



Annual Meetings

30 April 2023

Annual Meeting to Elect Church Wardens (Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayers and welcome

The meeting was opened with prayer.

2. Apologies

Iain Sloane & Posy Sloane, Tim FitzGeorge, Elizabeth Pearn, Barrie Jones, Bernadette Birch, Sara Jeal, Christine Pylee, Barbara Brailey, Sandra Cooper and Martin Boyd.

3. Approve the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were received as a true record by all (With the amendment that Julia Barton surname was misspelt).

- Nominated by Paul Franks
- Seconded by Sandy Prescott
- All in Favour

4. Church Wardens' report from last year

Sally White and Tim FitzGeorge were elected to stand as Church wardens last year. Tim has agreed to stand again and Sally White is stepping down. Phil White has agreed to be nominated as Warden.

5. Elect 2 wardens

As there were no other nominations for Church Wardens Tim and Phil were duly elected to stand and there was no vote.

Tim

- Nominated by Sally White
- Seconded by Julian Barton

Phil

- Nominated by Julia Barton
- Seconded by Martin Boyd

A big thanks to Tim and Sally for their service during the last year. Thanks to Sally for her service over the last 3 years as she stands down.

The first meeting ended.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Approve the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were received via email and have been on the website for the last 2 weeks. There were no matters arising so they were passed as a true record

- Nominated by Sally White
- Seconded by Robert Russell
- All in Favour

2. Changes to the electoral roll

In the updated revision of the electoral roll:

- There are now 126 on the electoral roll,
 - An increase of 12 on last year (but it looks as though the figures were miscalculated last year).
 - There have been 6 deaths
- 33 reside in the parish
 - The same as last year
- 93 not resident in the parish
 - An increase of 12 on last year.

3. Annual Report and Treasurer's Report

The Annual Report & Treasurers Report were received by email or again on the website.

The report covered 2022 (although a few things from 2023 have crept in).

Thanks were given to Julia Barton & Sally Walker for compiling the financial report.

Julia gave an encouraging review of the financial report with a healthy income resulting in a small surplus for the year. The bus stop café received donations of well over £10,000. Special thanks to Sally Walker from Julia for her excellent support in managing our finances.

There were no questions about either the Financial or Annual Report.

4. Election of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives

Christine has been our only Deanery Synod representative this year. However Tim and Janette also attend. Christine stepped down last year. We thank Christine for all her work on Deanery Synod and also Eco Church.

We had one nomination for Deanery Synod Rep. from Mary Attwood. As there were no other nominations, there was no vote and Mary was duly elected as the new Deanery Synod Rep.

- Proposed: Sara Lane
- Seconded: Nanette Yemm

5. Election of members of the PCC

5 people have stepped down from PCC this year:

- Julia Barton (stepped down as treasurer)
- Lesley Quinton
- Mike Homer-Ward
- Andrea Mercier
- Sally White

They were all thanked for their contribution to the PCC over the last year.

There were four nominations for PCC:

- Julia Barton, proposed by Phil White, seconded by Sally White
- Robert Russell, proposed by Sally White, seconded by Colin Mercier
- Steve Furby, proposed by Sally White, seconded by Phil White
- Alexander Hall, proposed by Mary Attwood, seconded by Gareth Darch

As there were at least 1 more vacancies, there was no election and the four nominees were all elected to the new PCC.

The first meeting of the new PCC was held straight after the APCM

The PCC stood and were prayed for.

The new PCC is:

- Janette Smith (Chair)
- Tim FitzGeorge (Warden)
- Phil White (Warden)
- Steve Furby (Treasurer)
- Richard Bailey (Secretary)
- Julia Barton (Vice Chair and Safeguarding)
- Mary Attwood (Deanery Synod)
- Jon Harrington
- Jim Webb
- Sara Lane
- Julie Thompson
- Robert Russell
- Alexander Hall
- Barrie Jones

Total 14

6. Appointment of independent examiner

Our Independent examiner Shahrukh Talati FCA examined our accounts last year and we are happy for Shahrukh to continue for 2023.

- Proposed by Julia Barton , seconded by Sally Walker
- All in favour

7. Thank you to volunteers

It was acknowledged that CoGS could not function without its vast army of volunteers and so we took some time to celebrate all our volunteers.

8. Vision 2023

Years ago someone gave a prophecy for CoGS: they saw us as a Beacon shining out as a signal. We pray it and declare it when we say the Crookhorn prayer or Covenant: A beacon to the Borough of Havant.

Last APCM during lunch I asked you to do a small exercise. I gave you some imaginary people all of whom were younger people because that is who is missing from the Church. I asked how CoGS could provide a pathway to faith for them.

Now those people were entirely imaginary but I think that all of them, in some form or another, have become part of our wider family. We are touching the real lives of those whose lives are Messy: Addicts with the recovery course; Single mums are coming with their children to our toddler groups, Messy Church, the Bus stop break and our café; More teens have joined our youth

group and helped out in Messy Church and other events. Although we're still predominantly white and middleclass, we're beginning to see some diversity. Although we're still predominantly over 50, we're beginning to see more young families.

We live in a world full of subcultures. The message we want to give continually is that all are welcome no matter what people's sexuality, social background, age, geography, ethnicity or anything else. No matter what they struggle with everyone is welcome here.

I've been reading a book by Bishop Jill Duff: *Lighting the Beacons*.

Beacons are a signal to others to light their beacons but the interesting thing that Jill points out is who is actually lighting the beacons.

In the third film of the Lord of the Rings Trilogy the darkness in Middle Earth is really dark and a little hobbit manages to scramble up to light the beacon and all the other beacons across the land are lit. Gandalf says "Hope is kindled" and I wonder if that hope is being kindled now in Crookhorn.

Beacons of Hope guide us home. In the Lord of the Rings it's the little people, the hobbits, who light the first beacon. They are the ones without ambition and without thirst for power. It was quite a revelation to me the other day when I realised that the Apostle Paul, the important person, the one with all the qualifications, the one who had got somewhere with his life was made to wait for 3 years before he was able to minister. Peter, on the other hand, the unschooled fisherman, the one who had learnt from the School of hard knocks, who never seemed to get anything right was ministering straight away. It's the Peters Jesus builds his church on not those of us with great CVs! It's the Peters who are lighting the beacons.

Many people out there are living such difficult lives. People have survived deep pain and disappointment. They've had rotten roots, they are conscious of their brokenness, they feel crushed by life, they are hungry for home. If we're honest, most of us can manage daily life without Jesus. It's obviously better with him but we have the wherewithal to survive quite well in our own strength. Some of the people we're meeting in our various ministries have no hope. They can't live in their own strength. I've discovered that in meeting these people I have a whole new fire for God. Meeting them has fired me up - they are the ones lighting the flame, not us. They are lighting the flame in us.

Bishop Philip North says, "If we want renewal we must start with the poor." If we want to be a Beacon to the borough of Havant and further afield we need to start with the weaker people. I'm not saying we shouldn't reach out to the stronger people too, but I think we have more to learn from the powerless.

1 Cor 1:25-29 says

- ²⁷ ... God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

I love the Message translation

- *Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ.*

Until I came here, I don't think I had knowingly had relationships with drug addicts, or alcoholics or those with a completely different lifestyle from me. It's opened my eyes and it's given me new fire. And it's not just these sorts of people: It's children, teens and young adults too. These are the people who are the core to the growth of churches today.

So we will continue to welcome all into this Church. Welcoming all and affirming diversity so that irrespective of background each person is valued for the enrichment they bring to the church community. Seeking to witness to the sheer mystery and awesomeness of life and inviting people to share a journey of faith with us.

We will build on what is already happening. Since the café opened, just over a year ago, we have seen growth in almost every other activity and in the numbers attending. The Church has also become much more noticeable in the community. Our **sphere of influence** is becoming huge. This year we hope to see Spiritual growth across all generations. We are beginning to roll out a mentoring structure To enable support for growth. The Recovery Course Will become a drop in group for support and we will plan another course for the future. The Bus Stop Café Will continue to be open 4 days a week with a view to growing the team from within the community. Hopefully we will be able to provide debt Counselling later this year. The Community Police are also going to be holding surgeries in the café. We are looking to have an emphasis on children's and Youth work.

I have some targets I would like us to work towards

- To grow by at least 5% in numbers
- To see 85% of our members attending Small Groups
 - And to see a pattern of mentoring enabling Spiritual growth
- To grow local attendance by 5%
 - And see a much more representative demographic in church
- To engage our youth more in the family of the Church
- To have at least 5 more families join us
 - Messy Church is going to be trying some new ways of working
- To have a rhythm of mission
 - With every activity being a pathway to faith
- To run at least one enquirers group each year

We do not act alone, we, of course, have the power of the Holy Spirit in us and just like beacons the fire of the Holy Spirit starts a chain reaction.

I'll leave you with this quote from a cotton worker from Burnley in the early 20th Century

Spirit-filled souls are ablaze for God. They love with a love that glows, they shine with a faith that kindles, they serve with a devotion that consumes. They rejoice with a joy that radiates. Love is perfected by the fire of God.

I want to be like that. "Hope is kindled." Let our beacon burn.

9. Lunch

First Meeting of New PCC

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayer

2. Legal requirements

Janette gave an explanation as to what it means to be a trustee for the charity of CoGS. She also explained that trustees of charities that work with children and adults should seek a DBS check and that means everyone on the PCC.

Every PCC member is required by the Church of England to complete three Safeguarding Courses which are available on-line. Completed certificates should be sent to Antonia. These are:

- Basic Awareness
- Foundations
- Domestic Abuse

These courses can also be completed by attending 'live' courses given by the diocese (Julia delivers these). These courses should be completed within three months of joining the PCC.

There will be a Terms of Reference and a Handbook for the use of PCC Members so we each understand their responsibilities. The church will also be reviewing its policies, including Risk Assessments and Health and Safety.

3. Appointments

The appointment of officers was as follows:

Vice Chair:	Julia Barton
Secretary:	Richard Bailey
Treasurer:	Steve Furby
Safeguarding Officer:	Julia Barton

Standing Committee:

- Janette Smith
- Tim FitzGeorge
- Phil White
- Richard Bailey
- Steve Furby

4. Next PCC

The next PCC meetings:

- 1. Friday 19 May 2023
 - 7:15pm in the vicarage
 - (Apologies from Robert Russell)
- 2. Tuesday 18 July 2023
 - 7:15 in the Ark

5. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer.