

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH GLAPTHORN

Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting

Thursday 2nd May 2024, at 7 p.m. in Church

Present:	
Rev Stephen Webster	Rev Annabel Copeland
Sid Charlton (Chair)	Tracey Kerr
Brigitte Hilton	Tricia Newton
Penny Reading	Sonya Moss
Anne Cashmore	Richard Stark
7 members of the congregation	

1.	<p>Opening Prayers:</p> <p>Led by Rev Stephen Webster</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Philip Hilton Charles Wide</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the AVM dated 9th May 2023:</p> <p>These were proposed as a true record by Richard Stark and seconded by Brigitte Hilton. All present voted in favour of accepting the minutes and these were signed by Stephen Webster.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Nil</p>	
5.	<p>Vicar's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last year, there have been some special services such as the one for the King's Coronation, Christingle, Harvest etc. Some of these have been held later in the morning and followed by a lunch, which has proved popular. • A few PCC members met last August to discuss the pattern of Church services post Covid. These have now been changed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st Sunday Book of Common Prayer - 2nd Sunday Holy Communion (informal) - 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer (informal) 	SW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4th Sunday Holy Communion - 5th Sunday Pilgrim Group • Work is continuing on strengthening the connection between the Church and families, school, and all ages. In terms of children, the area at the back of the Church has been developed for use during the service, and as there are specific services where children are more likely to attend, we need to think about how to engage them during the service. It is difficult in that the number of children attending is never known in advance and so “Church in a box” is currently under development i.e. a box of appropriate activities for children to do/make according to the service they attend. • Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emma Kirby was licensed last September and is the Youth Minister working in Prince William School. She is involved with such activities as Christian Union, a drop in youth club, taking RE lessons and is heading up Chattabox Plus too. - Louise Foote (Lay Chaplain and Parish Safeguarding Officer) focusses on running the Tuesday Club and taking services in residential care settings. - Thank you to Charles Wide, Emily Taylor, Peter Taylor and Caroline Hawkins who all take services at Glapthorn and other local churches. - Nadine Brown and Joe Gray from the Benefice are also exploring ordination. - Josh Jackson (curate) has now moved to another parish to complete his curacy and we wish him well. <p>There was one question raised about C. of E. Schools and whether a Head still had to be a confirmed Church of England member – apparently this is not the case, but a Head has to be cognisant of the fact that they are leading a C. of E. school and be in harmony with Christian values.</p>	
6.	<p>Churchwarden’s Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pattern of services has been slightly amended as outlined in the Vicar’s report, and numbers are healthy with Pilgrims’ Group always being well attended. Easter Day service saw several children taking part too. • Social life has been recovering from the “covid years” with the traditional “Bluebell Teas” on Bank Holiday Monday, a special concert “Organ and Contralto” in May, and a fascinating talk on the architecture of the 	BH

	<p>church, explaining this in terms of religious and social history. Several of the congregation participated in the September “Ride and Stride” to raise funds for the Historic Churches Trust (from which the church receives a grant at times, to help with church maintenance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much work has gone into applying for grants for the proposed lighting scheme, but to date, no major grant has been awarded. Currently, the emphasis is on raising funds for the urgent repairs required to the lead roof, which is leaking. • Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the Church in good order – the grass mowers, those who help with cleaning, flowers and coffee, Brian Ashworth the organist, and Ursula Wide and Pauline Davidson for producing the village newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has supported the churchwarden too. <p>The Vicar thanked Brigitte for her hard work over the years, and her fantastic support in the role.</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurer’s Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year there was some improvement in the finances, largely due to two fundraising events – the concert and talk on the Church’s architecture and history. • The major expenditure was the contribution to the Diocese, followed by church repairs (the latter being £4,134). • The 100 Club continues to be an important source of income; thank you to Pauline Davidson for her work on this, and to Mike Newton for his role as Gift Aid officer. • Looking ahead, one current unknown is the electricity contract which reaches the end of its three-year period this coming year. Also, the proposed cost of the roof repair is considerable and will need to be factored into the Church’s financial strategy. • Last year the cash position at the end of the year was £25,435; it currently stands at just under £29,405. A copy of the income and expenditure will be posted on the Church noticeboard. 	RS
8.	<p>School Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glapthorn School continues to thrive – in March 2023 it had its Ofsted inspection and was rated “Good”, which is 	AC

	<p>very pleasing. The Inspectors used words such as “encouraging place, kind, community and family, teachers with high expectations of the children”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vicar and Associate Vicar alternate and visit the school weekly to deliver Collective Worship and provide pastoral support for the staff if required. They also participate in RE lessons – for example the children have been learning about baptism recently. • The children and their parents attend four services a year in the Church – at Easter, End of Year, Harvest and Christmas. • A bible is presented to every Year 6 pupil as a leaving present and this year, bibles were also given to Reception class children. For the coming year OCYA (Oundle Christian Youth Association) have paid for a youth bible to be given to every child in Glapthorn School. • The Associate Vicar also sits on the School Church group and advises on ensuring the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) is met. • A key project underway at the moment is looking at how the Church can engage and build relationships with the School and its community, bearing in mind that not many children from Glapthorn itself attend the school. The first stage is to build relationships within the school itself, and break down any barriers, rather than trying to get children and their families directly into church – early examples could include PCC and congregation members helping with reading, giving the School a thank-you hamper of nice biscuits, teas and coffees. Sid has also begun to explore helping out in school and necessary checks are underway. Other ideas include holding a church service in school itself – a service created by the church and school together and one that is timed so that parents can join in too. This project will continue to evolve during the course of 2024. 	
9.	<p>Fund Raising/Social Committee Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful events have been held throughout the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May: Concert - June: Talk on history and architecture of the Church - September: Ride and Stride - October: Tearfund Quiz and Harvest Auction - April: Concert 	SC

	<p>With many thanks to all those who have organised, contributed and participated in events – with particular thanks to Philip Hilton for organising the concerts and talk.</p>	
10.	<p>Safeguarding Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC has complied with its duty to have ‘due regard’ to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. • During 2023 the Benefice Safeguarding Team comprised Rev Annabel Copeland (Clergy Safeguarding Lead) and Louise Foote (Benefice Safeguarding Officer based at Oundle St Peter’s), our PCC safeguarding link with the Benefice Team is Sid Charlton. • In line with the Church of England’s safeguarding policy statement ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ the Diocese of Peterborough provides access to an online application called ‘Safeguarding Dashboards’ to enable parishes to produce a safeguarding Action Plan. The Benefice Safeguarding Officer has used the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard tool throughout the year to audit and inform safeguarding practice and identify training needs. The PCC has worked through the action plans produced by the dashboard over the year and will continue to respond to any updates through 2024. The Dashboard has 3 levels, St Leonard’s has progressed through to level 3 having completed 92% of the requirements. • The PCC are continuing to use the Benefice Safeguarding Policy which was written in line with the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, and meets statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to activities within the Benefice, it was reviewed and updated as required during 2023, safeguarding concerns will be responded as described in this policy which continue to be reviewed annually. • Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at all PCC meetings. • As a church we remain committed to vigilance around raising concerns regarding safeguarding and being up to date with our safeguarding actions. 	LF
11.	<p>Election of Churchwarden:</p> <p>Brigitte Hilton stepped down from the role and expressions of interest for the role were sought.</p>	

	Ursula Wide was proposed by Brigitte Hilton and seconded by Richard Stark, and everyone present voted in favour of Ursula being appointed Churchwarden.	
12.	<p>Election of PCC members:</p> <p>Brigitte Hilton will remain on the PCC – proposed by Penny Reading, seconded by Giles Butlin and everyone present voted in favour.</p>	
13.	<p>Electoral Roll:</p> <p>There are currently 42 members. A new roll is prepared every six years.</p>	PN
14.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Ursula Wide spoke to the meeting – see attached. There followed a lively discussion regarding demographics, succession and retirement amongst the clergy in general.</p>	
15.	<p>Date of 2025 AVM:</p> <p>Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7 p.m. in Church.</p> <p>The meeting closed with prayer at 7.55 p.m.</p>	