

**ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

**21 April 2024 at 0945
St Paul's Church**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the APM held on 23 April 2023

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

4. Electoral Roll
5. Presentation of the Accounts
6. Report on the Fabric of the Church
7. Report on the dealings of the Deanery Synod
8. Safeguarding Report
9. Election of the Church Council
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

John Gedge
PCC Secretary

**ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
23 April 2023
St Paul's Church at 09:45**

Present: 110 plus the Vicar and Rev Catherine. The large attendance was achieved by holding the meeting during the morning service.

1. Apologies were received from Gwen Gedge, Maureen Leach, Rebecca Long, Christine Medd and Phillip Simpson
2. Minutes from the meetings held on 24 April 2022 were approved as a correct record.

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Election of Churchwardens
Only one nomination had been received for the two positions. Jayne Weatherill was appointed unanimously. The Vicar thanked Jayne for her work and noted that we are fortunate that we have four Assistant Wardens [David Gahan, Jon Humfrey, Phillip Simpson and Keith Weatherill] who assist Jayne with some of the duties.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

4. Electoral Roll
John Gedge reported that the Electoral Roll stands at 154.
5. Presentation of the Accounts
Brian Threlfall presented the annual accounts which had been approved by the PCC, independently examined, and confirmed to be correct. Brian reported that there was a deficit in our unrestricted funds of £4312.74 in 2022 which was less than expected. Brian noted that all the work on the Parish Hall over the last couple of years had been funded by grants, and thanked Jayne Weatherill for applying for those grants. Brian reminded the meeting that the diocese had agreed only a temporary reduction in our parish share following the unexpected repairs to the tower and so our parish share will increase in 2023 and again in 2024 on top of the huge increase in our gas and electricity bills. Brian stressed the importance of this year's stewardship campaign, stating that we need to increase our income substantially just to meet our bills, and really need to more than meet our bills so we can build up the roof fund. Brian noted that he will be stepping down from this role during the current year. Brian thanked Mervyn Bonnett for his work as the Independent Examiner. The Vicar thanked Brian for his work as Treasurer.
6. Report on the Fabric of the Church
Jayne Weatherill reported that the Terrier and Church Log / Inventory are up to date. Jayne noted that there had not been much work on the Parish Hall in 2022, but a grant meant we will be replacing the ceiling in the main hall in August. The church boiler was replaced in 2022, and some pews were removed to create a more flexible space in the north aisle.
7. Safeguarding Jayne Weatherill reported that the parish is using the new national system which records training and produces reminders when anyone needs new or refresher training. We have 53 cleared volunteers, so the Safeguarding Officer role involves keeping a lot of records up to date. A report is presented to each PCC meeting. A deputy to share the work would be appreciated.

8. Vicar's Report

The Vicar noted that our agenda is to worship God, and to see God in the people around us. Similarly, the only "business" of the church is worship, with everything else done as the church's family to enhance worship, praise God, and see God in our midst. The Vicar reported that there were 34 people at the 0800 service this morning which is believed to be the only BCP service growing in the diocese. In 2022 our parish had 44 baptisms and 27 funerals, more than any other parish in Lancaster. Our work with local schools is growing, and outreach through the Hala Pantry also is growing. The Vicar asked those present to write on the cards issued when they arrived something they would stop, change or start to help those living in the area of our parish to see God, and then to write on the other side how they would help to achieve this. The cards were gathered as part of the collection. Jayne Weatherill thanked the Vicar for her work during the year.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Grace Illidge, Margaret Ives and Phillip Simpson were elected for another 3 year term of office as our parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod.

10. Report on the dealings of the Deanery Synod

Margaret Ives briefly outlined the synodical structure of the Church of England and reported that the meetings of our local deanery synod in 2022 discussed several topics including inclusivity and mission orientation.

11. Election of the Church Council

Arton Medd and Keith Weatherill had reached the end of the 6 year maximum and so had to step down from the PCC at this meeting for at least a year. Christine Medd also stepped down. Sue Croft was the only person nominated for election and was duly elected for an initial 3 year term.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mervyn Bonnett was reappointed as independent examiner.

13. Questions

None.

14. Junior Church

The members of Junior Church had discussed what they could do to make the group better. Suggestions included field trips, different music, dancing, and a reading corner. The Vicar thanked the group leaders and helpers for their work with the younger members of our congregation.