

Christ Church with St. Marys, Old Town, Swindon

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Sunday 24th April 2022 at 11.15am in Christ Church.

1. Opening Prayer and Worship

Simon led prayers and welcomed all to the meeting. He passed on Josette Crane's (who led the 3 hours at the cross on Good Friday) word from God: the symbol of traffic lights, red – what does God the creator want us to stop doing? Amber – what does Jesus want us to get ready for? Green – what is the Holy Spirit prompting us to do NOW?

2. Attendance and apologies

Apologies were noted for Kevin Penfold, Christine Senior, Andrew Yeoward and David and Ann Sharpe. 31 people were noted on the attendance sheet which is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Annual Vestry Meeting

3. To elect two church Wardens

Jim D'Avila and Nitin Shinde were nominated. Simon led the meeting in prayer for them both.

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Jim D'Avila	Nitin Shinde	Margaret Williams
Nitin Shinde	Jim D'Avila	Margaret Williams

Resolved: The congregation elects the two persons named above to serve as Church Wardens. All Assented.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

4. **To approve the minutes of the APCM held on the 25th April 2021.** Resolution proposed by Daniel Pitt and seconded by Anne Macmillan.

Resolved: The congregation approves the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2021.

5. **Matters arising from the 2021 APCM – none**

6. **To approve the report of the electoral Roll officer.**

It was reported that there are 154 names on the roll. An increase of 3 on last year. Simon said that we must all do all we can encourage people to return to Church.

7. **To notify other items not covered on the agenda below – none.**

8. **To elect:**

a) Up to 2 PCC members

Vacancies arise because members of the PCC have stepped down or because they have reached the end of their 3 years term. This year Ruth Awinyo and Charles Vince have reached the end of their three year term. They were warmly thanked for their hard work and for their years of service on the PCC.

Resolved: The congregation elects those named below to serve as members of the PCC. All assented.

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Simon Giles	Ailsa Palmer	Norma Mckemey
(Daniel Kidd)*		

*Daniel Kidd will attend PCC as a guest until he is baptised later this year. Then he will be formally elected as a member of PCC.

The 2022/2023 PCC now consists of

Ex-Officio: Revd. Simon Stevenette, Revd. Norma McKemey, Anne Macmillan (Lay Minister representative), Nitin Shinde (Church Warden), Jim D'Avila (Church Warden), Anne Grainger (Deanery Synod representative), Kevin Penfold (Deanery Synod representative), Andrew Yeoward (Hon. Treasurer) Daniel Pitt (Chair of the Partnership of Churches).

Ex-officio but non-voting members: Helen Parker-Drabble (Parish Administrator); Chris Smith (CCDM); Ailsa Palmer (PCC minute secretary)

Elected members serving

Till APCM 2023 Mike Frost Foster, Sean Bolger, Rose Earle, Kevin Penfold and Anne Grainger.

Till APCM 2024: Sue Clack, Hannah Feeny.

Till APCM 2025: Simon Giles and (Daniel Kidd – see above)*

9. **To appoint:**

a) **Sidespeople**

Daniel Pitt continues to coordinate the Welcomers/Side People's rota, alongside the Churchwardens. We have seven sidespeople:

Ann Sharpe

David Sharpe

Anne Grainger

Angela Wirdnam
Jenny Selwood
Helen Hartnell
Daniel Pitt

These names were proposed by Janet French and seconded by Margaret Williams and passed unanimously. They were thanked for their work.

b) Independent Examiners for 2022/23

Resolved: The congregation affirmed the appointment of Monahan's as Independent Examiners for the 2022 accounts

10. To receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Simon explained that the Annual report and Accounts could be viewed on line; we have reduced the number of copies printed to save paper.

Daniel Pitt then presented the Annual Accounts on behalf of Andrew Yeoward who was away.

Daniel thanked Andrew for all his work and for his PowerPoint presentation (**a copy of which is attached to these minutes**). Daniel also thanked Stephen Grosvenor, our gift aid secretary who looks after our giving schemes. Daniel also thanked the congregation for their continued generosity – roughly 56% of Christ Church income comes through direct giving.

2021 was a year of recovery after the worst of the pandemic lock downs etc.

Andrew's presentation covers 4 areas:

- Income in 2021
- Expenditure in 2021
- Total Assets (balance sheet)
- Underlying situation in 2022

Income in 2021

Daniel/Andrew noted the following points:

- Thanks should be expressed to Angela Ruck for her continued work in managing the Church Car Park.
- The furlough scheme helped our income to be above the figure budgeted.
- Thanks should be expressed to Chris Smith and Jenny Hatter for all their work at the Community Centre. We are looking forward to our 9th beer festival on 13/14 May.

Expenditure

- Expenditure was above budget for the good reason that we paid an extra £10k towards our parish share contribution for 2021 which had been set at £95k in the budget set in October 2020.

Balance sheet

- Our net assets (fixed and current) have increased from £1,069,200.00 to £1,126,210.00 as at 31 December 2021.

- Reserves are healthy: the Church has £83,267 compared with a Reserves policy of £55,920. The community centre - £40,265 vs policy of £40,000.

Underlying situation in 2022

- The situation in 2022 is optimistic and the Finance and Governance working group monitor the situation closely.
- We are not relying on any net surplus from the CC@CC in our 2022 budget. We have pledged the Diocese £105,000 Parish Share in 2022, and hope to budget favourable on this in 2023.

11. Questions from the floor. Caroline Pitt asked how we were coping, as a Church, with the increasing cost of energy? Daniel replied that our gas bills have doubled in cost and we are carefully managing our consumption. The increase in cost was worse than anticipated – in the first month we paid over £4k. Daniel was thanked for his help with this.

Phil Mansfield then asked two questions:

- a) Investments – what is our ethical policy? – { *after the meeting our Treasurer commented as follows: “ - We entrust a small amount of our funds directly with the Diocesan Board of Finance who in turn invest it with CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) investment Management Ltd.*

We invest a more substantial amount directly with the same fund in CCLA (and hence are following the diocesan lead).

My understanding is that, as well as the Diocese of Bristol, the wider Church of England uses CCLA to invest their assets, and our policy to date has been one of investing in line with the diocese and Church of England as a whole. Whether or not CCLA has the ‘best’ available, or even ‘good’ Ethical Societal and Governance policies (however those are measured) may be debatable, but in my view that debate should be conducted at the national, rather than parish, level. It should be noted that CCLA recently divested itself of substantial fossil fuel investments”.

Ethical Societal and Governance policies will be on the next Finance and Governance working group agenda.

- b) As a Church how do we manage our giving to charities? Ailsa reported that at present the church congregation voted on which charities to support – 7 were agreed upon; and we support them by having 4 mission giving Sundays a year when all of the “Cash/cheques” in the plate are passed on to the charities concerned. Over the last 3 years the amount given has reduced and the Mission and Evangelism working group will consider whether giving a certain % of the Church income would work better. M&E will pass on their thoughts for a decision from PCC. For 2022 the plan will stay as it is.

12. Vicar's report:

- Simon began his report by stressing our vision, mission and values: - We have a vision that we should be Christ's Church in the community, serving the needs of local people and becoming a central meeting place for a whole variety of community activities. Our mission is to proclaim Christ through teaching and example. Welcome and serve all, through hospitality. We encourage people to find God through worship, faith and prayer by providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community. We seek to transform Swindon and beyond with God's hope and compassion. We do this with humility, grace and respect, listening prayerfully to God and our neighbour.
- Simon asked that people take time to read the report on 2021 and our plans for this year 2022.
- Simon spoke about family challenges and the recent diagnosis of youngest son Hugo as living with bi-polar. Simon also mentioned his father, John, whose palliative care continues in a local nursing home. Simon asked the meeting to hold his family in our prayers. Simon has spoken with Bishop Viv about the possibility of compassionate leave. At present he will take study leave in the summer of 2023.
- Simon spoke of the golden thread of Safeguarding and how it should run through all we do and that we must all take on this responsibility.
- He thanked people who pass on words of encouragement.
- Simon reminded us of Mark Siddal's quiet day last October on Creation Care and stressed how we can all play our part – picking up litter really helps. Simon thanked Phil Mansfield for leading our eco working group along with colleagues: Janet French, Daphne and Reg Hardwick, Daniel Pitt, Stephen Grosvenor, Anne Grainger, Simon Smith, Simon Stevenette and Steve Cox. A management plan is in progress and will include areas which are not mown before late July. We are on our way to the silver award. Phil said that people will be encouraged to come and help with specific projects.
- Caroline noted her thanks to Ian Handy for all his work on the Jubilee Memorial Garden and we noted that Ian still hopes for a container for his garden machinery on site.
- Simon spoke of the importance of building relationships and those we have lost over the pandemic. He reminded the meeting of the Weekend of September 15-17 when Ann and Douglas Holt will lead us. Simon also mentioned the success and joy of the Harbour tea party.
- Simon mentioned the Mission Joy TV programme with the Dalai Llama and Desmond Tutu – deep joy in the midst of great suffering. We prayed for a renewal of joy in the Lord in our community.

- Anne Grainger reminded us to vote on accepting the Annual Report and Accounts. Acceptance was proposed by Anne Grainger and seconded by Caroline Pitt and passed unanimously.

13. A provisional date for the next APCM was set for Sunday 30th April 2023. Simon will confirm this after discussions with Andrew.

14. Any other business: none

15. The meeting closed with prayer at 12.25pm