

The Vine Annual Meeting of Electors and APCM Minutes

14 May 2023 11.30am St Bartholomew's

Present

Will Briggs, Amy Hole, Andy Bryce, Paul Sheridan, Dave Neath, Jon Smith, Steve Hill, Fiona Kyle, Pauline Styran, Wendy Mitchell, Katie Smith, Gills Briggs, Stella Hunt, Rob Gratze, Ann Humphreys, Tim Hawkins, Anne Kingstone, Sarah Smith, Claire Law, Miriam Briggs, Nick Phoenix, Tim Stewart, Aaron Zachary, Juliet Zachary, Martin Horton, Alan Bell, Annette Bell, Esther Gratze, Vicki Neath

Observers

Phil Townsend

Apologies

Davo Smith, Tina Powell-Wiffen, Becca Sheridan, Rose Hawkins, Siobhan Melville

Opening prayer

Will Briggs opened the meeting in prayer.

Annual Meeting of Electors

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Electors

These were approved unanimously.

Churchwardens' Report

A printed report was distributed before the meeting. Paul Sheridan highlighted a number of issues. He began by thanking Andy Bryce and Jon Smith for their service as churchwarden and treasurer respectively.

St Stephen's

The building is currently being rented by St Philip's and is also the permanent home of the House of Prayer. The church flat is now being managed for us by an estate agent. There are some ongoing maintenance issues at St Stephen's.

St Bartholomew's

There is lots of activity now going on at St Bart's including Warm & Welcome and the community garden. There are substantial plans for investment in the building to improve energy efficiency in line with the diocese's plans to hit net zero by 2030, and also in response to rising energy bills. Energy grants have been received from the diocese for both buildings. Following a number of recent break-ins, improvements have been made to the security of St Bart's including the installation of CCTV.

Paul expressed his thanks to PCC and Standing Committee, administrative staff Jackie and Siobhan, and to Will and Amy.

The report was received unanimously.

Election of churchwardens

There were two nominations received: Paul Sheridan and Dave Neath. Both were approved unanimously without election as there were no other candidates.

Phil Townsend prayed for the new wardens.

APCM

Amy Hole was appointed Chair of this meeting.

Minutes and Matters Arising from last year's APCM

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Appointment of lay representatives on the Deanery Synod

The appointment of Paul Sheridan and Steve Hill as lay representatives on Deanery Synod was approved unanimously.

Appointment of licenced lay readers

The appointment of Tina Powell-Wiffen as a licenced lay reader was approved unanimously.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

There are 9 vacancies on PCC.

There were 6 nominations received: Lucy Smith, Anne Kingstone, Martin Horton, Andy Bryce, Vicki Neath and Davo Smith

The election of these nominees was approved unanimously.

Claire Law and Alan Harrison chose not to stand for re-election and were thanked for their service to PCC.

Sarah Smith prayed for the new PCC.

Annual report on the Electoral Roll

Dave Neath reported that there are 72 people on the electoral roll this year, compared to 58 last year.

Annual report on the finances of The Vine Sheffield PCC and appointment of independent examiner

A copy of the report approved by the independent examiner was provided to all attendees to review along with a 2023 budget.

Jon Smith confirmed that the independent examiner was happy to sign off that we have kept good accounts. He then summarised our 2022 accounts.

On income, donations and gift aid have continued to be strong and this source of income is the bedrock of our financial sustainability. Income from building hire and rental of the church flat have also been important, as has dividend income from our ethical investment funds.

On expenditure, we continue to commit to giving to partner organisations and to the Common Fund, with our contribution to the latter remaining steady. Payroll costs have increased due to the financing of the new children's worker transferring over gradually to the general funds budget.

Running costs (including utility bills) did not rise substantially in 2022 but are expected to do so in the future.

A substantial amount of money was spent from designated funds, including pay for the children's worker and some expenditure on buildings.

The money in our restricted fund for Mutual Blessings has now been transferred to a different organisation which is continuing that work.

Overall, we experienced a small loss on our general fund in 2022 which is mainly attributable to the unexpected cost of replacing the boiler in the church flat.

Sarah Lightfoot of Seven Hills Accounting has been formally approved as the independent examiner for The Vine Sheffield, and the accounts were accepted unanimously.

2023 Budget

Expected income for 2023 is broadly in line with last year with the exception of energy grants from the diocese which have already been received.

Our payroll costs will continue to rise as more of the children's worker salary is moved to the general fund. Utility costs will also rise this year. New contracts have been agreed, starting later this year, which will involve energy bills rising threefold. In the long term, we hope to mitigate these costs through building improvements.

Overall, we expect to have a deficit of about £4000-5000 this year.

The budget was approved unanimously.

Jon announced that he is now stepping down as treasurer. He expressed his thanks to previous treasurer Sarah Smith, the PCC for their support and Andy Bryce as Giving Coordinator.

Will Briggs formally moved to offer a vote of thanks to Jon for his service.

Vicar's report

A paper report was distributed at the meeting. In his verbal report, Will Briggs highlighted the key points.

Will needed to take three months off work last year. While this was a difficult disruption, it also led to a necessary healing. Will expressed his thanks to Amy and the rest of the church for carrying the load while he was away.

Looking ahead, it was noted that Amy is now entering her third year of curacy in the benefice. Will urged us to pray for her as she considers her future.

The main priority at the moment is the planned move towards focal ministry. After coming back from leave, Will set up a task and finish group to work out the way forward. Proposals were then brought to PCCs at both churches in the benefice, and then to the wider church. An FAQ document was distributed, setting out answers to frequently asked questions regarding focal ministry. A Guide to Focal Ministry is also available. Will allowed space for any further questions but none were raised. He reminded us that he is happy to talk to anyone about this over coffee.

Amy Hole thanked Will and prayed for him.

Other reports

Reports from Amy Hole, Gill Briggs and Esther Gratze were also distributed for members to read at their leisure. No further questions were raised from any of the reports.

Safeguarding

We were reminded that Siobhan Melville continues to be the nominated safeguarding officer. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to her.

Synod report

This was presented verbally by Steve Hill. The Deanery Synod met quarterly over the year and discussed several subjects including: diocesan changes in support for mission and ministry; sharing in the mission of God; and hunger in our deanery, and what the church can do to help. Living in Love and Faith and Green issues have also been addressed regularly, along with a chance to catch up with news from other churches in the deanery and from the bishops.

AOB

No points were raised.

Closing prayer

Amy closed in prayer.