

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER, ROPLEY

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN St PETER'S CHURCH ROPLEY ON SUNDAY 11 MAY 2025 AT 11.30AM

Chaired by Rev'd Amber Beresford

#### Meeting of Parishioners

1. **Welcome & Prayers** were said by Rev'd Amber Beresford (RevA)

2. **Apologies** - apologies had been given.

John and Christine DZ; Graham Dix; Kathryn Fielden; Mary Flatt; Sandra Fletcher;  
Angela Henderson; Georgie & Will Nicoll; Sue Pakenham-Walsh; Sally Palmer; John  
Pettegree; Wendy Reeve; Quentin Sandell; Maurice Shakespeare  
Julian and Debbie Shellard; David and Jennifer Smith; Joan Stop; Sue Wustefeld

3. **Appointment of Churchwardens**

Sarah Earthy was formally thanked for all her work as Churchwarden over the past years. She was presented with flowers and a gift.

Sue Thomas was standing again as Churchwarden, this for her second year. This was agreed unanimously.

Greville Dawson was formally elected as Churchwarden proposed by AW and KM – unanimously carried.

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1.0 **Opening Remarks** by Reverend Amber Beresford. (RevA)

2.0 **Approval of Minutes of APCM 2024** with item 4.0 adjusted to record a majority decision. Agreed. Matters Arising: None

3.0 **Election of Deanery Synod Members**

Humphrey Carr and Keith Monkhouse stepped down as Deanery Synod Members and were formally thanked for their many years of work with the Deanery and the PCC.

Christine Drewienkiewicz (DZ) was elected to one of the positions of Deanery Synod representative. Proposed by Wilma Hainsworth & seconded by Sue Thomas. Unanimously carried. Anyone interested in filling the other post to speak to Rev A.

#### 4.0 **Election of PCC Members**

Current PCC Members to continue through 2025/6 to 2026/27:

Julia Flory, Alan Parsonson, Barbara Pettegree.

Election of New PCC Members to 2027/28:

Elizabeth Barley proposed by Alan Parsonson & Sue Thomas

Alison Benton proposed by Pat Ure & Liz Wheeler

Sally Palmer proposed by Sue Thomas & Alan Parsonson

Ron Beal proposed by Humphrey Carr & Greville Dawson

Sarah Earthy proposed by Alison Wood & Jill Shakespeare

Alison Wood proposed by Sarah Earthy & Glynis Biart

Co-opted Member: Andy Bonner was proposed as a Co-opted Member by Sue Thomas & Greville Dawson

All in favour – None against and no abstentions on any of the above.

#### 4.0 **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Alan Parsonson (AP) proposed that our current Independent Examiner, Lesley Chapman, be appointed again for a further year. All agreed.

#### 5.0 **Electoral Roll**

Report by Alison Wood, Electoral Roll Officer:

2025 was the year for a full review of the Electoral Roll. Everyone, even if they had been on the Electoral Roll for years, had to re-apply. The next full review will be in 2031.

The deadline for applying to be on the St Peter's Electoral Roll was 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

20 new people have joined the Roll – welcome! The total number of people included on the Electoral Roll on 26<sup>th</sup> April was 94, of whom 22 live outside the parish of Ropley.

Anyone who missed the 26<sup>th</sup> of April deadline but would still like to be on the Electoral Roll can join at any time during the year.

Hilary Waller has agreed to take on the role of Electoral Roll Officer.

#### 6.0 **Annual Report and Accounts for 2023**

1. **Accounts:** Given by Alan Parsonson (AP) who reported the following:-

- We are solvent
- We are still meeting our Reserves Policy

- Together with grants already secured, we can meet our known financial commitments including repair of the footpaths and recasting of bell #4.

AP highlighted p25 & 26 of the Annual Report and gave an overview of the 2024 numbers and expenditure. AP briefed the AGM on the reason for additional costs to the Bell No. 4 and the additional electricity charge and plans to address this. He advised the APCM that the running costs are £77 per day.

AP advised that we now have sufficient funds to start the work on the footpaths and lighting due to commence on 07 July 2025 for three weeks and that there have been some personal donations to cover the unforeseen bell additional costs.

Finally, AP advised that whilst 2024 was financially better than expected, the servicing of the Diocesan loan and full payment of the Common Mission Fund (CMF) will erode funds quickly. AP will be doing a presentation to all interested parties in September 2025 which will be part of a "Giving Day".

## 2. **Annual Report.**

RevA highlighted some items from the Report and highlighted three areas of growth, particularly with families and teenagers:

- a. The growth in **music in St Peters'** which has attracted a great number of people, both from within and beyond the parish. Alison Benton (AB), our Director of Music, was formally thanked for all her work.
- b. **Minecraft Church**, which now has 17 children signed up on Tuesday evening. Toby Beresford was formally thanked for his part in this.
- c. **Vision & Values of St Peters.** All those who took part in the survey were formally thanked for their help in producing this important document.

## 7.0 **Terrier and Inventory**

AW explained this was a list of the property and items belonging to St Peter'. The process of producing an up-to-date inventory will start in June 2025 and will be ongoing. Anyone interested in assisting with this process to contact RevA or one of the Wardens.

RevA thanked Eileen Adkins and Penny Read for all their work recording and mapping the gravestones in the churchyard. This information will be held on the Local History Group's website and will be invaluable to us at St Peter's.

## 8.0 **Safeguarding**

RevA asked Wilma Hainsworth, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to talk about safeguarding. WH said there was one real positive aspect to Safeguarding: “we are all in this together, as it is everyone’s responsibility to make St. Peter’s Church a safe environment.” She explained that Safeguarding comprises 3 areas:

### **Protection from harm; Protection from neglect; Protection from abuse.**

WH explained that this protected 2 distinct groups of people, Children and Youths under 18 and adults who are vulnerable.”

The PSO explained that not every matter is pertinent to safeguarding as in large group activities it can be normal for occasional tiffs, rows and squabbles and these might be deemed as behaviour and conduct matters.

WH said that her written report covered both the local Church and the national scene. The national scene and its problems during 2024 had an impact on local matters.

Briefly, **in local matters**, at St. Peter’s Church, we have raised our communication and media presence with full contact details appearing in Church, our website and the local parish magazine. The Church is compliant with CofE safeguarding standards.

WH highlighted that we have 36 members in the congregation who have completed Safeguarding Training. Indeed, on most Sundays, half the congregation is well equipped and knowledgeable on safeguarding matters. As PSO, WH ensures that members participating in regulated roles in Church activities were fully compliant with DBS certification.

Moving on to the **national scene**, the PSO gave details on the Jay Report and its recommendations which were fully detailed in her written report. She explained Synod was still considering these hard-hitting conclusions.

The PSO highlighted the outcome of the long-awaited Makin Report and the adverse national publicity which followed it. Ordinary members in the pews across the country had shown shock, horror and bewilderment that this prolific, brutal and abhorrent abuse could have happened. The Archbishop of Canterbury resigned his post and displayed personal accountability for its conclusions.

The PSO commended her written report to members and said she can be contacted any time.

Revd. Amber Beresford said that she can also be contacted about safeguarding matters, which she will discuss with Wilma Hainsworth. Should anyone have a safeguarding concern about herself (Revd Amber) they should go direct to Wilma.

## 9.0 Looking to the Future

RevA highlighted 3 areas for action in 2025 and beyond:

- a) **Care for the isolated** - there is an opportunity to join the Gardening Team on Tuesday mornings.
- b) **Teenagers:** As the Sunday night confirmation classes come to an end for the current young people, a Youth Group will take its place. RevA asked for volunteers to help with this important work.
- c) **Children:** Thoughts for development and shaping ideas for children are in progress and more will be made known this year.

## 10. Any Other Business

Thanks were given to AW, AP and Ron Beal (RB) for producing the Annual Report and Accounts.

AW gave thanks to RevA for all her work in St Peter's and the wider area.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be announced.