

**MINUTES OF PARISH OF AMESBURY APCM 21.04.21
(HELD VIA ZOOM)**

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. **Welcome & introduction from Fr Darren**

APCM opened with a prayer

2. **Election of Churchwardens – Barbara Maddocks; Proposed: Sophie Moody
Seconded: Anthony Pryor-Jones**

FRIENDS OF AMESBURY ABBEY CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report was circulated before the meeting. Jan Swindlehurst (chair) added that the committee were all willing to remain in situ but if there is anyone who would like to join please get in touch. Knitted items have been donated. If you would like to knit something please let Angela Bayliss know.

Thank you to every one who donated to Christmas draw appeal. Best one we have had.

We were very happy to make big donation to church roof.

Thank you very much indeed from Fr Darren and all the PCC.

Angela Bayliss asked about the tower roof. This will come under the QI report.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Apologies for absence – Michelle Bartholomew

Present: Fr Darren, Barbara Maddocks, Julie Lewis, John Swindlehurst, Sophie Moody, Ruth Davies, Lisa Courtney, Nigel Estlick, Anne Bush, Trish Pryor-Jones, Doug and Ann May, Angela Bayliss, Gerry Southwell, Wendy Ellis, Jan Swindlehurst, Shaula Crabtree, Susie and Colin Heggie, Christine Thompson.

Minutes of last APCM – Angela Bayliss gave her apologies but this was not included in the minutes. With this amendment they were a true record.

Fr Darren thanked everyone who submitted reports.

Address from Fr Darren

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You will have heard in my sermons that the pandemic and restrictions that go with it have knocked us for six. We have had to change many things that in the past we took for granted. Things we have done routinely have been suspended. We have been in church, out of church, in church. A very unpredictable time. It has and still requires incredible patience in spades. Everyone is getting tetchy and frustrated but it is time for us to pull together. One positive benefit has been the online streaming of worship – if you have been isolating or just choosing not to come out to church you have had access to worship; it has also opened up the field of our congregation far and wide...with people joining us from Australia, Canada, Russia and more. The pandemic has thrown us in many ways but what we have done is drilled down and enhanced our communication channels – the Stonehenge Trader, Website, Facebook page, pew sheet and notice board. One of our hot potatoes this year has been the Wyndham Hall. The PCC have had to look at the options for the future of the hall. The PCC are moving forward as a body, we are not huge in number, but we are seeking to move forward in a state of positivity and a state of hope. The pandemic has created a desert and we now need to water the desert. Fr Darren encourages us to be part of that.

Election of Deanery Synod representatives – Sophie Moody was elected last year. There are two further vacancies, but no nominations have been made.

Election Parochial Church Council members – If people wish to have their say in decision-making in an influential and constructive way they are encouraged to join the PCC.

5 vacancies. Nomination for re-election: Anthony Pryor-Jones; Proposed: John Swindlehurst, Seconded: Jeanette A'Court. Members also include: Fr Darren, Barbara Maddocks, Julie Lewis, John Swindlehurst, Sophie Moody, Ruth Davies, Lisa Courtney.

Fr Darren asked for those present at the meeting to support the efforts of the PCC.

Appointment of Secretary – no nominations. The role has been being managed over the last year by Fr Darren and Barbara Maddocks. Angela Bayliss expressed sadness for Rachel Verbinnen giving up being secretary. After ten years in the role, Rachel had given a year's notice of her intention to retire but a successor has not yet been appointed.

Approval of Side persons – no known changes.

Reappointment of Treasurer – Lisa Courtney is happy to continue being Treasurer and is happy to be contacted with any questions.

Accounts had been circulated before meeting.

Adoption of accounts submitted by treasurer, approved by the PCC and audited by the independent examiner. All in favour of adopting accounts.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – John Reid will remain in this role.

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Parish Safeguarding Officer's Report – Ruth Davies – report circulated.

Adoption of Safeguarding Policy – updated policy mirrors national church safeguarding policy. All happy to adopt.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report – report circulated. During the previous revision of the Roll some members were not re-admitted. Work is being done to resolve this and application forms are being provided where needed.

Fabric Report – Barbara Maddocks reported that the roof works had been completed in the last year which was a huge achievement.

Inventory Report – Barbara Maddocks reported that the inventory remains the same as last year – nothing has been added – a paper copy to be signed.

Questions received – These were answered by various members of the PCC. Fr Darren thanked everyone who followed the request to send these in advance – see attached sheet.

Fr Darren thanked everyone for their contributions to answering the questions.

Wyndham Hall

The future of the Wyndham Hall was not addressed in detail during the questions. Fr Darren explained that the PCC has been frequently revisiting what we should do with the Wyndham Hall. The hall has remained empty and unused by groups following a miscommunication regarding the PCC's decision to keep the hall closed temporarily during the COVID restrictions. However, there are ongoing bills for utilities and maintenance. Possible options – return to hiring out the hall with a manager in place; lease the hall to a third party; sell the hall and use the funds towards re-ordering the church building as part of the 'Fit for the Future' programme.

The PCC, after much prayerful and thoughtful deliberation, have bravely settled on seeking to sell or, if necessary, lease the hall, and have taken advice from a suitable agent. We now have permission from the Diocese to sell the hall.

Proceeds of the sale can only be used for a capital project, so these will be put towards making the church building 'fit for the future'.

It was acknowledged that this decision would be upsetting for many.

Jan Swindlehurst thanked the two foundation governors for their report about what our church school had been doing.

The meeting closed with the grace at 21.40