

St Laurence, Longney Annual Parochial Meeting & APCM
at Longney Church on Sunday 23rd April 2023 1030am

Minutes

1. **Present:** Richard Martin (Vicar and Chairman), Tom Whittaker (Churchwarden), Sue O'Reilly (Churchwarden), Dorothy Stone (Secretary), Mike Farmer (Treasurer), Hazel Morgan, Imogen Smith, Colin Stone, Geoff Smith.
2. **Apologies:** None.
3. **The Vicar, Reverend Richard Martin**, welcomed everyone especially **Imogen** and opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. **Election of Churchwardens: Tom Whittaker and Susan O'Reilly** were elected unopposed. **Proposed: Colin Stone. Seconded: Mike Farmer.** Carried unanimously. Revd. Martin thanked them for all they had done previously and all that they would do in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 1040hrs.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

1. **Present: As above.**
2. **Apologies: None.**
3. **Minutes of the 2022 APCM** had been circulated. There were no questions or amendments. **Proposed: Geoff Smith. Seconded: Hazel Morgan.** Carried unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising:** there were none.
5. **Reports – Electoral Roll: Sue O'Reilly** informed the meeting that there were 34 people 12 of whom being Longney residents, the remainder living out-with the Parish.
Parish Activities: this report had been circulated. There were no questions.
Financial Report: Mike Farmer remarked that the figures "...were a bit skewed" owing to a lack of Services due to lockdown. **Revd. Martin** thanked Mike for all he had done, also the Independent Examiner (Auditor).
Churchwardens' Report: had been circulated. There were no questions or comments.
Deanery Synod Report: ...had been compiled by **Justine Sullivan (Hardwicke)** on behalf of all the Deanery Synod representatives for the Benefice and had been circulated. There were no questions or comments.
Proposed: Hazel Morgan. Seconded: Mike Famer. Carried unanimously.

Elections: Deanery Synod Representative – Tom Whittaker was not standing for election this time. There were no other nominations thus it was agreed that the Elmore Representative (Doff Stone) would speak on behalf of Longney when appropriate.

PCC: Hazel Morgan, Geoff Smith, Colin Stone, Dorothy (Doff) Stone, Claire McGoldrick (who will attend when her family situation allows) and Imogen Smith were all elected unopposed. It was proposed that **Mike Farmer** be co-opted onto the PCC in the role of Treasurer. **Proposed:** Geoff Smith. **Seconded:** Sue O’Reilly. Carried unanimously. Cathi Beloe had stood down during the year and Cath Brint was not seeking re-election due to family and work pressures.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Hazel Morgan was willing and able to stand again thus was duly re-elected unopposed.

Lead Recruiter: Fr George Parfitt.

Data Protection Officer: Tom Whittaker was willing and able to stand again thus was duly re-elected unopposed.

Independent Examiner – Mike advised that **Jonathan Harvie** was our current IE and was willing to carry out this task for 23/24. Carried unanimously.

6. **Vicar’s Report: Richard** stated that this had been covered in his Sermon, which follows-

I think today on our annual meeting day, we at Longney have a lot in common with those 2 disciples, Cleopas and his friend.

Notice how they’d been through tough days. “We had hoped”, they say to the stranger who walks with them – the if onlys in life. We’ve been through tough days here, endless revisions to our plans, delays in the Faculty process. We had hoped, if only, it could be quicker, simpler, cheaper. (And I wonder if Joseph of Aramathea had to pay a conservator to advise how to put the stone back on Jesus’ tomb?) But we have a breakthrough - just as they met the risen Christ, we now have permission to go ahead – pray for Tom and Mike in their fund-raising.

Having recognised the risen Jesus when he broke the bread, they then ran back to the others in Jerusalem. 7 miles! Lots of running in the Easter stories, and in church! The joyful exuberance of children reminds us of the joy of our Easter faith. When they get there to tell their wonderful news, puffing and blowing, they are told “yes, we know, he appeared to Simon”! But then together they form a new community of hope, of new possibilities, a new future open up ahead now that everything has changed, Jesus is alive for ever.

We at Longney are in that place now – a community of hope. Hope that our work will soon be done and we can make this Church a centre of the village, a resource for everyone, open 7 days a week.

Signs of hope too in our attendances. Not just as usual at the Advent fair, but at Harvest, on Good Friday and Easter Day – people in this village really want to attend worship in this place. How do we turn that into regular Sunday commitment- that’s a

task we need to work on, relying, as those earliest disciples did, on God's Holy Spirit leading us, and giving us bold energy.

And at our school. We have a new Executive Head, Heather Francis, starting in September, after Penny retires. We will miss Penny so much – but there is new hope, hope of an even stronger link between the Church and the school, in assemblies and RE, maybe a new nursery here, and in Governing – if anyone feels called to be a Foundation governor, please let me know. We will make our storyteller service attractive to families with children, so we are more welcoming. We're now singing a song each time that children know from school. We'll also work on our heating! So I'd like us to see ourselves today as a community of hope, like those first disciples on the first Easter Day, on the brink of something new, something exciting, something God has been preparing us for, and which is very soon to become reality. All because of Jesus' resurrection life, that bursts through the if onlys. But to end with a word of caution: when those if onlys turn into renewed hope, that hope rests on an only if – Jesus' life can shine out only if we keep him at the centre of all we do and want to become. Let's all keep attendance at worship, and our private prayer and Bible reading, at the heart of our own and our Church's life.

Longney School – Richard reminded us that **Penny**, the current Headteacher, would be leaving at the end of Term and that a new **Executive Head**, Heather Francis, had been recruited

6. Priorities: Securing a quote and then fundraising for our re-ordering project. Please pray for Tom and Mike as they head this up. **Liaising** with new Exec Head of Longney School. **Increasing numbers of regular church service attendees** – work on those who had attended Good Friday and Easter services. Hazel noted that older folk in particular were put off by the lack of heating in the Church. We can add temporary heaters once **Phase 3 Electrics** has been installed – this is underway and funding is in place, but there is no time scale for completion and there is no point of contact.

7. AOB – TW proposed a **Vote of thanks** to Richard for all he had done. **DAS** wondered if Mary Hughes (Organist) might be co-opted onto the PCC as Director of Music and that our Organists be ex-officio members of the PCC? The Vicar remarked that Mary is ineligible for election as she is not a Communicant but could be co-opted if she would like.

8. APC Meeting closed at 1045am