



**PARISH OF ST ANDREW, RUSHMERE
ANNUAL MEETINGS**



Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the church hall

Present: 33 members of the electoral roll.

The meeting was chaired by Revd Alan Comfort

Opening Prayers.

Revd Alan opened with prayer and a reading from 1 Thess. 5:18. He gave a short introduction expressing gratitude to God for bringing him and Jill to Rushmere, and for the hundreds of years of service and witness in this place. This meeting was an opportunity to give thanks to the many people - too many to mention individually - who serve so faithfully in this church, and to thank God for everyone, whether present or not, who is part of our church community.

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Hilary Platts was elected as clerk of today's meetings.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd March 2023 were approved as a true record and signed.

3. Election of 2 Church Wardens

David Chaplin: proposed by Hilary Platts, seconded by Gill Ainslie.

Ruth Silburn: proposed by Sue Scotchmere, seconded by Dianne Davey.

There being no other nominations, all present were in favour and David and Ruth were elected for the coming year. Revd Alan thanked retiring Warden Teresa Rose for her hard work over the last 3 years.

4. Election of 1 Deputy Church Warden

Kevin Brazier: proposed by Teresa Rose, seconded by Tim Oxbrow.

There being no other nominations, all present were in favour and Kevin was elected.

There was a short interval before the APCM.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies:** June Collins, Jill Comfort, Dianne Davey, Claire Driver, Mary Odam, Graham Platts, Tricia Tyler, Chris and Jean Yule.
2. **Appointment of tellers:** Jim Ainslie and Kevin Brazier were appointed as tellers for the meeting.
3. **The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd March 2023** were approved and signed as a true record. There were no Matters Arising.
4. **Electoral Roll Report:** Gill Ainslie, Electoral Roll Officer reported that there were currently 104 members on the Electoral Roll; 46 resident and 58 non-resident. The Roll will be fully revised in 2025. Gill was thanked for her work as Electoral Roll Officer.
5. **Election of 3 members of the Parochial Church Council:**
There were 3 vacancies to be filled for a term of 3 years.
The following were nominated:
 - Rachel Daniels, proposed by Tim Oxbrow, seconded by Paul Hesketh.
 - Claire Driver, proposed by Mary Duncan, seconded by Dianne Davey.
 - Joan du Boulay, proposed Russell Scates, seconded by Bob Batchelor.There being no other nominations, all present were in favour and they were elected.
6. **Appointment of David Gill to the PCC:**
David may be appointed by the APCM as a member of the PCC in his capacity as Reader licenced to the parish. This was approved unanimously and he was thanked for his continued ministry and support.
7. **Appointment of an Independent Examiner:**
Sandy Lloyd was thanked for his diligence and care in examining g our 2023 accounts, and for agreeing to act as Independent Examiner for another year. His appointment was proposed by Chris Gibson, seconded by Revd Alan and approved by all present.
8. **Annual Report:**
The Annual Report and Accounts had been displayed in church for 2 Sundays and made available online and in hard copy. The Report was received and there were no questions. Thanks to everyone who helped to put the report together.

9. Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement

The Treasurer thanked all who assisted with financial work in 2023: the Wardens; Sides people, David du Boulay who looks after the brown envelope scheme; Joan du Boulay, Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam, Rachel Daniels and Russell Scates who look after the accounts of our ancillary organisations; Dianne Davey, Russell Scates and Kevin Brazier (Cashiers); Sandy Lloyd, our Examiner. Thanks also to Tim Oxbrow for producing the slides for this evening.

Income & Expenditure: 2023 was a much better year than expected, and with Income up nearly £12K and Expenditure up nearly £5K, the Operating Surplus – the first for 4 years - was nearly £4K, compared to the £12K Deficit which had been budgeted for. All categories of income were up on the previous year except Donations, and the effect of increased interest rates was now being seen. The increase in Expenditure was mainly due to the Parish Share (accounted for 90% of the increase), plus the CPR Defibrillator and power costs. The Surplus was split between the Unrestricted Reserve Fund and the Designated Youth Worker Fund.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023: the various types of funds and how they operate were explained. Overall funds were down by nearly £8K, particularly due to Youth Worker costs, expenditure on new drainage and the £1K raised by the Sunday School being sent to RTU.

2024 Budget: The Budget shows Income up £4K and Expenditure up £12K (due to higher Mission, Power and Events costs), with an Operating Deficit of £4K.

Reserves: Free Reserves drop to £63K and Unrestricted possibly down to £40-50K

Chris ended his report by thanking everyone for their continued generous giving. Compared to many churches St Andrew's is in a very healthy position, but our reserves are going down and will continue to do so.

Thanks were extended to Chris for his hard work over the year as Treasurer.

10. Churchwardens' Report:

The report was received and there were no questions.

11. Deanery Synod Report:

The report was received and there were no questions.

12. Chairman's Report:

Revd Alan started by thanking Bob Batchelor for the Safeguarding Report which had been made available with the other papers, and for his valuable work as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

He then continued:

'I am grateful for every report written as we together mark the end of one year and the beginning of another in the life of St Andrew's Church. As we look forward, I promise I will work closely with the Ministry Team, the PCC, and all those who serve our church to strengthen the work of St Andrew's in the coming year.'

Rather than make great predictions about this work I want simply to tell you what you can expect from me over the coming year

- I will care about the people in our church and the community around by visiting continually, encouraging them and praying with them
- Jill and I will work hard, as part of the Ministry Team, and alongside other leaders, to build up and nurture the faith of all, young and old, through prayer, Bible teaching and house groups, to develop a confident group of followers of Jesus
- And lastly, Jill and I will never stop praying for God-inspired ideas to reach out to all around with the good news of Jesus, as we will be doing in less than 2 weeks with the start of our May Festival. We want to reach out to new people, to make them feel at home, and to give them a chance to know Jesus as Saviour and to grow in faith.'

13. Any Other Business

Gill Ainslie spoke on behalf of everyone when she said how happy we were that Alan and Jill had come to St Andrew's and for their enthusiasm and encouragement.

Closing Prayers: Revd Marion read a short passage from Micah

The APCM was followed by a short Special Meeting of the PCC.