

St John and St Luke Bilton

Minutes of the Meeting to Elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 15th May 2022 at 11.30am St John's Church, Bilton Lane

Present: Simon Dowson (Chair), Laura Martin, David Williams, Pam Mills, Jan Johnson, Nigel Thompson, Jane Reichert, Pat Fenton, David Brown, Jean Burton, Sarah Shepherd, Caroline Wise, Liz Meade, Andrew McHutchon, Daffyd Pritchard, Deb Pritchard, Jane Thompson, Fiona Dowson, Mike Illingworth, Jenny Caldwell, Terry Harrison, Pat Harrison, Christine Raper, Beryl Tierney, Keith Mayers, Barry Stoddard, Judy Noakes, Jim Noakes, Felicity Hildred, Claire Golightly, Noel Duke, Peter Demain, Sheina Demain, Rita Nuttall, Ann Moorey, Sheena Hodgeon, Josh Scarisbrick, Steve Scarisbrick and Helen Mayers (Secretary.)

Meeting to Elect Churchwardens

1	Welcome and Opening Prayer – Simon Dowson welcomed everyone to the meeting and Laura Martin opened with prayer.
2	Election of Churchwardens – The following 3 nominations for the position of churchwarden had been received: St John's: Nigel Thompson and Jane Reichert St Luke's: Alethea Fry There being no further nominations, the three above-named were duly proposed by Liz Meade, seconded by Daffyd Pritchard, and elected by unanimous vote of the meeting. Simon led a prayer for the wardens and thanked them for their service. Nominations are held in the PCC file.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1	Apologies for absence – These were received from Rob Bath, Alethea Fry, Clive Davies, Pete Fenton, Tracy Iles and Cathy McHutchon.
2	Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th April 2021 – It was noted that on page 1 Pete Fenton had not in fact been present at the meeting. Subject to that one amendment it was proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Proposed – Caroline Wise Seconded – Andrew McHutchon All in favour There were no matters arising.
3	Electoral Roll reports from St John's & St Luke's – St John's – Jean Burton reported that, since the last APCM, there had been 5 deletions (2 deaths and 3 removals) from the St John's roll and 10 additions, giving a total of 206 on the roll. St Luke's – Sarah Shepherd reported that one person had left, and one person had joined, leaving the total on the roll at 55.
4	The Annual Report – This had previously been distributed to attendees. Simon Dowson highlighted the inclusion of the Green Team (Environmental Group) report and invited the meeting to encourage and support the work being done at our churches to help achieve the 2030 net zero carbon target set by the Church of England. He also drew the meeting's attention to the exciting work being done with our young people, but reminded all that the future of this depended

	<p>on continuing funding of the youth worker post. This will run out in 2023 and a group is currently meeting to discuss how this issue may be addressed.</p> <p>Simon thanked Andy Patrick, who had contributed so much to the life of our churches, especially St Luke's, and who was much missed, and Claire Golightly, who leads the Green Team.</p>
5	<p>Financial Report –</p> <p>David Brown referred the meeting to the 2021 accounts. He advised that funds for the youth worker post were separate from other monies. The general accounts showed a decrease in overall funds, though income from lettings and rentals is returning, and there had been a general increase in regular giving following an appeal. In response to a question concerning debtors referenced in the accounts David confirmed that this mainly related to gift aid payments, due and yet to be processed by HMRC.</p> <p>David expressed his thanks to all members of the Finance & Buildings Committee, to those who count and administer donations, our Gift Aid Officer, Andrew McHutchon, and our Parish Administrator, Gill, for her work in maintaining the accounts on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>Simon Dowson thanked David for all his hard work as PCC Treasurer, and our Independent Examiner, Ross Caldwell, who would now be standing down.</p>
6 & 7	<p>Fabric and Deanery Synod reports –</p> <p>The Churchwardens and Deanery Synod reps had no updates to the reports already set out in the Annual Report for 2021. Sarah Shepherd thanked the wardens for all the work they do to maintain the fabric of our churches.</p>
8	<p>Appointment of the Independent Examiner –</p> <p>The PCC wished to express thanks to our retiring Independent Examiner, Ross Caldwell, for all his work in this area over the past few years. Ross was now standing down and it was reported that Vicky Iley had agreed to take over the role.</p> <p>Vicky's appointment was proposed by Jenny Caldwell, seconded by Felicity Hildred. All were in favour.</p>
9	<p>Election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council –</p> <p>This year there were 5 PCC vacancies, 3 for a full three-year term and 2 for one year, following the resignation for personal reasons of 2 members.</p> <p>3 nominations had been received before the meeting, for Claire Golightly, Tracy Iles and Michael Guy (nomination forms have been kept on file) and 2 nominations were received at the meeting for Noel Duke (proposed - Daffyd Pritchard, seconded - Christine Raper) and Michael Crone (proposed - Jan Johnson, seconded - Jean Burton).</p> <p>All candidates were elected by unanimous vote of the meeting, Claire, Tracy and Michael Guy for three-year terms and Noel and Michael Crone for 1 year.</p>
10	<p>Message from the Clergy (delivered by the Team Rector and minuted verbatim) –</p> <p>St Benedict, a key figure in the development of the monastic movement in the Middle Ages, is reported to have said that communities should 'so arrange everything that the strong have something to yearn for and the weak nothing to run from'.</p> <p>As we look to the future of St John's and St Luke's, this quote seems to me to be a good starting point because the truth is that, like any fellowship, we have our strengths and our weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we have people in good health, be that physical, mental or spiritual, or maybe all three, while others are finding life just a lot more challenging • we have people who are anxious for the church to step up and step out, while others are simply anxious • we have one congregation that seems to have largely returned to normal and has good numbers attending, while we have another which is struggling a bit, not least because of the loss of Andy's ministry • at St John's we have almost record numbers of children in the 5 to 11 age group, and have started a new group for year 6 upwards, but we have hardly any children in creche • we will have some people who feel loved and cared for, while we will have others who feel unloved and perhaps even forgotten

	<p>So it seems to me that we are very much a mixed bag - a collection of ordinary people who are simply trying to do their best for God and for each other – and that’s absolutely fine, because our God is a God of grace who knows us, warts and all, and still loves us all. And it’s also ok because ultimately, however much we might struggle to trust him in this, the life, health and growth of the church is his responsibility. And as I go off on sabbatical I need to be reminded of this, because it’s all too easy to think the church stands or falls by our efforts. We all need to remember the words of Jesus to Peter, ‘I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it.’</p> <p>But while resting on this foundation, we are not to sit idly by, so this is why I am delighted that the strong do have something to yearn for. I say this because when we have appointed our new team vicar and mission enabler, that hopefully is only the start of an exciting new chapter in the life of St John’s and St Luke’s as we seek under the direction of the Spirit to start new worshipping communities within a few years. The task will be something that we really need to get behind as a church, for it will be challenging and demanding – but I believe it will be hugely rewarding. But while we will need to be active in this new supporting project, we also need to make sure that the weak have nothing to run from. This is why, as I said in my report, I am delighted that we are re-vamping our pastoral care strategy and also trying to get more people into our house group. But I would say that often the best pastoral care is the unstructured, often unseen, support that we can all get involved in.</p> <p>As I begin to draw to a close, I want to mention two other areas of church life where I hope we can make real progress this year – firstly addressing the weaknesses that have become apparent at St Luke’s since Andy left, and to this end I am delighted that Alethea is stepping up to be warden – but this is a task for all of us at both churches. Then secondly, there is the challenge of finding extra funding to allow the YPW post to continue beyond the early summer of 2023. A group has started to meet, but do pray about this and get involved if you can.</p> <p>I finish by saying thank you – many, many people contribute above and beyond – but particular mention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat (and Pete) Fenton, David and Linda Williams, and to Andy (& Claire) • The other wardens – Jane and Nigel and Jean • Retired clergy and to Laura and Gill and Emma and Jan • The baptism Information team • Ruth and the choir and our other musicians • Sunday coffee servers, the coffee morning team, the flower team and the community lunch team • The green team – well done on the A Rocha Silver Award • The Little Fishes team, Thirst, Well-being Café – • All who help with youth and children’s work especially Anne Saxon • Cleaners, small group leaders, especially Sarah • Service leaders, sound and livestreaming teams • Retiring PCC members • Fiona
11	<p>Safeguarding Policy Approval –</p> <p>Simon confirmed that the meeting needed to vote to continue to delegate safeguarding policy responsibilities to the PCC.</p> <p>Proposed - Jan Johnson Seconded - Felicity Hildred All were in favour.</p> <p>Special thanks were offered to Gill Clarke, our Safeguarding Officer, for all her work in this most important area of church life, and Simon reminded the meeting that safeguarding is actually the responsibility of everyone: there is no room for lack of involvement.</p>
12	<p>Any other business that may properly be discussed at this meeting –</p> <p>Simon reported that Jan Johnson’s licence as lay minister (formerly reader) had been renewed and that he would like to see more people stepping up as lay service leaders and/or occasional preachers.</p> <p>Felicity Hildred thanked everyone who had kept our churches going throughout the pandemic.</p>
13	<p>Closing Prayer –</p> <p>Laura closed the meeting in prayer at 12.50pm.</p>

PCC Meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022 immediately after APCM

Present: Simon Dowson, Laura Martin, Jan Johnson, Nigel Thompson, Jane Reichert, Pat Fenton, David Brown, Caroline Wise, Andrew McHutchon, Daffyd Pritchard, Claire Golightly and Noel Duke

In attendance: Helen Mayers

A brief meeting of the PCC took place straight after the APCM to elect a Treasurer and Secretary.

David Brown was proposed as Treasurer and Helen Mayers as Secretary

Proposed – Caroline Wise Seconded - Jane Reichert All in favour.