

PENARTH MINISTRY AREA

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held on Monday 22nd April 2024 at All Saints Church at 7.30pm

ATTENDANCE

Chairperson: Mel Griffin (MG) Ministry Area Lay Chair Minutes: Alicia King-Evans (AMK) - Administrator
Clergy present: Rev Mark Jones (MJ) – Ministry Area Leader, Rev Jimmy Young (JY)
53 people present.

1. **OPENING PRAYERS** were led by Rev Mark Jones

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Hugh Bryant, John Taylor, Tom Blenkinsop, Anthea King, Dean Evans, Andrew Davison, Vivian Liles, Sue Foley.

3. **LAY CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

Mel Griffin welcomed everyone to the AVM where we could hear about what we've been doing in the last year, our plans for the future and take any questions. She said that she had been reappointed as Lay Chair for a further three years but after this time someone else would be required to take over the role.

Janet Akers read a Bible passage which emphasised that we are all part of the body of Christ.

Mark Jones led everyone in prayer.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM) held on 23rd April 2023 had been circulated and posted on the website. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Janet Akers and seconded by Robert Court. They were approved by everyone present with no objections or abstentions.

5. **MINISTRY AREA REPORTS**

a) These had been circulated by email and copies left in all the churches.

Ministry Area Leader's Report - Rev Mark Jones briefly went through his report. He highlighted the rising population numbers in Penarth, the fact we are a successful Ministry Area which has been highlighted by the Diocese and that we have worked together now for a few years and we need to maintain this. Challenges had been experienced along the way, for example building back after Covid and that the number of Clergy has dropped from 4 to 2. He thanked Janet Akers for her time as MA Warden, which involved looking after the sub-wardens and attending meetings, Mel Griffin, the Admin staff, Jimmy Young the MAC and everyone present for all their hard work. No questions were asked.

Safeguarding Report – This was an additional report which had been prepared by Mary Taster (MT) and a copy was available for everyone to take when they attended. A thank you was given to MT for her work. No comments were raised.

b) **Electoral Roll** – a further form had been handed to AMK at the start of the meeting and the number on the roll is now 282.

c) **2023 Accounts** – Chris Salisbury (CS)

The 2023 accounts were to be adopted at the meeting. A copy had been up on the notice boards in each church for some weeks and they had been available upon request.

CS summarised the accounts and said that 2023 was a better year than 2022. This was due to the generosity of donors, legacy gifts and the fact that Covid restrictions which were now relaxed meant the halls were back up and running at full capacity as was the Community Cinema. Higher interest rates had also helped us. The Parish Share is the biggest amount that goes out and maintenance is carried out in order of priority with Health & Safety and compliance taking priority. The balance sheet shows two properties. We have a long-

term investment in the Common Investment Fund. We can't however be complacent, but we are relatively in a good position compared to other MA's. CS asked if there were any questions.

Paul Casey thanked CS and then the MAC. He asked, 'How does holding vast surpluses of cash, over the MAC agreed reserves policy, allow us to meet our mission objectives with specific reference to the Youth Worker?'

CS explained that we have received one off payments in relation to the Parish Share rebate. We are spending the money wisely and this year may not be as fruitful as last year. It was felt it was too early, two years into the MAC to say we are accumulating. We do have plans for a Youth Worker and there was a backlog on the maintenance. MG said we definitely hear what was said and we do support our mission. The new MAC would be taking this on board.

Max Scott-Cook said it was significant and good news that the Electoral Roll had increased. He asked if this was reflected in money or numbers. He also asked about the 3 objectives in the Diocese's mission statement and how does that come out.

MG said that there was a summary of activities in the report, the fellowship work we are doing and that we are ambitious, very active, busy and are fulfilling the objectives. The day-to-day fruits of God's kingdom speak for themselves.

Jenny Stonhold raised the question of broadcasting services as we don't have any streaming facilities. She said that during Covid people felt included. MG said that was a good point and the MAC can pick this up. Janet Akers said this was part of the remit on the Communications Sub-Committee and on the Agenda to improve on this.

The accounts were accepted by everyone present with no objections or abstentions.

MG thanked CS for all his work and for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

6. ELECTIONS

a) Church Wardens

Janet Akers had come to the end of her term after serving for 3 years but would continue as Sub-warden at All Saints. 1 nomination had been received from Dawn Burns who attends the 8am service at All Saints. Dawn gave a brief background about herself and wanted to continue the excellent work of JA and work with all the churches. It was a unanimous vote to elect Dawn Burns.

MG said that the Decree from the Bishop states we can have 2 Ministry Area Wardens and MJ can appoint one. If anyone has an inkling to do this, to please let MJ know. It is a governance role rather than a day-to-day role.

b) Sides-people

MG and AMK had been handed a list of All Saints Welcomers but not for the other churches. It was proposed by MG to continue with those already appointed as Sides people and Welcomers in all the churches who are willing to continue. Everyone was in favour of this and all were elected on block.

c) Ministry Area Council

There are 8 places for lay members - 4 from each of the legacy parishes of All Saints, Penarth and Penarth & Llandough.

All Saints nominations:-

Jane McLaughlin, Len Smart, Ann Humphrey, Keith Ingram

Penarth & Llandough nominations:

St Augustine's – Robert Court, Neil Pugh

Holy Nativity – Huw Williams

St Dochdwy's – Jan Cullen

MG asked if the meeting was happy to vote on all the MAC appointments at once and this was agreed. Those present then voted to accept all those standing for the MAC with no objections or abstentions.

d) Confirmation of Sub-Warden appointments

St Augustine's – Tom Blenkinsop

Holy Nativity – Kath Williams

St Dochdwy's – Jan Cullen

All Saints – Janet Akers

St Peter's – Matthew Salisbury

MG asked if everyone were content to vote as one and everyone unanimously voted to elect the sub-wardens with no objections or abstentions.

MG thanked everyone who had put their names down.

7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

CS proposed to appoint Caroline Candy of Naunton Jones Le Masurier Accountants as independent examiner of the MA accounts. This was seconded by Ann Humphrey and was agreed by all those present.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Payne said there was a real need for churches to have a Deputy Sub-warden. MG said this was a good point in principle to have a back up and resilience for all church roles. MJ said he agreed with this for the larger churches. One Sub-Warden for All Saints and St Augustine's is not enough and they need to be better supported. MG explained that there are informal people they can call on.

Max Scott-Cook said the document produced was excellent and asked about Cytûn and the Deanery report. MG said that she hadn't proposed to go through each report separately. However, JY said that there was lots of good things going on at both Cytûn and Deanery level because there were lots of good people working together and the more we do together the better we are.

MG suggested for the incoming year that everyone present try to attend other churches in our own MA but also other denominations in Penarth on a wider basis.

This concluded the formal part of the business.

MG then thanked Janet Akers who had served the MA and supported the Clergy and the MAC with amazing grace, dignity, wisdom, judgement and humour and a bouquet of flowers was presented to her.

MG thanked everyone again for coming, the questions raised, holding everyone to account and with God's grace to achieve great things.

MG thanked Alicia & Rachel as Administrators for making sure the MA runs as smoothly as it does.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm with the Grace led by Mark Jones.