

Number	The Parish of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne and Charlton Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings Minutes	Action
	Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26 May 2021 by Zoom	
	Present at both Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sarah Dangerfield (SD), Celia Willis (CW), Meredith Debenham (MD), Peter Gardner (PG), Liz Gardner (LG), David Miller (DM), John Allsop (JA), Rosemary Allsop (RA), Martin Ounsted (MO), Jean Ounsted (JO), Jane Bugg (JB), Alison Sandham (AS), Alison Maddocks (AM), Nigel Maddocks (NM), Mark Blackwell (MB), Linda Blackwell (LB), Carol Oldfield (CO), Robin Oldfield (RO), Wendy Malkinson (WM), Carol Rosier (CR), Peter Harris (PH), Gus Orchard (GO), Richard Mumford (RM), Bill North (BN), Carole Oliver (CAO) (Parish Administrator acting as PCC Secretary).	
	Apologies for both Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sue Hiscocks, Julian Hawley, Sally Hutchinson, Tom Hutchinson.	
	Vestry Meeting The Meeting began with prayer led by SD.	
3.	Minutes of Vestry Meeting held 16 November 2020 LG proposed and MD seconded and all unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record of the previous year's proceedings.	
4.	Election of Church Wardens SD said a huge <i>thank you</i> to CW and MD for everything they are and all they do as Church Wardens – for their work for the parish and especially for the care, support and guidance she has received from them both throughout the pandemic. CW and MD had each individually been proposed and seconded as Church Wardens; they were elected unanimously. The meeting closed at 7.20pm. Signed: _____ Date: _____	
	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	
2.	Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 26 November 2020 LG proposed and CR seconded and all unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record of the previous year's proceedings.	
3.	There were no matters arising.	
4.	Presentation of Reports Parish activities were minimal during the past 15 months and this resulted in a brief report, prepared by SD, CW and MD and included in the Annual Review which had been published prior to the Annual Meeting.	
4.1	Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll Officer reported that there are now 117 members on the	

	<p>electoral roll.</p> <p>4.2 Priest in Charge: SD reported as follows in addition to the previously circulated report in the Annual Review: <i>The joint report with Celia and Meredith says most of what I want to say about 2020 – though I do want to emphasise three things: first my “thanks” for everyone’s efforts last year – a really good job was done in keeping people in touch, for the re-opening of churches, and for pulling together so well to help one another across the parish and to welcome new relations with Bishampton and Throckmorton– You were there for others in your own villages – and at the same time, you were coping with all the strains of the pandemic in your own lives too. Thank you.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly, to emphasise you/ we / others are Church. People are Church – the last year has shown just how important people being present with people is – we have found new ways to be present – however it is done – Church and community is about people.</i></p> <p><i>Thirdly, to thank all who have offered pastoral care and support. The Pastoral Care team is smaller than it was – and members of that team have been conscientiously making many more calls and delivering cards – it is appreciated – and we also recognise and appreciate the care and kindnesses of many, many more in our villages.</i></p> <p>4.3 Church Wardens: In addition to the previously circulated joint report, CW, on behalf of the Church Wardens and Parish, thanked SD for her tireless work during the last year. She has, at times had to make difficult decisions, deal with new regulations and all the provisional of living in lockdown together with juggling her roles as Priest and Area Dean. Her leadership, guidance and care for her congregation is so very much appreciated.</p> <p>4.4 Treasurer’s Report: The Parish financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 were included in the Annual Parish Review 2020 and had been distributed before the meeting.</p> <p>Following a brief summary of the accounts, GO thanked PG for all his work on the Parish’s behalf in leaving the finances in very good order for the future.</p> <p>SD expressed the Parish’s thanks for both Parish Book-Keeper Maggie Grove and Treasurer PG and reported that each has received a small gift as a token of appreciation.</p> <p>SD particularly wanted put on record at this APCM – the Parish’s thanks for their work and for producing the 2020 accounts.</p> <p>She thanked Andrew Hughes (AH) and GO for stepping into the roles of bookkeeper and treasurer so willingly and with such energy and</p>	
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<p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p>	<p>conscientiousness. She thanked JA for his work as Gift Aid Secretary and for overseeing the Parish Giving Scheme.</p> <p>Fabric: SD asked that we record our thanks to Patrick Palmer (PP) and everyone who looks after the fabric and churchyards, church gardens and the Millennium Wood.</p> <p>Deanery Synod: SD thanked AS for offering to be Deanery Secretary and her Administrator. AS works much more than the two hours covered by the Diocese. Her insight and support are very much appreciated.</p> <p>The Parish has two members of synod – LG and AS and there remains a vacancy.</p> <p>The meeting received the reports and they were accepted without objection.</p>	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Deanery Synod: LG and AS are still in post as Synod Representatives are elected every three years. A vacancy remains.</p> <p>PCC: The PCC for the coming year is as follows: Revd Sarah Dangerfield Priest in Charge ex officio Revd’s Gary Noyes (GN) and Emma Goldby (EG) Associate Priests ex officio Meredith Debenham Church Warden Celia Willis Church Warden Liz Gardner Deanery Synod Representative ex officio Alison Sandham Deanery Synod Representative ex officio</p> <p>The following were duly proposed and seconded to be members of the PCC and approved unanimously: John Allsop Julian Hawley Martin Ounsted Peter Harris Susan Hiscocks Carol Oldfield Lindsay Cameron</p> <p>Elected Deputy Church Wardens: Martin Ounsted with Lindsay Cameron for St John the Baptist, Fladbury Carol Martin for St Thomas, Lower Moor Liz Gardner and Wendy Malkinson for St Anne, Wyre Piddle Julian Hawley & Sue Hiscocks are “acting wardens” for St John Evangelist, Charlton Peter Harris for St Michael, Crophorne Elected unanimously.</p>	

	<p>SD expressed her thanks to the wardens; whose role is so much more than the important job of looking after the church and services because they are key representatives of the Church in each village – people who others associate as being ‘of the church’. In these days where there are fewer services and the priest is not seen so often, they are the recognisable Christian/church presence in each village and community.</p> <p>SD said, this role is not confined to wardens of course – all of us – lay and ordained represent the church – but our deputy Church Wardens have a particularly important place in our village communities SD thanked them for the work they have done to re-open churches and for the warm welcome they have given when there has been a service.</p> <p>Electoral Roll Officer:</p> <p>5.4 Parish Administrator, Carole Oliver was elected unanimously. SD thanked CO for her work on behalf of the parish, as PCC Secretary and Parish Administrator. CO is one who often receives the first call from a person contacting the church – SD expressed her thanks for her sensitivity and organisation.</p> <p>Independent Examiner:</p> <p>5.5 It was agreed unanimously that Clement Rabjohns should continue as the Independent Examiner.</p>	
5.	<p>2021 Emerging from Lockdown: <i>SD presented her thoughts on themes of the church in 2021 as follows:</i></p> <p><i>The Church of England strapline is “A Christian presence in every community”. Ask each person in the Five Alive what they understand this to mean, and you will have a few thousand different answers. Ask every person on General Synod what it means – and I guarantee you will have an endless debate and lots of letters in the Times, The Telegraph and Church Times.</i></p> <p><i>With whom do people associate a “Christian presence?” And with what do they associate a “Christian presence”?</i></p> <p><i>It’s tied up with the parish system – a system with far fewer clergy and still less clergy in the future – yet with necessary changes to it, has still, I believe, a future.</i></p> <p><i>A “Christian presence in every community” looks different in the urban /new housing/and rural. The Church has a very significant presence too “online”.</i></p> <p><i>The Church of England has a tremendously privileged role in offering Occasional offices - baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Today the Church calls these “Life Events” and their outreach is not to be under-estimated. Nationally 2 million people attended a wedding in 2019 and 60,000 conversations happened between couples and a vicar.</i></p> <p><i>Here, a wedding typically has between 50-60 guests. In an average year we could have 12 weddings. That is 600-700 people in church who we do not usually see. Typical age profile 20-55. This is their experience of church – we want it to be a good one!</i></p> <p><i>Baptism typically – 30-40 people with say 6 to 8 a year - about 250 people in</i></p>	

church we do not usually see – age profile typically 0-60 years old.
Important ministry – thanks to everyone who makes it possible and enjoyable for families and guests, and US!

Church buildings are a constant subject of discussion – both as an asset and a cost. The cost of maintaining them is not being covered, and these costs reduce the Parish's ability to pay its share of ministry costs. This is a conversation SD takes forward with the diocese at every opportunity, because it is only with conversations enabled by the Diocese, that conversations can happen at deanery and local level.

Deanery

64 churches predominately rural with different congregation sizes + Pershore and Evesham two towns.

Appointment of Andy Smith at St Peter's, Bengeworth, Evesham – from Resource Church in Worcester – All Saints – comes with a separate funding stream and ministry help. A new offering of church for Evesham – more contemporary style of worship and a focus for young people's ministry for Evesham area.

Recognise that churches (benefices) have "gifts" in the same way as people have gifts – value them and offer/use them and encourage movement between benefices. If another church outside our group is doing something we cannot offer – let's go as a church. And welcome others from outside our group to things we offer that they don't do! Different gifts and expressions for ministry – yet all have a place.

Learn from the pandemic – some churches "stream"/others offered "Zoom"/others focused on something else.

Five Alive and Bishampton with Throckmorton

When present constraints ease – will be good to see some of Five Alive congregation at Bishampton.

Church members are fewer in number so it requires focus on priorities, doing things well and being sustainable for everyone.

This is a time to let God show us things and give ourselves space to pray, listen, reflect and discuss. A lot has changed and will change – very significantly. The strategy is to take it steady and to give time for prayerful discernment before making plans.

Services – Eucharist and non-Eucharistic

Where and how often? How we maintain a Christian presence?

- Noticeboards – key to saying we are an active Church and advertise where services are.
- Website – videos for key Festivals. Details of services and events.
Online giving to parish and Christian Aid.

Music – our organist Jon Komer (JK) has stepped back. GO and Mark Blackwell (MB) have offered to cover when available. There will be a meeting with Hilary Harris (HH), conductor of the Parish Choir and GO and MB in the near future to discuss the way ahead.

	<p><i>No news yet on when congregations will be allowed to sing. The Choir will make a welcome return when restrictions ease and there are volunteers willing to help with welcome and setting up for services.</i></p> <p><i>When singing is allowed I feel we need new hymns and a reliable system for playing music when we do not have an organist. Getting new hymns involves sourcing and copyright reporting.</i></p> <p><i>An investment in technology is being discussed for Fladbury. Waiting for easing of restrictions to test out what has been proposed. It is hoped the system will also have a mobile facility, so can be used in other churches.</i></p> <p><i>Schools – I wants to get back into the schools including Charlton Pre-School and Fladbury Pre-School and I am eager once again to have contact with younger families and join with Christian worship in school.</i></p> <p><i>We have been through a period of 18 months of massive disruption – some of it was going to happen without Covid – Covid has consolidated and brought forward change. There has been loss - there are also many new insights – we are welcoming new members – and we have new opportunities to shape a future.</i></p> <p><i>Right now Wardens, the PCC and all of us can help to “hold the space open - to listen and to watch, to pray and to reflect - for this time and context” and then, I believe we’ll be in a better place to attend to detail of planning.</i></p> <p>Following SD’s report a long and open discussion about the future of worship and services in Five Alive ensued. The continuation of Zoom services and on line streaming in the future was discussed. Some members expressed their strong desire for Zoom services to continue, in addition to public worship in church buildings, saying that it would be sad to lose an opportunity to build up this congregation on-line.</p> <p>The time consuming nature and complexities of preparing this form of worship were discussed at length. SD distinguished between worship on “Zoom” and live-streaming, and how they differed in intent.</p> <p>SD spoke of getting a balance of time and effort between preparing worship for those familiar with church, and outreach in person through Life Events, and engagement with community events, and schools. SD said of her own time that she wanted to give more time to outreach in person, and supported the occasional parish video of 3-4 minutes in length around key events in the year, which does reach good numbers of people via social media.</p> <p>Not all churches can offer everything. Encourage movement between benefices – AS gave the example of Celtic Worship in Pershore Abbey.</p>	
<p>7 7.1</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Jane Bugg (JB) asked about the future for the Five Alive magazine. It had been difficult to find an editor, and contributors. Current Covid related uncertainties meant it is not feasible to advertise future events in a monthly news.</p>	

7.2 7.3	<p>Jean Ounsted (JO) thanked JB for all her work on keeping people around Fladbury up to date and in touch.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to AS for the Facebook pages which have been so helpful and informative over the last months. Facebook has been used to spread the reflections and prayers across five villages and goes to several hundred people each week.</p> <p>The meeting ended with the Grace at 8.30pm</p> <p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	
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