

MINUTES OF UPLYME CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 4th May 2023

ATTENDEES:- Nicky Davies (Chair), Chris Buckingham, Jo Clarke (Minute taker), Clare Collins, Jo Cursley, Sue Daley, Don Draper, Anne Hardman, David Hardman, Carole Hodges, Robin Hodges, Brian Impey (Church Warden), Jan Impey, Esther Jones, Marilyn Kent, Mike Maccoy, Jan Maccoy, Jenny Perham, Eunice Roberts, Bruce Roberts, Matt Roe, Rob Smith, Brenda Stansfield, Brian Stansfield, Sharyn Walker, Noreen Watson, Martin Wells, Sue Wells (Church warden), Kate Whittome, Mike Whittome.

APOLOGIES:- Kay and Simon Chaffin-Johnson, David and Rosemary Dare, Peter Dawson, Roger Grose, Andrew and Catherine Lightfoot.

Both meetings were opened with prayer led by Nicky Davies.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Election of Church Wardens:- Jenny Perham was proposed by Carole Hodges and Seconded by Jo Clarke. Sue Wells was proposed Jo Clarke and seconded by Jo Smith. Both Church Wardens and were duly elected.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

Minutes of the meeting last meeting held on 4th April 2022 were approved and signed.

Matter arising - Nil.

1. Election of two representatives to Honiton Deanery Synod:- Jan Impey was proposed by Jo Smith and seconded by Jo Clarke. Matt Roe was proposed by Jo Smith and seconded by David Hardman. Both were duly elected. Robin Hodges will be moving to be Diocesan Representative on the Deanery Synod and there will no longer attend Uplyme PCC meetings.
2. Election Of PCC members:- Chris Buckingham, seeking election for a first term, was proposed by Sue Wells and seconded by Jenny Perham. Jo Clarke, seeking election for a first term, was proposed by Sue Wells and seconded by Jenny Perham. Both were duly elected.
3. Appointment of PCC Secretary:- Chris Buckingham was nominated as PCC Secretary by Sue Wells and seconded by Jenny Perham and duly elected to the position.
4. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer:- Mike Maccoy will continue in this position. Mike informed the meeting that the Electoral Roll for Uplyme has gone from 99 members to 82. It had gone down by 20 and up by 3 people joining. Of the 20 people leaving, 4 had moved away, 2 had sadly deceased and 14 were no longer worshipping at Uplyme. Mike explained that to be on an Electoral Roll a person had to have worshipped and attended within the previous 6 months. A question was asked about people in care homes, with Mike explain that those individuals will remain on the list.

5. Appointment for Independent Examiner for Accounts:- Martin Whitehead is willing to continue this role.

THE REPORTS:-

1a. Church Warden's reports:- Jenny Perham reported that her role was mainly in the background. Jenny undertakes church bookings, updates the teacup joint calendar. She negotiates with the school around nearly every day use during term time. Other organisations not linked to the church also use the building, this includes Knit and Chatter, Uplyme Ladies Group and Uplyme Morris Men. These groups make donations towards the heating. The Uplyme Wardens meet with the wardens of other churches within the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) and have met 6 times this year. They are due to meet with the Archdeacon in September. When they meet with the Archdeacon the main topics will be the use of PTO's (retired clergy), the type and number of services and moving forward. There will also be a discussion following the retirement of Clive Sedgewick at the end of August.

At the joint Church Warden meetings the administrators workload has been discussed. There is now a new photocopier in the Minster office and this has helped the administrator considerably.

Home Communion, Finance, news from other churches and safeguarding are discussed. Nicky Davies and Tracey Vosey are putting a bid together to finance a Family Support Worker for the AVMC. The main topic has been the Ministry Action Plan (MAP). Apparently the AVMC have been discussing this for 6 years, before Uplyme joined. It is planned that this actioned from this summer. Jenny explained that as Uplyme Church, it is felt that we are quite forward with this having had an extensive MAP a few years ago. Jenny and Sue have stood down as Chairs of these meeting and the group is now Chaired by different Wardens.

Jenny has of the date of this meeting received an email regarding the Burial Ground Survey. This is a survey to map and photograph headstones and plaques. The PCC have given permission for this and it will hopefully take place before the end of this year.

1b. Sue Wells' report - Sue reported that it had been a year of ups and downs. The 'downs' had been Nicky's health, the deaths of Neil Pullinger and David Jones both stalwarts of the church and community, the war in Ukraine. The 'ups' have been the successful treatment for Nicky. Hannah Pullinger completing the London Marathon and raising £4,200 + gift aid for Weldmar Hospice in memory of her father. The wonderful memories of David Jones, all that he did to serve God and the local community and his rendition of Big Bad John. There is to be a Community Walk on the 17th June in memory of David. Another 'up' is the connecting with the Ukrainian family and learning about their life in Ukraine and how they came to be in the UK and how they are living now.

Sue said that being Church Warden is a privilege and she thanked everyone who all help with the 24 church groups. The Spring Fayre where 35 people helped on the day. There is a new group, the Tech Team, who will look after all the technology. Sue thanked Nicky and Jenny for their support behind the scenes.

2. The Revised Electoral Roll:- See 4 under Elections and Appointments.

3. The PCC Annual Report:- Previously circulated. Thanks given to Sue Wells for complying this.

4. Financial Report:- Sharyn Walker explained that her full financial report had previously been distributed prior to the meeting. Sharyn reported that this past year has been more normal. The church has 58 people who give regularly out of 82 on the Electoral Roll. We have paid the Common Fund in full. This and our contribution to the AVMC we have paid nearly £60,000. Other outgoings have been £14,000 on a new boiler. Our income has been £76,000. Our net assist is just below £122,000 and considering we have had to pay out large payments this is positive.

If anyone would like to chat the Sharyn at any time regarding finances please do so.

Sharyn thanked Jan Impey for all the banking undertaken. £1,500 had been raised at the recent Spring Fayre.

Nicky thanked Sharyn and Jan for their work.

A question was asked about the finances of the AVMC. This had also been requested at last year's meeting and David Jones had provided the finances two months later.

ACTION: Church Wardens will follow up this request and provide information on the AVMC accounts to the questioner.

5. Annual Fabric Report:- This report had previously been shared by the Building Team. Sue Wells pointed out that that Andrew Lightfoot has been applying for grants and we now have two grants for £2,400 and another £2,000 for the work that needs to be undertaken on the bell frames and floor. Jo Clarke explained that work was needed on the frames that hold the bells to avoid further deterioration and the floor that holds the frames and bells to make the tower safer for the future. The quotes for the work, so far, are for around £7,000. JC also informed the meeting that the bells were to be rung for the King's Coronation on the 6th May from 12.15 for an hour.

Nicky Davies registered a vote of thanks to the Building Team.

6. Deanery Synod:- Thank you and welcome to the two new representatives.

7. Team Vicar Report:- Rev. Nicky Davies reported:

'This last year has felt like a return to something close to 'normal 'in the lives of our churches following the Covid outbreak. However, we cannot be complacent, and we continue to approach all we do in the Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) with care and positivity as we learn to live with the virus.

Personally, it has been a challenging time for me, as it was discovered that I had cancer in May last year. This meant surgery and a recovery which, unfortunately, has not been easy. My treatment continues. Despite this, and coming straight after having Covid, I am delighted to be serving among you and to be at this, my third round of APCMs.

Here in Uplyme, I continue to be encouraged and inspired by the collaborative working that goes on – what a wonderful team and church family. It is a joy to work closely with our churchwardens Jenny and Sue. I know how much they have carried for me during this last year. And I am so very grateful.

I wish to say a big thank you to the PCC who are active and supportive, and I am glad to see that Jo and Chris will be joining us. Chris has also agreed to be PCC secretary and I am so grateful to him for taking this on. We are here to support you Chris. However, the reason we need Chris is because David Jones sadly died earlier this year. What a shock for all of us. David did so much and kept all of us so up-to-date with things. I am sure he is cheering you on Chris and all of us for pulling together so well.

I am grateful to our treasurer Sharyn, aided by Jan, who keeps our finances in good order and very pleased that we could pay our share of the Common Fund. This is the money that goes to the Diocese for providing clergy.

I believe it is essential that we offer learning opportunities across AVMC. The Being With course was very much appreciated by those who attended, including one person from Uplyme.

A big thanks to both our Worship Team and Worship Committee for your commitment to both leading and planning Sunday worship. There is a great deal of creativity around all that happens, and I know how much it is appreciated – because people tell me! A vote of thanks to Roger and Adrian, Kay, Eunice, Bruce, singers, and other band members who add so much to our worship through their musical gifts.

It has been a busy year, unfortunately, with funerals but I know from comments received how much our ministry has been appreciated. Our wedding couples also offer positive feedback and we've had some lovely baptisms too. It is wonderful to be able to serve the community, and I pray that God will be visible in all we do.

Wider afield in the AVMC, I continue to support Simon Smith in his youth work, now under the banner of Axe Valley Youth. I particularly support Friday Night Fun which takes place here in Uplyme. We also agreed to take on oversight of the financial and safeguarding elements of the work. Last year the Diocese made their first awards of funding from their Mission and Growth Fund to support work with children, families and young people. They have just launched the second round of funding and we are making an application for a part time role to help us increase what we can do. Perhaps a Messy Church and after-school club... The deadline is the end of May.

In my role as Team Vicar, I am active in four of our AVMC primary schools leading worship and assisting with RE teaching. My link with Uplyme and Chardstock Primary Schools is particularly strong and it has been great to recently have Axminster Primary celebrate Easter at The Minster. This is something the school and I am very keen to expand and is particularly special as they are a non-church school. I look forward to being able to do more now that I am returning to full health.

In AVMC Rev Tracey Voysey is working as our Safeguarding Co-ordinator and is liaising with churchwardens and our parish safeguarding reps. There has been training and DBS checking support. I am grateful to Jo and Noreen for their commitment to this vital work for us here. And must mention Robin too. The three of them helped with DBS verifying at recent training session that we offered the team.

There was a wonderful confirmation service last July when Bishop Jackie came and confirmed two adult candidates and two teenagers at The Minster. It was a shame that more people did not attend the special service. It was very encouraging.

Our AVMC churchwardens continue to meet together regularly and as a group with the ministry team, we are developing a team Mission Action Plan (MAP) which will provide the structure for all our churches to produce their own action plans. Our aim is for the MAP to be launched in the Autumn so do look out for this.

I would again like to record my thanks to all those who contribute to the life of the church here in Uplyme. Those who clean, those who do flowers and many others who contribute so much.

I also feel very supported by the AVMC ministry team and glad to have colleagues to work with. We all know that Clive will be retiring at the end of August. Although it is sad to lose a colleague, and some of us will feel a bit of extra pressure, this is a time for reflection to thank God for what's been and to look at a new way forward.

There is much to be thankful for and lots to look forward to as we seek to join in with our diocesan vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.

As we look ahead, we can also be motivated by the aims of the Church of England's General Synod which recommends a Church which is simpler, humbler and bolder: A simpler Church, both in governance and structure, and in the way we live and share the gospel.... Yes please...

A humbler Church, recognising our failings and working with others to serve the common good.

A bolder Church, energised and enthused by the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ, sharing that with everyone and making a difference in the world.

Amen to that.

Any Other Business:

a. There was a request that at next year's meeting the Worship Team Report is on the agenda.

ACTION: Church Wardens

b. The Parish Magazine editor asked that of the 24 groups taking place within the church that an article could be included by individual groups for the Parish Mag for varying editions. The articles need to be in by the 10th of each month.

c. A question was asked about the Mission Action Plan. If there is going to be a new MAP will we need it to help fill the vacancy following Clive's retirement. Nicky explained that the vacancy will probably be advertised in the autumn so the new MAP should be produced by then. Uplyme previously had an extensive MAP and some of the work done on this will help inform the new MAP. Nicky explained that there will be a process for filling the vacancy and Nicky and the team are due to meet with the Archdeacon. Nicky will keep everyone informed of the process once it is known.

d. There is to be a Coronation Cafe on Monday 8th May.

e. The Sheldon Singers are doing a concert in church on 24th June.

f. The Gospel Singers are doing a concert with a barbecue beforehand at Beer Caves on 23rd June.

g. 25th June will be Gift Day this year.

h. Two new people have joined the flower group.

i. A question was raised about a joint email group for church members. Previously consent has been given for this by individuals but this was undertaken well before COVID and would be now out of date. Due to GDPR printed lists are not recommended. BCC emails needs to be undertaken unless the group is small and well known to each other. Any such group would need updating frequently. **ACTION: the Tech Team will look into communication formats and this will be discussed at PCC.**

The meeting ended at 20.00 hours with the sharing of the Grace.

