

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of All Saints' Highbrook, held at All Saints' following Evensong on 7th April 2024.

Present: The Rev'd Heather Wilkin (Chairing the meeting); names redacted

Apologies: Monica Moore.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

1 Election of Churchwardens.

After many years of dedicated service to All Saints Tony Osborn is retiring. Rev'd Heather thanked him for his dedicated work over many years.

There are two nominations for Churchwarden.

Adam Hackett, proposed by Roger Cobden-Ramsay and seconded by Simon Witheridge.
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Both nominees were elected unanimously by the meeting.

Rev'd Heather thanked Adam and Tony for both their marvellous support and their warm welcome to the parish. They have done great work as a team over the previous year. She welcomed Roger to his new role.

The meeting concluded.

The Annual Parochial Meeting of All Saints' Highbrook followed the Vestry Meeting.

Present. As above.

1 Apologies. As above.

2 The minutes of the 2023 APCM were duly approved and signed.

3 Matters arising. There were none.

4 Reports.

a) Electoral Roll. Sophie reported that there are 54 people on the Electoral Roll.

b) Finance. All present had received a copy of the financial report prepared by Simon. Simon expressed his gratitude to all those who support All Saints. Rev'd Heather thanked Simon for his diligent work.

c) Annual Report. All those present had received a copy of the Annual Report (also attached to these minutes). In addition to the written report Rev'd Heather thanked all those who give to the church in so many ways. All those who care for the fabric, cleaning, maintaining it and welcoming visitors; all those who make it beautiful with flowers and music to enhance our worship; the readers, those who lock and unlock on a regular basis and those who mend things when they (inevitably) go wrong. Rev'd Heather especially thanked Tony Osborn and Claire Taylor for organising such wonderful music, Heather Chapman and Peter Browne for the inspiration and work behind the Angels Festival and Robin Howick for his work leading on church maintenance. Rev'd Heather reiterated her thanks to the Churchwardens and PCC.

Despina Edge was thanked for her ongoing work as Safeguarding Officer. The PCC has complied with its duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. All Saints has not yet been able to reach the required level 1 in the "Simple Quality Protects" (SQP) scheme as regards safeguarding. We are aware of our responsibilities in this area.

There were no further comments regarding safeguarding.

Rev'd Heather thanked Sandra Osborn for the stunning flowers in church, and for her work in leading the flower arranging team throughout the year.

We are most grateful to Karen Blackman, Deanery Synod representative for St. Margaret's, who has kindly shared her report with us.

5 Elections and appointments.

a) Election of Laity to the PCC.

Decision to elect annually.

Under Church representation rules PCC members are elected for three years. It is usual for one third of the PCC to retire each year, with new members coming on. However in small rural parishes, this is not always possible due to the small number of people available for standing. Rev'd Heather proposed that All Saints should continue with the alternative system, which is that each year the whole PCC retires en bloc and is elected unanimously. This was seconded by Sophie. The motion took effect immediately.

With an electoral roll of 5r the parish may elect up to six PCC members. The following were proposed.

	Proposer	Secunder
Heather Chapman.	Molly Cooper	Sophie Hill
Tony Osborn	Sophie Hill	Rosie King
Sophie Hill	Diana Hill	Tony Osborn
Rosemary King	Diana Hill	Sophie Hill
Simon Witheridge	Rosie King	Heather Chapman

The PCC was elected en bloc in an uncontested election.

b) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Richard Laing was thanked for his work over the previous year. He indicated that he was willing to stand again and was duly elected.

c) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.

Sophie was willing to stand for the following year and was elected.

d) Deanery Synod.

All Saints currently has no lay representation at the Deanery Synod.

Two positions are available. Rev'd Heather urged those who may be interested to consider taking up this vacancy which would involve us in the wider life of the Church of England and allow our voice to be heard. There were no volunteers and Karen will be asked to continue to share her reports. In the meantime Rev'd Heather will continue to represent the parish as incumbent. Karen's report will be posted on the church website.

6 Any other business.

Rev'd Heather thanked Tony for his service following his retirement as Churchwarden. He has been a wonderful person to work with, kind, patient, generous and informative. He has been such an asset to this wonderful place and it is difficult to thank him appropriately in few words.

Adam stood to thank Tony for his service as an exceptional Churchwarden, saying that kindness and compassion runs through all Tony's actions. He has led All Saints to a standard of choral excellence, marshalling experts to reach high standards. Throughout the recent interregnum Tony compiled every service allowing the church to progress and grow with services uninterrupted. The PCC is delighted that Tony will remain on the PCC and continue to lead music. Adam presented Tony with a gift.

Tony responded that he wasn't going anywhere yet but, having served four vicars in over thirty years, he was delighted to hand over the mantle of Churchwarden to Roger and he felt he was handing over the role to good hands.

The meeting concluded with The Grace.