

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SMARDEN

EASTER VESTRY MEETING

Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held
on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm
in St. Michael the Archangel, Smarden

Present:

Priest in Charge:	Rev'd Tess Lowe (in the chair)
Churchwardens:	David King, Edward Demery
PCC Members:	Mike Barkway, Stuart Tucker,
Treasurer	Ewa Loffstadt
Secretary:	Tanya Ling
Parishioners:	21 Members

The meeting was opened with prayers by Rev'd Tess Lowe.

Tess welcomed everyone to the meeting, business was then conducted as follows:

Appointment of Clerk:

Tanya Ling was appointed as the Clerk. Proposed by Annette Haynes and seconded by Alex Demery. All in favour.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Brian Bristow, Elizabeth Bloom and Vivienne Rose.

3. Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting 2022:

The minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held on 11th May 2022 had been circulated. Mike Palmer will need to be changed to Marcus Palmer. **Action** Office to make this change to the 2022 minutes. All in favour.

4. Election of Churchwardens:

Two nominations for the role of Churchwarden had been received, as follows:

- Edward Peter Demery, proposed by Joan Mortley and seconded by Stuart Tucker.
- David King, proposed by Colin Spear and seconded by Eric Spear.

All in favour.

There being no further nominations, Edward Peter Demery and David King were duly elected as Churchwardens with a unanimous vote of approval followed by a round of applause. Tess thanked both wardens for all their work this past year.

There being no further business to be conducted at the Vestry Meeting, the meeting closed and was immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**St Michael the Archangel Smarden
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm in St. Michael the Archangel, Smarden**

Attendance and Apologies were noted as being the same as for the Vestry Meeting and Rev'd Tess Lowe chaired this meeting.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 11th May 2022 had been circulated. Changes to be made. **Action** Office to change Stuart Tucker and not Stuart Barkway. Vi to be changed to Vivienne Rose. The minutes be approved by the Chairman. All in favour.

2. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

3. REPORTS REQUIRED BY LAW

3.1 Electoral Roll

David King, the Electoral Roll Officer reported that the Electoral Roll listed 69 persons as currently registered on the Parish's Electoral Roll year. The Electoral roll enables us to stay in touch with the congregation and gives them the right to vote at our Annual Church Meeting.

3.2. Annual Report and Financial Statement year ended 31st December 2022

All reports included in this section, which were the reports required by law, had been circulated with the agenda. This covered a summary of PCC business, a review of achievements and performance, the Secretary's report, Financial statement and accounts and the Deanery Synod report.

Annual Report:

It was noted that not all reports would be discussed at the meeting as they would have been read beforehand. Rev'd Tess encouraged everyone to read the report as there was a lot of extensive and interesting points to read about the church.

Electoral roll

David confirmed that there were 69 persons on the roll this year.

Churchwardens report

Highlights were the new incumbent Tess and many thanks for all her guidance throughout the year and for the stability that has been given. Quinquennial report is now in hand with a new subcommittee to look at the work to be done by prioritising what is to be done. Very well organised.

PCC Members report

Mission statement to be reviewed going forward. There are many items that are discussed throughout the year. This is a summary of the aims and purposes of the PCC business for the year. This includes the various meetings throughout the year. More PCC members are always welcome.

Churchyard

Thank you everyone that helps but the team are still short of volunteers.

Financial

Ewa Loffstadt is our Treasurer and Stephen Crowe, carried out an examination of the accounts Ewa confirmed it had been a hard year for the Deanery treasurer Tony wanted to confirm the thanks of the Deanery to the Congregation for paying their full parish share. Tess thanked all the fundraising efforts to assist with the finances of the church. These offer our ability to continue. Thanks you to Ewa for all her hard work and Stephen Crowe. Ewa and Stephen are willing to continue their roles for next year.

4. ELECTIONS

4.a PCC Members

One new PCC member has been proposed.

Jane Stonehewer to be elected for her 1st term (1st year) proposed by David King and seconded by Edward Demery. All in favour. Applause was given.

No further nominations were received.

4.b Deanery Synod Representatives

Mike Barkway is our Deanery representative for the Deanery Synod. Tony Richter is the Treasurer for the Deanery. Mike is happy to continue. All in favour.

No further nominations.

4.c. Independent Examiner:

Stephen Crowe has kindly offered to continue as Independent Examiner. He is willing to act without charge. The meeting expressed their gratitude to Stephen offering a very much valued service. All in favour.

Priest in charge remarks

Tess was delighted with the support and welcome in her first year in the parish. She is now trying to find the best way to move forward with Ministry and Mission. Her time is split between the two parishes and looking at areas to make the church more welcoming to schools and family worship.

The Friday morning coffee catchups at Smarden have started well and are making good progress. This is a valuable way of building the community outside of church services to try and include people who are not regular church goers. The Lent courses were well subscribed for both parishes and over the summer Tess will offer a "Being With" course- this looks your faith and how to describe god's love. Tess is attending the schools regularly with monthly assemblies and class teaching.

Stu Tucker gave a good description of the Active Church ministry – 3rd Sunday of the month where they gather at 1030am, and each session looks at one particular story. There are 4/ 5 activities around the story theme. Symbolism is key in these sessions. Tess then reads a story following by singing and prayers and coffee. Thanks to Sian and all the volunteers for their help in this. It is a very crucial first experience of church especially with parents. Stu is the appointed AC co-ordinator. Tess thanked him for all his work.

Worship pattern changed at the beginning of this year and is working well. Tess can now stay after the services, and this gives her the time to talk to the congregation.

Thank you to St Michaels Guild and Vivienne for all their work especially the sacristan team. Thank you to Pat Palmer and the flower arrangers' team. A round of applause was given.

5. AOB

Peter Haynes spoke about Taize which has made a lovely service. He thanked Tess for introducing this to the service rota as the music has great impact.

Edward thanked Tanya for all the administration of the PCC groups. Round of applause.

6. DATE OF NEXT APCM: To be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting was finished with a prayer and closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Dated.....