

# The Parish of the Sherbornes with Pamber

## Minutes of APCM - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Present:** Daniel Newman, Peter Marrison, Tim Aslet, Jenny Cooke, Valerie Dawson, David Dawson, Keith Bunker, Nicky Bunker, Sue Marrison, Brooke Newman, Barbara Irving, Val Hayter, Nick Elphick, Caroline Elphick, Myfanwy Huggett, Anthony Huggett, Steve Howe, Wendy Howe, Nick Harding, Lynda Harding, Liz Gwynne, Chris Gwynne, Pippa Aslet, Warren Trask, Jenny Spence, Chris Woodward, Andy Spence (Secretary)

1. **Opening prayers:** Daniel opened the meeting in prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Liz Rees.

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

3. **Election of Churchwardens:** Lynda Harding and Tim Aslet were the only nominees for church warden and were therefore unanimously elected.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

4. **Adoption of minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2020:** The minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Matters arising from the above minutes:** None
6. **Declaration of items of 'Any Other Business':** Change in date for May PCC Meeting.
7. **Electoral Roll report:** One member of our congregation died since the last APCM held in October 2020 and two members of our congregation moved away. There were no new joiners to the Electoral Roll so our numbers have reduced by three. The Electoral Roll for the Parish of Sherbornes with Pamber at 25 April 2021 stands at 99 members
8. **PCC Report for the Charity Commission 2020:** This was circulated in advance of the APCM and no comments were received.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** The overall result was a deficit of £13,451. Planned giving increased by 3% and tax recovery has also helped but single donations and a Gift Day are still need to make up the difference in planned giving and expenditure. The largest item of expenditure is our contribution to the Common Mission Fund at almost £60,000. Giving to our mission partners is around 12% of our income slightly exceeding the planned 11%. Overall reserves are holding up at £45,000 with £39,000 of that being unrestricted with the remainder held against specific items at All Saints. The accounts is with the independent examiner awaiting sign-off before being submitted to the Charity Commission.
10. **Fabric Report:** In All Saints the hatch to the boiler room has been completed (thanks to Keith Bunker and Rod Harding). First quotes for the work required following the Quinquennial Inspection will be brought to the May PCC meeting. All Saints and The Priory had nothing added or taken away while in St Andrew an old computer and overhead projector have been removed with nothing added.
11. **Deanery Synod report:** No additions to the report in the booklet although there was a meeting in November held by Zoom which was primarily an introductory meeting for new Deanery Synod members.
12. **Other Written reports:** see APCM Booklet. No questions were received.
13. **Verbal Reports**
  - a. **Youth & Children:** Pippa expressed her appreciation for all the work that Caroline and the rest of the team have carried out in managing Y&C activities most especially since lockdown began which resulted in activities being carried out on-line. Sunday Club started again today

following the easing of lockdown restrictions. Easter events including bake-offs took place and were well received. A creche facility is being developed in the bell tower room with Gayle Vermeer taking a lead in enhancing this. Pathfinders continue to meet led by Warren and it is a matter for prayer that they continue to meet and progress into main church meetings. More support is needed to help run our children's ministry, ideally younger members of our congregation particularly as we think about establishing a pre-school age group. Please pray for the families on the fringes of the church that they are encouraged to bring their children to join in the youth and children's activities.

- b. Mission Partners: Daniel reminded us that Nick Labiche has stepped away from London City Mission and at the same time we learned that James and Charlie Ballinger are planning to return to Japan to lead the Samurai project, training Japanese pastors to lead churches there. Daniel acknowledged there is disappointment we are not able to support a UK mission partner but this particular opportunity came up at just the right time. Although Ishaya Baba is not a formal mission partner who we support financially we do pray for them regularly for which Ishaya and Felicia are extremely appreciative.
- c. Parish Trust: Nick reported that the Trust is working on a transition to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, necessitated because the Trust Deed had become outdated. It is being renamed the Ministry Trust. The Trust will continue to be wholly dependent on donations to carry on its work. The Trust hopes to use a legacy received a few years ago to purchase a property for use by our Assistant Ministers but we will need to borrow more money to allow us to buy the right kind of property. If we can borrow money from within the congregation that would be the preferred solution and more details on this will be forthcoming.

14. **Safeguarding Report**: This church takes Safeguarding very seriously and most of the people attending the APCM have taken safeguarding training. A Safeguarding Report was included in the booklet; no questions were received.

15. **Churchwarden's Report**: Peter delivered his last report (for now) as church warden. Good Evening. Now those who know me will not be too surprised to learn that I enjoy working with numbers! When I was a young man Career guidance experts reported that accountancy would be an ideal career for me. Well over the years God has shown me that actually people and particularly His people are far more important than numbers. So whilst I could spew out a load of statistics this evening to demonstrate how God's kingdom in our parish has fared over the past year, I prefer to tell you about how our church family has pulled together in this time of adversity.

First of all we thank God for answering our prayers to keep our vacancy as short as possible as we welcomed Daniel and Brooke and their 5, now 6, children at the beginning of last year. Daniel had hardly time to get to know his new parish when Covid restrictions were applied.

We found new ways to keep in touch within our church family and have thought carefully about those who do not have internet access. There are a couple of families in this category and other means of keeping them in touch have been found. The pastoral model of Home Groups taking responsibility not only for their members but also for those not in home groups with neighbourly phone calls and, when allowed, visits has worked well. Little things like making sure that every lady church member had a small bunch of flowers on Mothers day helped keep the sense of our Christian family alive.

Inevitably there have been frustrations; for example when we could not meet in church but knowing that many more than usual were watching our services on YouTube and not being able to connect with those additional people. All this demonstrates that nothing can stop the Gospel going out. And it seems that it is at times of adversity and hardship the Gospel message flourishes.

The PCC and its sub groups have had to adapt to keep church life going and new technologies embraced. Thankfully new AV equipment was installed at St. Andrews a couple of years ago and that did not require much adaptation to enable us to stream services. The biggest challenge was

to get BT to install a line to the church. Talk about how many BT men does it take to string up a wire! However, we pray for and look forward to the time when we can restore normal church services .

Church life involves helping each other grow in knowledge and love, as Paul writes in Philippians: And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. We should not stand still. Our church offers a number of opportunities to do this in addition to church services and these have all continued albeit virtually: There are Men and Women's breakfast meetings; Home groups, bible study and prayer triplets, online activities for children and special events such as the Lent meetings and the recent 'what's funny about Easter' event.

There are also many training courses available and the Diocese offers a good range. Most of those in leadership positions in our church have taken Safeguarding training many to the higher leadership level, Andy Spence and Steve Howe both completed a Bishops Commission for Mission (BCM) for worship course. Jenny Cooke and Julie Crawley completed the BCM course for pastoral care. Barbara Irving became a Licensed lay Worker and one way she serves is by looking after pastoral care for women. Warren continued his studies towards a Master's degree in Theology at Oak Hill as well as working part time for our parish. We have long had a professional team assisting our Rector to bring us Bible teaching on a regular basis and it is welcoming that this is now recognised at the Diocesan level.

In closing I have enjoyed serving the Lord as Warden and the interesting and diverse challenges this role has provided over the past 15 years. I would like to thank the many who have helped make my tasks easier. Tim, my fellow Warden, Wendy, all the duty wardens who help, Nick Elphick who took over as B&G chair and many, many others.

**I know I am handing over to a very capable pair of hands.** Thank you Lynda.

**16. Elections and appointments**

- a. PCC Representatives: There were five nominations, one for each of the vacancies to the PCC so Val Hayter, Myfanwy Huggett, Rod Harding, Julie Crawley and Caroline Elphick having been appropriately nominated and seconded were duly elected. Caroline is taking the remainder of Lynda Harding's term and will therefore serve just one year. A ballot was held to determine who would take the 2 year term and Rod was selected. Therefore Val, Julie and Myf will serve three year terms.
- b. Independent examiner: Chaweevan Williams of Verdant Accountants Limited has agreed to act as Independent Examiner for both the PCC and the Ministry Trust. He was formally nominated to act as Independent Examiner by Nick Harding and seconded by Keith Bunker and this was unanimously supported by the APCM.

17. **Any Other Business**: The date for the May PCC meeting has been brought forward a week and will now be held on Monday 17 May.

18. **Rector's Report**: Daniel began by reading 1 Peter 5: 7 – 11 and although he recognised there are many reasons why we could be anxious, Scripture encourages us to cast our anxieties on God and trust in him. Renewing our focus on prayer will be a priority for Daniel as restrictions continue to lift. The devil is constantly prowling around looking for someone to devour and his work did not stop during lockdown but it is likely that he will intensify his activities as we begin to meet in person again so we need to be alert to his activity so we can resist him. Daniel encouraged us to be open and constructive with one another when we have an issue or concern with someone in the fellowship.

In reviewing the past year we have continued our work to make Jesus known around our parish, including an on-line Remembrance Day service. Daniel is rebuilding the relationship with the Royal British Legion. We had a Christmas Evensong in Pamber Priory with excerpts from Handel's Messiah sung by Jenny and Anthony. Carol singing took place in various places in the parish and

some of these activities have resulted in new people attending church. A mix of on-line and actual church services have continued through this latest lockdown. Kevin and Kerry Watson moved away and will be missed.

A focus looking forward will be on God's generosity towards us and how we as God's people can be more generous with our time, service and other gifts, including money. Another initiative Daniel wants to encourage us to Engage, Evangelise, Establish and Engage around the parish, building our own faith as well as nurturing faith in others. Rooksdown as an area may move from Popley to our parish at some stage in the near future; the church that was meeting in the community centre has stopped meeting so there is potentially an unmet need there. Together with neighbouring ministers (Arthur Botham and John Wigmore) Daniel is considering the viability of a fortnightly meeting in Rooksdown. This will need prayer as it is an exciting opportunity for us to build on the early foundational work done by others in that area.

Daniel expressed his thanks to Wendy for all her support, to Warren who provides prayer as well as ministry support. Chris, Steve and Andy are stepping down from the PCC. Daniel expressed his appreciation to Tim for all his work as warden and in particular to Peter for his 15 years' service as church warden (not his first stint). Peter is held in the highest regard by all the church family and Daniel in particular valued his support for all the work, especially his work behind the scenes which often goes unrecognised. The entire meeting was united in expressing gratitude and thanks to Peter for his many years of faithful service as church warden and in his many other roles. Thank you Peter.

19. The meeting closed in prayer.