**Parish of Ponteland**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**St Mary’s Church Sunday May 8th 2022**

**11.15 am**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING**

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on May 18th 2021** were approved nem con and duly signed by Revd Paul Allinson.

2. **Election of Churchwardens:** there were no nominations for the post of churchwarden and the post remains vacant. Rev Paul asked everyone to urgently consider whether they were being called to serve in this way.

Signed…………………………………………………………………… Chairman Date……………………….

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The meeting was attended by 69 parishioners.

All the relevant documents for the meeting had been placed on the church website, and some hard copies were available for the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Leila McCann.

**2.0 Minutes of the meeting held on May 18th 2021:** were approved nem con and duly signed by the Revd. Paul Allinson.

**3.0 Matters Arising:** None.

**4.0 Electoral Roll Officer’s Report:**  Alan Barron reported that there were 194 names on the Electoral roll at 31st March 2022. He also reflected on the fact the 15 years ago when he first became Electoral Roll officer there were 380 names on the roll.

**5.0 Annual Report on the Proceedings of the Council:** The report for 2021, which had been approved by the PCC, was reviewed at the APCM and formally adopted by the meeting. The report can be found on the church website and is filed with the minutes.

**6.0 Financial Report and Annual Accounts:** the financial report and the summary are available on the church website and are filed with the minutes.

Clive Jordan (Treasurer) presented a brief financial commentary and the accounts for 2021, consolidated for St Mary’s and Holy Saviour, Milbourne. The restrictions implemented because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continued to make a significant impact on the PCC’s finances. The areas most affected were loss of income from collections and from hiring out the Parish Centre. However, because many of our regular worshippers contribute by direct debit, income is more stable than that at many other churches, and the contactless machine that was installed during the year has also contributed to the finances. The PCC were able to pay £66,000 Parish Share during 2021 and it is hoped that we will be able to increase this amount to £80,000 during 2022.

Parish share is the largest item of expenditure.

Holy Saviour were able to install an Eco toilet during the year and money has been put aside for a future upgrade to the heating system at St Mary’s and for repairs to 2 Grange Road.

One question was raised from the floor as to the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds. Clive explained that the restricted fund is money that has been donated for a particular project, e.g. children’s work or the refurbishment of the organ. The unrestricted fund is the money given for the general upkeep of the church, e.g. heating bills.

A vote of thanks was given to the finance team for their work on the accounts.

The report was adopted by the meeting nem con.

**7.0 Reports from groups within the church:** Copies of each of the group reports are available on the website, and some hard copies were available at the meeting. Revd Paul Allinson expressed thanks and appreciation to all.

**8.0 Chairman’s (Vicar’s) report:** The full vicar’s report is on the website and filed with the minutes. Hard copies were available after the meeting

Revd Paul: It has been wonderful to see the patterns of worship being re-established after the challenges of the Covid pandemic, it was particularly uplifting to be able to celebrate Easter this year (2022) and to see many connecting and re-connecting with the life of the church. It is also encouraging to see the continued support of numerous charities, in particular the magnificent effort to provide practical support for Ukraine in the ongoing war.

The Parish Centre continues to be a well-used resource for the local community, Revd Paul expressed thanks to Ruth Holliday who deals with a vast array of enquiries and bookings. He thanked all those who support our common life together and particularly wished to thank and commend David Butler, out-going churchwarden, and Ted Henderson, who is retiring as Parish Centre manager. A specific mention was made of Ken Peet who will be stepping aside from his formal ministry as Reader Emeritus. As Revd Paul enters his sixth year of ministry in the parish, he is confident that/God has given us the resources to meet the challenges and celebrate the opportunities that are ahead in the service of the Lord.

Georgina Matthew thanked Revd. Paul for his report and for keeping us all sane over the past two years.

**9.0 Deanery Synod Report:** The Deanery Synod report for 2021 is included in the group reports a which are on the website.

**10.0 Election of PCC members:** There were three vacancies on the PCC, John Doherty, Julie Bell and Rosy Doherty have all served for three years.

John Doherty was re-appointed, proposed by Carole Butler and seconded by David Butler. Ted Henderson was also re-appointed, proposed by Dorothy Bibby and seconded by Warren Smith. Janet Robertson was elected, proposed by Sandy Ainsley and seconded by Margaret Erni.

**11.0 Election of Sidespeople:** voted in en bloc

**12.0 Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts:** It was proposed that Stephenson Coates be re-appointed as Independent Examiner, this was approved nem con. Revd Paul Allinson thanked them for their support and hard work and a letter of appreciation will be written to thank them for their work.

**13.0 Parishioners’ comments:**

Alison Ringrose thanked Warren and the choir for their contribution to the worship saying how the music was able to speak to people when words are inadequate.

**15.0 AOB:** None.

**15.0 Closing prayers:** the Revd Paul closed the meeting with a communal prayer at 11.40am

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Chairman Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_