

# Benefice of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney

## PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS HARDWICKE

### Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 14 April 2024, in the Church

#### Minutes

Opening Prayers at 12.14pm

**Apologies for absence:** Mike & Marion Williams, Nick Denman, Wendy Hollis, Pat Gilbert, Vanessa Mowett, Michelle & Paige Hendy.

**Annual Parish Meeting** (*anyone on the Electoral Roll or who lives in the parish and is on the Local government Electoral register may vote*) 15 Number present.

**Election of churchwardens:** Richard Flower and Neil Hollis had been duly proposed and elected; All in favour.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (*Only those on the Electoral Roll may vote*) 15 Number present.

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 7 May 2023** : were accepted with no amendments. All in favour.
2. **Matters arising** : None
3. **Reports** :
  - 3.1. **Electoral Roll** (Claire Trafford Electoral Roll Officer) has risen by one, 38 residents and 29 non-residents. Claire is retiring; therefore we need to find someone else for next year. Thank you to Claire for her work over the past few years.
  - 3.2. **Financial report** : We have kept our head above water this year. Spent more than came in this was due to the work on the bells, most of the works were paid by grants with the PCC agreeing to paying £2000. Thanks to involved in the coffee mornings, very much appreciated as this has brought in extra monies. The 'Tithe' (10% from Sunday Service, card machine on Sunday, Parish Giving Scheme) this goes to support Jane Edwards, who went to Hardwicke School and attended Church with her family here. Most of the Gift Aid collected pays for our fuel for heating. Thank you to Wendy our treasurer your work is very much appreciated.
  - 3.3. Churchwardens' Fabric report. Much appreciated of those who spend time during the week tidying up, not easy when Churchwardens have full time jobs!
  - 3.4. Deanery Synod report concentrating on Strategic plan.
4. **Elections and appointments**
  - 4.1. Deanery Synod representatives (2) Justine Sullivan + one vacancy (Marion has stood down due to ill health)
  - 4.2. Election of PCC members we are allowed 9 elected Members.

- 4.2.1. Current Elected members - Mark Walters, Jenny Bell, Linda Cook, Anita Russan, Glenn Duff. Proposer Neil; Secunder Sarah. All in favour. Thanks to the members who have stood down Nick Denman and Paige Hendy.
- 4.2.2. New PCC Members : Kate Roxborough, Proposed Pam Lewis, second Mark Walters all in favour. Angela Peters Proposed Jenny Bell and seconded by Anita Russan, all in favour. There are still 2 spaces.
- 4.3. Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter : Anita Russan has stood down as Safeguarding Officer. Is anyone interested in taking this on please speak to Rev Richard. Thank you to Anita for all the work in the past. George Parfit will continue as Lead Recruiter.
- 4.4. Appointment of Data Protection Officer : Neil Hollis will continue.
- 4.5. Appointment of Independent Examiner : David Edwards will be asked for next year.
- 4.6. The Vicar thanked all people for all they do.

## 5. Priest-in-charge's comments –

I hope you've had a chance to read the 2023 Annual Report. God has been good to us this year. Thank you to all of you for the part you play in his work here.

Looking to the future, I have 2 very simple, connected thoughts to offer.

First, anything we plan to achieve can only come to fruition by the grace of God. So the heart of our Church life continues to be prayer. Please continue to protect and treasure the time you set aside each day for prayer, both to deepen your own relationship with God and to root all we do together in a searching for his will.

If you would like any suggestions as to how you might enhance your prayer life please ask! There is a wealth of wisdom available. It's certainly not one size fits all. If you're getting stale or bored, there's lots of options.

So, number one – let's continue to be a Church of praying people.

And secondly, Let's be a people who pray for the Church – all of it.

It's easy at an APCM or at a PCC to forget that we are a tiny part of the worldwide Church. When we have our intercessions and pray for "The church", that's what we are being reminded about. And when we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done on earth" we are reminded that God's love embraces all the world, not just our part of it!

So today I'm asking each of you to pray for **the** Church, not just this Church.

It starts by remembering that we are a Benefice. Here is a new Benefice prayer diary. On a monthly cycle it enables us to pray for all the Churches and people in this Benefice. Please take it and use it!

Then, we are part of a Deanery. The deanery of Gloucester City. That includes Quedgeley, which was once part of this Benefice and who knows may be again one day. But also far-away parishes like Upton and Hucclecote, inner-city, multi-cultural ones like Barton Street, deprived areas like Matson, and city centre ones like St Mary de Crypt, not to forget the Cathedral. So please pray for the Deanery.

The deanery is part of Gloucester Archdeaconry, which with that of Cheltenham forms the Gloucester Diocese. Our diocese is part of the Province of Canterbury, within the worldwide

Anglican Communion. Pray for its leaders, its unity, its wrestling with issues like same-sex marriage and the legacy of slavery.

And that's just the Church of England! Don't forget the many other expressions of Christian worshipping communities! There are about 80 in Gloucester alone! Some are part of global structures, like the Roman Catholics and Methodists, others are proudly independent. All of them our brothers and sisters. Please pray for them, in Gloucester, elsewhere in the UK, and in every country around the world – some affluent and thriving, some poor and struggling, some persecuted and fearful.

Here we are on this day of our APCM. Thanking God for what he has done here in 2023 and reaching out in faith to him for the future. This Church is where God has called us to be, to pray, to serve, to give - of our time, our expertise, and our money. It is right that sometimes our focus is here.

But let's keep our spiritual eyes open to the Church in its broader, fuller sense. As the prayer book HC service puts it, "The Church of God militant here in earth". Let's especially commit to praying for each Church in this Benefice – being interested in their different challenges and opportunities, sharing their joys and sorrows. As St Paul says, we are all members of the one body of Christ – if one suffers, we all suffer, when one rejoices, we all rejoice.

## **6. Priorities for 2024-5**

**6.1. Re-ordering** – This is ongoing priority get to DAC to Approved and start fundraising.

**6.2. Social Events** – Coffee mornings continue monthly, Ukelele Concert very well received and raised money, and another Choir concert booked for the 27 July.

**6.3. Nurture** – Become clearer on prayers of blessing for use on same-sex relationships "Prayers of Love and Faith" – decisions need to be made at PCC and then shared with the congregation before we move forward.

**6.4. Out-reach** – Jamie, new to the Church found some interesting stories in the Bible and said we should encourage those who do not read the Bible to read it, they may not necessarily join us but sowing the seed. Posters, website etc.

**6.5. 'For Jesus and You in Hardwicke and Hunts Grove'** – strapline – logo being developed.

## **7. Any Other Business**

7.1. Sarah said on behalf of everyone - thank you to Rev Richard for another year. Also thank you to all on the rota, much appreciated for all you do.

## **8. Closing Prayer with the grace at 12.37pm**