

Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7.30 pm held on Wednesday 23 April 2015
in St John the Baptist Church, Fladbury



Present:

There follows a list of those who signed the Attendance Record

J Allsop; R Allsop; F Bentley; J Bugg; D Burlingham; H Fowler; P Gibson; D Harding [Secretary]; D Hawkins; M Hawkins; P Hildesley; G Hughes; J Hughes; W Malkinson; C Martin; M Martin; D Miller; M Mitchell; R Mumford; B North; C North; C Oldfield; R Oldfield; J Ounsted; M Ounsted; P Perry; C Willis

Vestry Meeting Minutes

1 Opening Prayer

Bill North, as Church Warden, welcomed everyone to the evening and began the proceedings with the Parish Prayer in Vacancy.

2 Apologies for Absence

M Debenham; E Gardner; P Gardner; H Hall; H Harris; M Mumford; S Perry; C Rosier; J Rosier; A Sandham

3 Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 30 April 2014

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 30 April 2014 at which Richard Mumford was appointed as Church Warden, were approved, adopted without amendment and signed by B North [Chairman of the Vestry Meeting]. Proposed by P Perry Seconded by P Harris, all were in favour.

Minutes of the Extraordinary Vestry Meeting held on 2 June 2014

Minutes of the Extraordinary Vestry Meeting held on 2 June 2014 at which Bill North was appointed as Church Warden, were approved, adopted without amendment and signed by B North. Proposed by P Perry Seconded by P Harris, all were in favour.

4 Election of Church Wardens

C Willis came forward to take the chair for this item

Two nominations had been received for the positions of Church Warden: Bill North and Richard Mumford. It was a unanimous decision that both these gentlemen be duly elected to the role of Church Warden. Proposed by D Hawkins, seconded by M Ounsted, all were in agreement.

B North agreed in June 2014 to accept the appointment of Church Warden to work with RM for the remainder of the year. B North has agreed to do one more year, however, he will not be standing again in 2016.

The Vestry Meeting closed.

Signed:.....

Date:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes

1 Apologies for Absence – as outlined above.

2 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30 April 2014

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 18 April 2014, having been widely available were approved and adopted without amendment and signed by R Mumford [Chairperson for the APCM]. Proposed by P Harris, seconded by H Fowler, all were in favour.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Vacancy

Richard Mumford also welcomed everyone to the APCM.

He reported that the Parish had been without an incumbent for ten months, and that we appreciated what Clive Fairclough did whilst he was Priest in Charge. Sadly, the first advertisement for replacement Rectors for the Five Alive Parish, Flyford Family and Bowland Benefice was not successful, Bishop Graham has worked hard in helping the churches to go through the process, editing and monitoring the profiles of the three benefices. Robert Jones the new Archdeacon of Worcester has now undertaken to advertise again with advertisements being placed in the Church Times in June or July. It is unlikely that we would have anybody in residence before mid to late autumn.

3.2 Resume and Vote of Thanks

R Mumford was grateful to all those who have continued to maintain the impetus in the parish. He would hope that we can get a new initiative going to encourage new residents and existing residents to join our regular worshipping congregation.

Later this year the parish will be undertaking the process of assessment of the parish income, which R Mumford hoped all our congregations would get involved in and be honest with. It won't necessarily make any difference however, to either the income of the Synod or the amount of Parish Share.

We need to adopt the attitude of 'Giving to the Lord', and a Stewardship programme under the guidance of Reverend D Chaplin will take place when an incumbent is in place.

There were a number of people that R Mumford wanted to thank who keep the wheels turning. The first and foremost, the retired clergy who have helped us to maintain at least one Holy Communion in the parish every Sunday, together with midweek Communion and involvement in the Parish in many ways. We are extremely grateful to them and he hoped we were not overworking them in their retirement. There were however, many other people who are involved, not least the lay leaders, the ALMs who have stepped up to taking some of the non-Eucharistic services, he expressed the thanks of the parish to them all. The flower arrangers who maintain a wonderful show of flowers throughout the year, the deputy church wardens, who do all the donkey work for all the services, the weddings, funerals and baptisms. For the Pastoral Committee and particularly Celia Willis for arranging the baptisms and care of those in need of care in the parish. R Mumford was particularly grateful to Philip Hildesley, not only for being deputy church warden, but for organising the choir and supporting us and helping in our worship with many anthems etc., to a very high standard, and also his work on Five Alive. Thanks were conveyed to all who maintain the clean linen, people providing tea and coffee at the end of services and for the tea and coffee mornings and afternoons. The PCC members, Peter Gardner and Maggie Grove.

In this modern age it is more and more difficult to get communications over that people read, so R Mumford was grateful to the Communications Committee, those involved with producing the Five Alive, both the contributors, editorship and printing and collating teams, which is not always easy. To the volunteer gardeners, where we have them, and the bell ringers who would dearly like to have new recruits.

Thanks were also extended to Jean Ounsted who had taken up DBS Officer to check people with contact with children and vulnerable adults.

R Mumford is grateful to Bill North for assisting him.

That is a long list of "thank you"s, which shows the number of people involved in maintaining this as a lively, well organised parish. If anybody has any ideas, suggestions, proposals, in connection with services please voice them.

We are very sorry for losing, hopefully temporarily, the services of Carol Rosier and hope that John's treatment is one hundred percent successful. Carol has been much involved in the parish; the most recent thing organising the Low Sunday Easter Celebration, which was magnificent and he hoped that before too long she would be in a position to resume her involvement in the parish

R Mumford reported that the Parish were also losing to Pershore Abbey, Sue and Peter Perry. Sue had been greatly involved both in being a member of various Diocesan committees, the Rural Deanery Synod, CBS

Officer, Pastoral Committee and many other parts of the organisation and we are most grateful to her for the time and effort that she has put into this. Peter has been our mainstay as Chairman of the Fabric Committee and with his lifelong experience of dealing with ancient churches and buildings, has been invaluable. The churches are now in good order, although we have the prospects of having to spend over £300,000 on the churches in the forthcoming years. He is a past master at obtaining faculties, but is now sadly retiring as chairman, but is prepared to see through the problem of the heating in Crophorne church and the damp in the toilet in Fladbury. The Parish is looking for a new Chairman of the Fabric Committee, if anybody knows anyone with preferably experience of buildings, it would be good to hear their names.

R Mumford had earlier in the day delivered a bouquet of flowers to Carol Rosier. He presented an orchid for Sue Perry and a Five Alive whisky tumbler to Peter Perry.

R Mumford hoped that everyone had seen a copy of the Parish Review, which highlighted many of the events in the Parish during 2014 together with the accounts.

4 Presentation of Reports

4.1 Electoral Roll Report on Changes in Membership Since the Last APCM

The number on the Electoral Roll had declined by fourteen as a result of relocating, death and change of allegiance and now stood at 156.

4.2 Church Wardens' Report

Contained within the Annual Parish Review 2014 commencing on page 1.

4.3 Financial Statements of the PCC for the Year Ending 31/12/14

Contained within the Annual Parish Review 2014 commencing on page 19.

The following report was read to the APCM in the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Gardner:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen from Australia, and my apologies for not being there with you.

I would like to convey my thanks, as I have done in previous years, to all those who have helped financially all around the parish in the last year.

Firstly I would like to thank Maggie Grove who has stepped in and taken on a major part of the treasury job which is that of doing the book keeping. Maggie has been doing this now since last autumn and has been brilliant at it. As Liz and I have increasingly other commitments, including our first grandchild Tom, which is why we are currently in Australia, Maggie's part in keeping the accounts up to date has been both essential for the Parish and for my sanity. I will say more on this later.

Next I would like to thank all those who help with the collections, especially the five 'payers-in' – The Martins, Diana Lacy, Howard Heath, Adrian Fletcher and Tony Preece.

Once again an enormous thanks to Peter Lacy who has been responsible for the Gift Aid.

There are many others who contribute to the financial management. Thank you all.

Can I thank Peter Perry and all who help on the Fabric Committee. Peter has been a cornerstone of the Parish Fabric work for years, and I am sorry that he is stepping down. My thanks also to all those who help with the Churchyard maintenance and also with the Churches in so many ways, such as cleaning and flower arranging and I would like to thank all those teams.

Many of these helpers do not charge for the materials that they use, particularly the flower arrangers, and the Parish is indebted to them for this.

I would also like to thank the Churchwardens, Bill and Richard for their support and to Delia for her work in finalising the annual report and having to deal with me with a nine hour time difference in doing so.

I think this would be a good point for a round of applause in thanks to them all.

As I am not with you this year, I will not elaborate on the statement I have already made in the Annual Report on the overall state of the Parish finances. All I will say is 'please read the financial section of the report, and take note of the declining income and overall state of the finances.'

As we search for a new Priest for our Parish, please consider whether there is more you could do personally to help with these finances, so that the new incumbent can concentrate on the churches' mission in this Parish, and not have to be overwhelmed by the finances.'

I must however thank all those who have given so generously, have increased their giving and all those who have given of time and effort in many fundraising activities.

Finally, as you may be aware I committed to the job of Treasurer for five years, and am now in my sixth year. I have made it known to the Churchwardens that because of other commitments I can not continue past the end of this financial year [that is December 2015].

Maggie Grove's taking on of the book keeping part of the job has made a huge difference to the amount of work, and is in large part why I have been able to continue in this current year. I will happily explain the amount of work involved in the remaining part of the treasury role, and hope that one of you may consider taking this on.

My thanks to all of you for your kind words and support over the last five and a half years.

Peter Gardner, Canberra, 22 April 2015

Richard Mumford reiterated that we need to find someone else bold enough to take on the role of Treasurer.

4.4 Fabric Report

Contained within the Annual Parish Review 2014 on page 12.

4.5 Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Contained within the Annual Parish Review 2014 on page 18.

5 Elections and Appointments

5.1 Members of the Deanery Synod

David Hawkins; Susan Perry; Richard Mumford and Alison Sandham were appointed in 2014 for a three year term of office, however it is necessary to appoint someone in place of Susan Perry who is no longer on the Electoral Roll of this Parish.

Liz Gardner had agreed to stand for election for the remaining two years of this term of office. This was proposed by M Ounsted and seconded by H Fowler, all were in favour.

5.2 Members of the Parochial Church Council

Nominations had been received for the following to stand as members of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Cropthorne and Charlton:

Philip Hildesley	to represent Fladbury & Communications Sub Committee
Celia Willis	to represent Fladbury & Pastoral Sub Committee
Elizabeth Gardner	to represent Wyre Piddle & Deanery Synod Representative
Michael Martin	to represent Lower Moor
Peter Gardner	as Treasurer
Peter Harris	to represent Cropthorne
Helen Fowler	to represent Charlton

Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representatives have a place on the PCC as Ex Officio members these are:

Richard Mumford	also to represent Atlas
Alison Sandham	also to represent Charlton and Communications Sub Committees
David Hawkins	also Healing Sub Committee

These nominees who had been proposed and seconded on an individual basis were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The PCC remained under strength, however there is the possibility to adopt additional members on to the PCC throughout the year. There are many who take an active role in the work of the Parish who might like to consider joining the PCC.

5.3 Election of Deputy Church Wardens

Nominations had been received for the following to stand as Deputy Church Wardens of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Cropthorne and Charlton:

Helen Fowler	Charlton
Peter Harris	Cropthorne
Philip Hildesley	Fladbury
Martin Ounsted	Fladbury
Carol Martin	Lower Moor
Michael Martin	Lower Moor
Wendy Malkinson	Wyre Piddle
Elizabeth Gardner	Wyre Piddle

These nominees who had been proposed and seconded on an individual basis were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

There remained two vacancies for additional Deputy Church Wardens, one at Charlton and one at Cropthorne. P Harris publically thanked Hilary Hall for her continued help however, and wherever she can. H Fowler expressed the extent to which she missed Diana Boardman and paid tribute to her input over the years.

5.4 The Independent Examiner or Auditor to the PCC

Peter Gardner proposed Clement Rabjohn who have provided an excellent service over a period of time be appointed as Independent Examiner or Auditor to the PCC, this was seconded by D Hawkins and all were in favour.

5.5 Treasurer

Peter Gardner was appointed as Treasurer until 31 December 2015. Proposed by P Harris, seconded by H Fowler and all were in favour.

6 Annual Parish Review – Open Forum

6.1 P Hildesley thanked Richard Mumford for his comments about Communications, he felt Jane Bugg was missed out and wanted to publically thank Jane for what she did, not only her exceptionally hard work in Fladbury but in the entire Parish, she was of enormous help. The APCM responded in a round of applause. P Hildesley went on to say it is not an easy business, he also encouraged people from each village to be more forthcoming in passing information with regard to activities to the Communications Team, for Five Alive.

P Hildesley also thanked Alison Sandham for all she does maintaining the website, and for her work on the joint Parish Profile. P Hildesley reported there had been a number of hits on the website from Moscow.

6.2 D Hawkins thanked those present for what they do for all the church buildings within the Parish to keep them open and running. D Hawkins has oversight of churches in twelve dioceses; in the past four weeks he had cause to close five churches. People imagine that the churches will always remain, however they rely on the good will and time that people devote to them. To keep things in perspective more important than the buildings is the proliferation of our spiritual message.

6.3 W Malkinson proposed a vote of thanks to Delia Harding, who was always most helpful, willing and hardworking, who always responded quickly to any request. In addition for the hard work she does for the Five Alive Parish she is working for the Flyford Family of Churches as well.

6.4 Having been working with Richard Mumford and the whole team, Bill North had the feeling that things were 'ticking over' very well. However they were just ticking over, he felt there was scope for some fairly radical ideas to try to attract young families and families with children into the church, we need to be radical. He raised the questions is now the right time if we hopefully have a new priest in six month's time, should we wait for a new incumbent? If we just carry on keeping things going he was not sure where we were heading as a church, and felt we could not carry on in such a manner long term. New initiatives need to be thought about, even if we are to wait until an incumbent is in post.

R Mumford agreed that we needed to look at what opportunities there were, often parishes move forward when in a vacancy.

D Hawkins agreed that if someone had a vision they should come forward and do it now. Make dreams happen. Make churches useable places. Go out and speak to people and let their children get used to being in the church building, take some risks.

Jane Bugg expressed that the church was a nice place to be during the summer but that we could not expect young families in the churches at other times. She also said that the ladies who helped with teas at the fete were a good form of outreach, members of the congregation should make an effort to take an interest in such events as schools sports days and should be seen to be taking an active interest in younger members of the community.

6.5 Open the Book Team were working very hard liaising with the schools and trying to get children interested in church. Hopefully with Rev S Malkinson's involvement with family services things will grow. Carol Oldfield reiterated the need to get church people into school. Also church people to attend school services in church which were wonderful occasions, both lively and fulfilling. If the church has more of a presence in the school, the school will be seen more in church. Many of the individuals present at the APCM were not at work during the day and could afford to invest in the children.

H Fowler could bear this out from her experience with Charlton and Cropthorne First School. Their school services are most worthwhile, she totally endorsed the notion of opening up the churches for everyone and for an increasing diverse range of events. Three times recently Charlton had been opened up for other than services; cream teas on Easter Monday afternoon, a Requiem to which in excess of one hundred people came and most recently a fish and chip lunch followed by a talk on the history of Chalton to which nearly ninety came a joint venture with Charlton School Room. Each of these events in addition to opening the building up to a wider audience raised funds for the organisations involved. There had been an interesting meeting on Hypnotherapy and an 8 session course in coming

months. The use of the church is widening encouraging those people who would not normally be seen in the church building.

On 6 June there is a vocal concert in aid of Arthritis Research and Church funds in Fladbury Church.

Open the book is tremendous in Fladbury, Charlton and Crophorne and Pinvin Schools.

The village hall, Charlton School Room and the church being adjacent provides a wealth of opportunity to work collaboratively, it is the start of a new era in Charlton.

6.6 R Mumford reminded the meeting that there are still moves afoot to set up 'Friends of' groups to support the individual church buildings and to encourage people who are non church going to contribute to their maintenance.

7 The Grace

The Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting stood to share the words of the Grace to conclude the business of the meeting.

The newly elected members of the PCC were asked to remain for a brief PCC Meeting. Jean Ounsted also joined this meeting.

Signed: Date:

PCC Meeting Immediately Following the APCM on 23 April 2015

Present: Peter Harris, David Hawkins, Philip Hildesley, Helen Fowler, Michael Martin, Richard Mumford, Bill North, Celia Willis

Jean Ounsted also attended the meeting

1 Co-options – none

2 Appointment of Lay Chair
It was proposed that Richard Mumford and Bill North take it in turn to chair meetings. All were in favour.

3 Appointment of Standing Committee

The Church Wardens and Treasurer are ex officio members of the Standing Committee, just one appointment was required. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Celia Willis be appointed to the Standing Committee.

4 Policies from Diocesan DBS Administration for Consideration

J Ounsted brought the following policies before the PCC and gave a resume of their content:

- Safeguarding Policy - adopted at the PCC meeting on 24 March 2015
- Safer Recruitment Policy 2013
- Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders
- Parish Policy on Handling, Use and Storage of Disclosure Information
- Parish Policy in respect of Disclosure & Barring Service Disclosures

It was unanimously agreed that these be the operating policies for the 5 Alive Parish. J Ounsted urged the PCC to remain vigilant and to discuss with her, any changes of responsibility that individuals might undertake necessitating additional steps need to be taken. A copy of the Safe Recruitment Policy 2013 was handed to the secretary to keep on file in the Parish Office for reference.

The importance of safeguarding being everyone's responsibility was emphasised, and following overview of the guidance in Safer Recruitment the need to be mindful that roles of individuals may change over time, and become eligible for DBS enquiry and safeguarding training. The recommendation for seeking references was also raised.

5 Revised Advertisement for Priest in Charge

It was felt essential to include the word 'rural' in the advertisement to negate the thought that the positions might be in the Georgian town of Pershore. It was suggested priests might be approached to ask would make the job attractive to them. C Willis was happy to speak to the retired priests, but they are just that, and would probably not be representative. It was unanimously agreed that the advertisement should run for several weeks in the Church Times. R Mumford to write to Robert Jones and express this and also to ensure the word 'rural' appears where appropriate.

Signed:..... Date: