

Minutes of Annual Church Meetings
St Mary's Magdalene Church Mitford
22nd October 2020, 7.00pm - BY ZOOM

(The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Mitford. Charity number 1190575)

Present : Alyson Lamb (*priest-in-charge*), David Lea (*churchwarden*), Richard Addison (*churchwarden*), Brian Priestley (*churchwarden*), Carol Thompson (*treasurer*), Bev Morris (*secretary*), plus thirty-two members of the electoral roll (**38 in total**). **Apologies:** Linda Fugill, Jane Massey, Dick Quinby.

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Welcome

Alyson welcomed everyone and opened in prayer reading Psalm 117.

Ann Attwood explained the Zoom protocol.

2. Bev Morris was appointed Clerk to the Meeting.

3. Appointment of tellers: not required.

4. Minutes of the APM 2019 were received. There were no matters arising. The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting - Proposer: **Richard Addison** seconded by **David Lea**. Unanimously agreed.

5. Election of Churchwardens:

Alyson described the dual-facing role and responsibility of a churchwarden:

- as an officer of the Bishop, to represent the laity of the parish and Church
- called to collaborate with the incumbent in the mission of the Church.

Alyson expressed her gratitude to the three churchwardens who had served the parish faithfully in 2019-20: Richard Addison, David Lea and Brian Priestley.

David Lea and **Brian Priestley** are stepping down after many years of sacrificial service.

Alyson thanked them for their diligence, professionalism and love of people.

Two nominations for churchwardens to serve 2020-21 had been received:

Richard Addison - proposer: **Don Watson Jones**; seconder: **Esther Watson Jones**

Sean Fugill - proposer: **Bev Morris** seconder: **Neil Burnell**

There being no other nominees, **Richard** and **Sean** were duly elected churchwardens for 2020/2021. They were congratulated and thanked for their willingness to serve the parish in these vital roles.

It was noted by Alyson that, by permission of the diocese, Mitford has traditionally appointed 4 churchwardens. As we progress towards a joint governance structure for the Benefice of Mitford with Hebron, we need to evaluate and determine the optimal number of churchwardens to support a joint leadership team (Joint Council). In 2021 Richard Addison will have completed a full term of 6 consecutive years of service. To assure

continuity and mutual support in leadership, the parish should therefore aim to appoint at least two new churchwardens in March 2021. She asked all members to pray for God's provision of those willing to serve Christ in this capacity.

6. Its business being complete, the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies:** as recorded above.

2. **AOB – NIL**

3. **Approval of Minutes** of the **2019 APCM** were received and adopted as a true record.

Proposed: **Richard Addison** Seconded: **Ann Attwood** There were no matters arising.

4. STATUTORY REPORTS OF THE PCC

The five statutory reports had been made available to the church members prior to the meeting. They were presented to the meeting as follows:

(i) Electoral Roll

Presented by **Bev Morris** in the absence of **Brian Hedley, Electoral Roll Officer**.

Electoral roll number in April 2020. **135** (2 removals and 1 addition)

(The next full review will be 2025)

(ii) The activities of the PCC

Presented by **Bev Morris, Secretary to the PCC**

(iii) Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Presented by **Brian Priestley on behalf of the Churchwardens**.

(iv) Financial Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2019

- Financial statement for the year ending 31.12.2019 presented by **Carol Thompson, treasurer**.

- **Adoption of the 2019 Accounts**

The audited account had been circulated and displayed for two weeks. There were no questions about the account.

Proposed by **Mary Priestley** and seconded by **Jean Bagnall**. There being no abstentions or votes against they were unanimously adopted.

Alyson thanked **Carol** for her scrupulously prepared reports. She also thanked **David Lea** and **Peter Rose** for their support.

(v) Deanery Synod

Presented by **Ann Attwood, Deanery Synod Representative**.

THIS COMPLETED THE PRESENTATION OF THE FIVE STATUTORY REPORTS TO THE MEETING.

(vi) Informal Review of 2019

Ann Attwood presented a 'review in pictures' of some of the highlights of the year's events which was especially poignant because of the restrictions we have been facing due to the Covid pandemic. **Alyson** expressed thanks to **David Lea** for the photographs and to **Ann Attwood** for the assembly.

Alyson also thanked those involved in the many 'hidden ministries' and unsung heroes of the church including:

- Churchyard –e.g. **Richard Addison's** unflagging service since lockdown
- World Mission Partner group - supporting our partners locally and worldwide
- Sidesmen team - vital to the ministry of welcome and hospitality.
- Food bank – **Linda Fugill** and her team
- Safeguarding team

The 'new' ministries that have emerged due to Covid-19 and lockdown:

- Risk management – **Sue Gilmer**
- Online worship, technical support – **Ian Robinson** and **Sadie Flanagan**
- Corporate prayer – and **Isabel Quinby** and **Alan Travis** for helping us transition the previous fortnightly prayer meeting to a weekly format, via Zoom, prayer triplets, and resources for prayer at home.
- The Ministry Team (leaders and preachers) and musicians for embracing the new way of being church.

Alyson reminded us that ministry means 'service'. If we are serving Christ's church in any way, whether up front or behind the scenes, we exercise a ministry; and all ministries are equally valuable to Jesus.

(vii) Questions arising from the reports

No questions were received on any of the reports.

5. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

(i) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Before proceeding to the election of members to serve for a three-year term **Alyson** thanked those who had served as Deanery Synod Representatives for the previous year:

Ann Attwood, Douglas Hoblyn, Brian Hedley.

Election of representatives:

Ann Attwood proposed by **Stephen Attwood** and seconded by **David Lea**

Nigel Jobson proposed by **Stephen Attwood** and seconded by **Ann Attwood**

They were declared duly elected.

(ii) Election of PCC members

Alyson thanked all those who had served, especially those stepping down, **Brian Hedley, Ian Lane**

Three members are continuing to serve; **Carol Thompson, Dick Quinby, Bev Morris.**

Mary Dowswell is standing for re-election. Proposed by **Bev Morris** and seconded by **Louise Hancox.**

There are three new nominations:

Sarah Mills – proposed by **Isabel Quinby** seconded by **Dick Quinby**

Carol Spedding – proposed by **Neil Burnell** seconded by **Richard Spedding**

Richard Spedding – proposed by **Carol Spedding** seconded by **Neil Burnell.**

The number of nominations not exceeding the number of seats on the PCC, those nominated were declared duly elected.

Alyson thanked **John Laurenson** and **Paul Rusby** who, as licensed Readers, had served as ex-officio members of PCC 2019-202. Having been ordained deacon in October, Paul was now serving his curacy at Morpeth parish.

(iii) Introductions: 'Just a minute':

All members of the PCC introduced themselves in 60 seconds, and explained why they felt called to serve the Church as a member of the PCC.

(iv) Appointment of independent auditor for the accounts

Carol Thompson proposed that the church should re-appoint **Fr Alan Clements** as Independent Assessor.

The motion was seconded by **David Lea** and duly approved.

6. PROPOSAL TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COUNCIL

David Lea gave a brief update on progress made to establish a joint governance structure for the Benefice. The outgoing Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, Mark Wroe, had this past week written to encourage us to continue working towards developing a suitably form of Joint Council, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020. The aim is to draw up a 'scheme' to be ratified at the next APCM in March 2021. The meeting was asked to vote on this proposed course of action.

Proposer: **David Lea**; seconder: **Sean Fugill**.

The proposal was unanimously supported.

7. REMARKS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE.

Alyson spoke of the work on vision and strategy carried out by the PCC 2019-2020. In addition to the PCC Vision Day (July 2019) and the LyCiG training (October 2019) the impact of the pandemic had catalysed the '*Re-Think*' survey in summer 2020, when we asked ourselves:

- *What has been fruitful in mission and worship as result of the changes forced on us in 2020?*
- *Where have we seen God working? What do we want to keep?*
- *What do we need to change?*

The results of the church-wide survey had been summarised in the paper '*Re-Think: Church for a New Season*', which had been distributed to all members.

In 2021, the *Re-Think* process will feed into a new Mission Action Plan for the Benefice.

Meanwhile we need to continue prioritise prayer, seeking God's guidance and direction for the way ahead. God has been wonderfully faithful to us over the past months, enabling us to find new ways to 'be church and to show Christ's love in action - to each other, and to our community. But let's note that this came about because many of the struts and supports we

had come to depend on were kicked away. Alyson encouraged us to 'lean in' to this season of continuing challenge, separation and difficulty. As we lean into God in prayer he will strengthen and sustain us, individually and corporately, and help us to bless and become more than we can imagine.

8. OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Isabel Quinby thanked everyone who has served on the PCC and encouraged us to look out for one another in love, and to pray.

9. COMMISSIONING OF THE PCC

Alyson invited all members of the PCC to stand as she led us in prayer for the new Council.

10.

Alyson closed the meeting in prayer at 8.55pm.