

**WHITEFRIARS CHURCH**  
**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2023 at Whitefriars Primary School**

The meeting started with prayer and worship led by Revd. Josh Thorne.

Present: Those present are listed in the attached appendix.

Apologies: Apologies received are listed in the attached appendix.

Revd. Chris Youngman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2022 had been made available to members of the congregation during March via Church Suite and uploaded on to the church website prior to the meeting. ***They were proposed as being an accurate record of that meeting by Richard Holley and seconded by Celia Underwood, and unanimously accepted by those who had been present at that meeting.***

Report from Outgoing Church Warden: Matt Croxon had elected not to stand again as church warden. He was invited to give a short report in which he thanked the vicar and the staff team for their support. He then gave a short presentation on the Five Anglican Marks of Mission: Proclaim the Good News; Teach, Nurture and Baptise; Respond to Human Need; Seek to Transform Unjust Structures and Strive to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation.

Chris thanked both Richard and Matt for their support to him during the year.

Election of Wardens: At the start of the meeting, one nomination had been received; this was Richard Holley, proposed by Stephen Holman and Amanda Newman. No other nominations were received. ***Richard was therefore elected to serve as church warden for the period of 12 months from April 2023.***

Conclusion: The meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

**WHITEFRIARS CHURCH**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 April 2023 at Whitefriars Primary School**

The meeting began at 7:55.

| Item: | Detail:  | Minute:   |
|-------|--|---|
| 1     | Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2022 | These had been made available to members of the congregation (along with all other required documents) via ChurchSuite and uploaded on the church web-site. . <b><i>The Minutes were accepted by those present at that meeting as being an accurate record of the meeting: proposed by Andrew Presland and seconded by Geoff Watkin.</i></b>  |
| 2     | Matters arising  | There were none.  |
| 3     | Update on the Electoral Roll                                   | Geoff Watkin is the Electoral Roll Officer: he had submitted an updated roll prior to the meeting. Some members had moved to other churches and had asked to be removed from the roll, and there had been some deaths: there had also been a number of new applicants to the roll. The roll now has 100 people recorded.<br>Geoff was thanked for the work he does in maintaining the roll. Others who are not yet on the roll were encouraged to join.   |
| 4     | Deanery Synod Report   | The Deanery Synod report had been circulated prior to this meeting. Chris outlined some of the activities of the synod, and highlighted the planned Beer and Hymns event to be held at Newton Bromswold during July. The equivalent event of 2022 had been a great success.   |
| 5     | Election of members to the PCC                                 | Chris thanked those who had served on the PCC for the work they had done.<br>There were three places available for Deanery Synod Representatives. Nominations had been received from Rosie Benn (proposed by Richard Holley and seconded by Steph Chadwick), Richard Holley (proposed by Steve Holman and seconded by Amanda Newman) and Steven Holman (proposed by Richard Holley and seconded by Amanda Newman). <b><i>All three were duly elected to represent the PCC at the Deanery Synod.</i></b><br>There were five places available on the PCC: three were for the normal three-year period, one casual vacancy for a two-year period and one casual vacancy for a one-year period. Five nominations had been received prior to the meeting: these were Matt Croxon (proposed by Celia Underwood and seconded by Geoff Watkin), Alison Gibson (proposed by Christine Bisgrove and seconded by Celia Underwood), Lynda King (proposed by Rosie Benn and seconded by Emma Croxon), Ken Owst (proposed by Melvyn Hunter and seconded by Jonathan Clarke) and Nisha Slater (proposed by |

Geoff Watkin and seconded by Celia Underwood). **All five were duly elected to the PCC.** (Actual periods of office will be decided at the next PCC meeting.)

6 Finance – balance sheet for 2022 and election of an Independent Examiner

Ken introduced himself as the new Treasurer, having taken on the role from Bernard Close at the beginning of December 2022 and to whom he gave thanks for his work in maintaining the financial records.

He declared a potential conflict of interest as his wife is an employee of the church.

He explained the three different funds managed by the church – unrestricted, designated and restricted.

Over 2022, income had increased by 5.3% on 2021 and expenditure by 2.1% on 2021.

Ken thanked Irene for her work in managing our planned giving and gift aid.

Ken detailed the individual funds as had been circulated prior to this meeting.

There were no questions in relation to the accounts.

Ken asked the meeting to accept the accounts as an accurate record of the finances. **These were accepted by all those present at the meeting: proposed by Rosie Benn and seconded by Lizzie Moesbauer.**

Ken outlined the role of the Independent Examiner and **proposed** that the church ask John Elldred, who is treasurer of Chelveston Church, to continue in this role. **This proposal seconded by Richard Holley was also accepted by all those present.**

7 Children and Youth workers' reports

Emma and Lizzie had submitted reports about their work during 2022.

Asked about their main highlights/favourite moments in 2022: Emma said that this had to be Sparklers – this is a very active group that includes a time of Bible reading and prayer, and involved a large group of pre-school children accompanied by a parent/guardian. Little Sparks has declined since the end of the pandemic, mainly because many of those adults who had come to this had had to return to work.

Lizzie said that she thoroughly enjoyed her schools ministry in helping to lead assemblies, mentoring and offering a safe space to pupils.

Comments from those present at the meeting included: we are very lucky to have the children and youth ministry that we have; our children's work is awesome and phenomenal; our workers are so very good at their job. Rosie gave thanks for the massive input the team has at Rushden Academy (where she works).

Many churches do not recognise that non-Sunday morning work is still part of the church.

Comment was made about how the Bridge and school hall had been transformed for the Easter celebrations.

Our children's and youth ministry looks to link the church to the home and to build relationships through these links. This is where churches need to be going.

8 Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report had been made available to members of the congregation via ChurchSuite and uploaded on to the church web-site.

There were no questions about this report.

9 Safeguarding and GDPR

Celia had submitted a Safeguarding Report which had been circulated to members via Church Suite. DBS renewals were up-to-date bar one person and training was generally up-to-date with some people completing face-to-face training and others making use of the on-line training.

Melvyn had circulated a GDPR Report which had been circulated to members via Church Suite. The continued use of Church Suite had ensured that there had been no breaches of data during 2022.

10 Vicar's Report

All members of the congregation had received a copy of the Vicar's Report.

Chris started his report by quoting from Psalm 127 and William Temple. He reminded the meeting of the missional culture being applied of Jesus being central to Up, In and Out and how this is applied using the Kairos Learning Circle, and posing the questions 'What is God saying to me?' and 'What am I going to do about it?' He reminded people of the Stepping In meeting that happens on the Stepping Out Sundays – a time of prayer and worship in the school library. He reminded the meeting about the discipleship groups we have and that making disciples involves cultivating, commissioning and calling people into a relationship with Jesus. He linked the Up, In and Out to a house containing the church family with Out being Focus and Friends, In being Food and Fun and Up being Fired Up (the five elements of OIKOS) and that the Growing Faith Adventure involved a partnership between the Church, the Home and the School. He said that Whitefriars Church is a good church but not yet a perfect one. He thanked everyone for their generous giving, not just in financial terms.

He concluded his report by telling people of the struggles that he and Liz had had during the past three years following the death of their son at the start of the Covid pandemic, his diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer and the loss of their dog Jack. More recent development of hip arthritis has resulted in pain that prevents rest and so he had made the difficult decision to retire from paid ministry that would be effective from the end of August 2023.

There followed a time of prayer for Chris and Liz as they prepared to move into a new phase in their lives.

11 A.O.B.

There was none.

12 Closing prayer

Richard thanked Chris for his work, especially through his hardships of the past three years. He reflected on the sermon from the previous day – God has a plan. God loves us. God loves this church and wants us to prosper. We must work together as a team. We must pray to know God’s plan for each of us, and what God is calling us to do. Surprises and disasters are God’s opportunities – we have a new phase coming up and God will work into this. He read from Isaiah 43 and closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting ended at 9:20.

## APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES OF THE APCMs FOR 2021

### WHITEFRIARS CHURCH – ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The following attended the APCMs held on  
24 April 2023:

Darren Barker  
Josh Benn  
Rosie Benn  
Christine Bisgrove  
Pete Bisgrove  
Steph Chadwick  
Jonathan Clarke  
Lisa Clarke  
Mikie Coyston  
Emma Croxon  
Matt Croxon  
Ally Gibson  
Richard Holley  
Melvyn Hunter  
Sue Kerr  
Simon King  
Luke Makepeace  
Lizzie Moesbauer  
Ken Owst  
Sara Owst  
Andrew Presland  
Roy Presland  
Jeremy Smith  
Pete Squires  
Celia Underwood  
Chris Youngman  
Liz Youngman  
Geoff Watkin  
Kay Watt  
Karen Woolley

The following apologies were received prior  
to the meeting:

Irene Alford  
Ken Alford  
Hannah Barker  
Chris Beckhurst  
Eve Bundock  
Matt Bundock  
Steven Chadwick  
Alan Dodds  
Glenda Dodds  
Keith Gibson  
Lynda King  
Carol Nash  
Emma Smith  
Amanda Squires  
Corinne Thorne