding; this included the preparing of an Action Plan that was in line with the Diocese Policy (2017) and other procedures that would be put in place to ensure that we were meeting the legal requirements as a Church.

In conclusion, I am so very grateful for all those who have contributed towards the Annual Report, in good time to enable the report to be completed in time for the AGM this year. I am also so very grateful for all the support and encouragement from both the PCC and also the congregation, in my role as secretary. It has been a busy year for many but we are thankful to our Heavenly Father for enabling us to carry out as much as we have.

On a personal note, my thanks go to Graham for all that he did to ensure things were handed over smoothly and also the church Wardens, Andy Farmer and our Worship leaders for all that they have done since Graham's departure. It was a very challenge year but we look forward with great anticipation to the arrival of our new spiritual leader.

#### **ANNUAL CHURCH WARDEN REPORT 2018** - Bob Barnes:

A full draft of his report was sent out prior to the meeting and hard copies were also available at the meeting.

He picked up on a number of points. He explained that Andy, David and himself had become a very tight knit team during the last few months and expressed the need to keep up the momentum which has possibly dipped a little now that we have heard that we have made an appointment of Andy Bowden. However, Andy will not be joining us for a good few months and he gave a general plea for continued help. This is especially needed with the loss of several key members of the wider team, Pippa and Robin who have been an integral part of ensuring our patterns of worship are kept going with music and their help and co-ordination has been invaluable. We will miss them both greatly but do pray for their new life in St Andrew's where Robin is undertaking part of his training.

The legacy of Graham that so many have gone forward for ordination from our little church.

We will greatly miss David and Louise Tucker as they are imminently moving down to Truro where David is now working. Both have contributed within the music but also within Messy Church – we are grateful however, for Debbie Farmer stepping in to co-ordinated Messy Church. It is great to see so many children happily enjoying the numerous activities and also hearing the good news of Jesus through the activities and also through the music and singing.

Our outreach to the elderly within the community has been strengthened with the Charleston Friendship group and it has been a wonderful for both those living with dementia, also for those caring from them. Thanks to Margie, Trish and Mandy and others that regularly organise the activities. Help is always needed so if you could do speak to one of them.

The Outreach magazine goes on from strength to strength thanks to the editors, Mark and Denise. Please continue to send articles as this is also a great outreach to our local community.

A special thanks to Diana and Nick Kilby for the great work done on the Parish Profile, already this is being held up as an excellent example. A couple of other churches who are presently in an interregnum have been told to have a look at it

Parish Camp team are well on the way to organising this, with the speakers in place and the invitation been accepted from Haidee and her husband – now living in Canada. We need to keep the momentum for this as it is a critical part of our church life. It is hoped that possibly Andy and his family could join us for a day, yet to be confirmed. Andy Bowden has made an appointment with the architect to look at what is needed to make the vicarage ready for them

arriving. He had said that he is really looking forward to joining us, he still has a term at the College in Plymouth. We have not had an official date for his licensing and he is unable to join us for any services until this had occurred. Bob explained that he would be standing down as Warden at the next AGM and made a personal plea for a female to consider taking on the role – it was certainly was time that we had a female in the role.

The Milton Combe Piano Festival is planned for three nights in June, tickets are limited but need to contact Elly Stansbury for tickets. This is a really good event as the proceeds are shared between the church and the village hall. The professionals give their time freely and we are thankful for all the organisation that goes into this event.

The work on the Disabled toilets within the Chapel are moving forward slowly due to planning consent not yet received. The PCC will be help with the funding of this work.

The progress on putting a mobile phone antena is also moving on slowly, this is due to legal changes. However, the company are still keen to take this forward.

Thanks to Debbie Morris for all the preparation of the flowers for the Easter weekend, so much work had gone into making the church looking great.

Thanks to Karen and Andy Price for hosting a really wonderful evening for new people moving into the Parish. Ten guests were welcomed and said that they appreciated being invited.

Due to the late arrival of the Financial Report from the auditors, it was expressed that we consider finding someone else to undertake the auditing next year.

The school playground has recently been re-surfaced and is no longer available for church car parking, Rob Hopkins pointed out that there is a further parking area for the church members behind the new church graveyard.

Bob's final point was that there was a need for someone with a petrol lawn mower to cut the grass at the vicarage. If this could be done before the 16<sup>th</sup> May that would be great, Rachel Perry offered her services to do this.

**Deanery Synod Report** – Philip Tuckett had given his report and this can be read within the Annual Report. Andy Farmer could answer any questions as he too attended the meeting. However, no questions were asked.

### **PCC Member Elections**

Vacancies: - six members for three years

Six members for three years were nominated and were elected without need for a ballot:

Barbara Girven – proposed by Patricia Matthews and seconded by Rob Hopkins

Heather Keane – proposed by Celia West and seconded by Rob Hopkins

Deborah Corness – proposed by Rob Hopkins and seconded by Audrey Mills

Bronia Coulshaw – proposed by Rob Hopkins and seconded by Penny Taylor

John Girven – proposed by Penny Taylor and seconded by Simon Bovey

Sally Reid – proposed by Bob Barnes and seconded by Richard Mabey

The above people were duly elected and confirmed by all Members present, by a show of hands.

### **Election of Sidespersons**

The following were all duly elected to serve as sidespersons for the coming year. Lucy & Jonathan Ambler, Rosemrey Bancroft, Bob & Cally Barnes, Bronia & Frayne Coulshaw, Anthea & David Cox, Richard Goodfellow, Peter & Susan Harlow, Helen & Rob Hopkins, Terry Keane, Richard Mabey, Joe Smart, Keith Topham and Celia West.

Proposed by Terry West & Seconded by Phil Coates

### **Youth Ministry**

Our new Youth worker explained that he would be giving his report and vision on the future of the Youthwork, to the PCC at their next meeting. Once it had been approved then he would share this with the wider church family.

**Buckland Chapel**

A separate report had been made available by email prior to the meeting and some hard copies had been available in the Church.

**Closing Remarks** – Andy Farmer

Andy was very grateful to both David and Bob for all that they had done to ensure the smooth running of the church over the Interregnum. He said that it had been really good to work with them as a threesome and had got to know them very both well. He said that they had learned a lot about each other and enjoyed an excellent working relationship. He also said that we have been doing well during the interregnum but that we need to keep going. He quoted St Paul in his letter to the Philippians Chapter three, where Paul exhorts them to keep pressing on towards the goal. Andy said that we are not there yet so we must keep going and be ready to welcome Andy Bowden in the autumn. Even then, we must be prepared to continue to journey together- because ... we are not there yet!

The meeting then closed with prayer by Andy Farmer at 12.25 pm.