

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BARDSEY WITH EAST KESWICK

Registered Charity 1134014

The Parish Church of All Hallows, Bardsey and the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, East Keswick

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held at All Hallows Church on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm

The meetings were both chaired by the Incumbent, Reverend Angela Hannafin.

Angela opened the meetings at 7.30 pm with words of welcome. She then led the meeting in prayer. Angela noted that today marks the 5 year anniversary of her licensing in the Parish.

23 parishioners were present at the meeting. Apologies had been received from Gaynor Anning, Phil Jones and Revd Anna Wallis.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Minutes of the 2022 meeting

The acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 was proposed by Terry Wheeler, seconded by Stephen Scales and approved by all present. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Election of two Churchwardens

Jacquie Earnshaw (All Hallows) and Fiona Siekierkowski (Saint Mary Magdalene) were proposed jointly for re-election by Susanne Lifford, seconded by Brian Dower and elected unanimously by the meeting. Angela expressed her thanks for all the churchwardens have done in the past year, and thanks and a round of applause were given by all. Angela also noted that Fiona is hoping to take a 'sabbatical year' from her role as churchwarden, from January 2024, and that some thought would be needed about how church management could be shared more widely.

Both churchwardens then gave a summary of recent activities and achievements in their churches over the last year.

Fiona Siekierkowski - Saint Mary Magdalene (St MM)

Fiona noted what an unexpected year St Mary Magdalene has had, despite the prospect that all would have gone back to normal following the relaxation of Covid rules. As winter approached, the decision was made to hold services on alternate Sundays in each of the two churches to save money on heating costs. Fiona reported that this was a good solution, but necessitated an investment in extra catering equipment to cope with the increased numbers for coffee on a Sunday morning. The Wednesday morning services moved from the main church into the vestry to save heating costs, but the number attending those services increased. All services in the parish then moved to St Mary Magdalene after the failure of the heating at All Hallows, and Fiona commented that it has been great to welcome those from Bardsey to East Keswick and good to worship together. Particularly notable was Christmas when, for the first time ever, a Christmas morning service took place at St Mary Magdalene. Although few of the regular congregations attended, a large number of visitors and families attended, swelling the numbers and resulting in a full church.

Other notable services included the patronal festival in July, with a service outside and lunch served inside afterwards in the church. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts attended the Remembrance Day Service and had made poppy wreaths and poppies on sticks for display in the church and churchyard. In December there was a late afternoon Christingle service, with a cake sale raising £133 for the Children's Society. Services were also held every evening in Holy Week, but these were not as well attended as hoped. There was a full church on Easter Sunday with an egg hunt in the churchyard.

During the Platinum Jubilee weekend St Mary Magdalene ran a stall at the family gala in East Keswick village hall, which was a great opportunity to promote the church in the village. The mouse hunt was launched, with sugar mice, mouse

masks, mouse ears and copies of the mouse hunt guide given out. The guide leads visitors around the church in search of Robert Mouseman Thompson's carved mice. Some villagers were introduced to the church and churchyard for the first time at the gala and the trail was popular afterwards.

In the church building itself the failing plaster inside has been repaired and all walls repainted. This was a major job taking 2 weeks, ably overseen by Peter Lord. The boiler has been serviced, the lightning conductor, fire and electrical safety tests have all been done and the organ tuned. New seat covers have been purchased for all pews thanks to a kind donation, and an additional table and chairs have been purchased for the children's craft area. The area is well used during the week, including by families using the adjacent playground. St Mary Magdalene now has an entry on the Small Pilgrim Places website to encourage even more visitors.

In the churchyard, three more fruit trees have been planted in the community orchard, and under planted with a grass and wildflower seed mix. The church is grateful to the Dawson Trust for their kind donation towards the cost. The Beavers visited in June and helped to prepare the ground as well as hunting for mice in the church. The high winds in March blew the top off the large fir tree in centre of churchyard, which damaged two older gravestones as it fell.

Work continues to make the church a more nature friendly space in the centre of the village. The Silver Eco Church award has encouraged an examination of the environmental impact of all aspects of church life, although it will be a challenge to progress to Gold in the buildings category of the award. Fiona thanked Liz Parr for leading the way with this in East Keswick.

Fiona summarised the year as full of unexpected changes and adaptations in the Parish and at St Mary Magdalene, but commented that change is good as it can mean opportunities to do things differently, often for the better. Fiona finished by confirming her intent to take some time off for being a churchwarden from the beginning of next year and give someone else to have a go.

Jacque Earnshaw - All Hallows (AH)

Jacque noted that the year had started relatively quietly. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in June, and All Hallows joined St Mary Magdalene for their patronal festival. August was quiet, in September the churches mourned HM The Queen, and we have a lovely harvest lunch after our service where everyone enjoyed homemade soup and puddings. In October we began the 'Winter Warmers' lunches at the Callister Hall which will continue on the second Tuesday of each month, although now rebranded the 'Callister Café' as people would like to keep coming even though it isn't winter. All donations made are used to buy food for St Aidan's. At the end of October we had the annual memorial service, and November began with the patronal festival, joined by friends from St MM and the Methodist church. The service was followed by another great lunch in church with baked potatoes with various fillings and homemade desserts. The following Sunday was Remembrance Sunday, then the end of November brought the Christingle service which was well attended by families with children. All Hallows then again hosted the playgroup Nativity in early December and all was going well.

Just before Christmas the first gas leak was detected, and it could not all be sorted out in time for Christmas, and so apart from a service outside in the churchyard all services were held at St Mary Magdalene. It was thought that the leak had been sorted by fixing the meter but it was to fail again shortly afterwards. Storm Otto in February brought down a large beech tree, damaging quite a few grave stones as it fell over the middle graveyard. The storm also brought down quite a few branches on the cedar. Jacque commented that this was the beginning of her close relationship with the faculty system. She explained that Faculties are the church planning permission which is needed for absolutely everything, especially in a grade I listed building. While the graveyard was taped off while applying for permission to deal with the storm damage, the gas leak reappeared, with one leak on the road and the other in the old corroded pipe running under the graveyard. The leak on the road has been sorted by British Gas, but the gas pipe to All Hallows cannot be repaired and so will need to be replaced. The wall between the churchyard and the road is also now falling, and the pipe runs under the wall, so the process has been additionally complicated, especially as many companies were unwilling to work on pipes in a graveyard. We now have the Faculty from the Diocese giving permission for the works, and a contractor appointed. The damage on the trees has also been sorted, the wall is being taken down on Thursday, and gas works start on Tuesday next week before the wall will be rebuilt.

Jacque finished by expressing her thanks to Fiona and the team at St Mary Magdalene for such a warm welcome over the past few months, and commented that it has been really good to spend time as a whole parish. She also thanked those who have been understanding, supportive and ready with words of encouragement and prayers through the difficult times, as well as those who have moved churches and venues and times without complaint.

Angela echoed Jacque's thanks to Fiona and Robert for all their help in running the main parish service at St Mary Magdalene over the past months, and commented that the parish identify has become stronger as a result of all the joint services. She also thanked Jacque for her tenacity in handling the situation at All Hallows over the same period.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Minutes of the 2022 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 were approved.

2. Electoral Roll Report – given by Electoral Roll Officer Stephen Scales

Stephen reminded the meeting that the purpose of the electoral roll is to have a list of those who regularly worship at and support the church, as well as providing our register of those eligible to vote at this meeting. It is revised every year and renewed every 6 years. The next full renewal will be in 2025 and so was just revised this year and now shows 94 names. Anyone else wishing to join the electoral roll should contact Stephen at any point during the year.

3. Safeguarding Report – given by Parish Safeguarding Officer Charlotte Meek

Charlotte explained her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, and that the PCC and the incumbent of any parish have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in their community. She explained that as such she has a duty to report back at this meeting. Our safeguarding responsibilities also mean that the PCC members have been trained appropriately for their roles, as a parish we display safeguarding information in our churches and on our website, and we respond to any issues promptly, at all times complying with data protection legislation. We complete activity risk assessments and a safeguarding report is a standing agenda at every PCC meeting. We have also been using the Parish Dashboard which is an online tool for organising our safeguarding records and this ensures that we are reminded of dates such as renewing training and that we are complying with everything that the Church of England insist on or recommend.

Charlotte reported that she has written about safeguarding in the village news magazine and also gave a talk with Angela at church one Sunday morning. She stressed that while historically people have thought that villages like ours do not have safeguarding problems, sadly that is not so and we all have a responsibility to keep our eyes open to anything that seems a little odd.

Since the last APCM we have had several incidents which have been dealt with, some of which we have obtained advice from the Diocesan safeguarding team about. There are no outstanding issues.

Charlotte reminded the meeting that she is available to be contacted if you are concerned about anything to do with safeguarding, and her details are in both churches and on the website, and Angela can be contacted too. Charlotte likened safeguarding to a jigsaw: if you think about a jigsaw, it's made up of lots of small pieces and putting them together makes a big picture. Similarly, one safeguarding event you witness might be a small part of something bigger. Safeguarding is everyone's business.

4. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report 2022 (TAR)

Elizabeth Otty gave the report. The Trustees Annual Report has been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the relevant Financial Reporting Standards, and has been improved by our independent financial examiner and the PCC. A non-statutory summary of the accounts section of the report has also been previously circulated and was available in hard copy at the meeting. An electronic copy of the full accounts is available on request.

Elizabeth noted that planned income and donations has increased from 2021 but is still far lower than a figure of £70k in 2019. Income from all sources was raised from 2021, mainly due to several generous donations, including some made on the understanding that they would be distributed to social causes chosen by the PCC. Rental income at the Callister Hall and newsletter advertising also increased in 2022 relative to 2021.

Expenditure shows a significant increase compared to 2022, £12k in total, although £7k of this was donations to other charities from the donations we received. Newsletter printing costs increased significantly, and costs were incurred for painting and wall repairs at the Callister Hall. The Parish Share was paid in full, made possible by withdrawing £18k from the investment accounts. Expenditure was also incurred for the decorating at St Mary Magdalene. The utility costs also

increased significantly, for example with costs of £2200 for heating at All Hallows in the last 3 months of 2022 compared to £700 for the last 3 months of 2021. Costs would have been much higher if the decision had not been made to alternate between churches on Sundays and if we had not benefitted from the government business support grant. We also suffered a £54k reduction in investments due to events in the stock markets. Elizabeth explained that the liabilities in the accounts relate to monies still needing to be paid for newsletter printing, to our independent financial examiner, and for the remaining donations to social charities as specified by our donor.

Elizabeth noted that the financial situation has certainly not yet returned to pre-Covid levels, as the income is not back up and bookings for weddings are still lower. She noted that planned giving and gift aid is a really important part of the churches' income and she thanked those who donate by standing order and encouraged those present to consider increasing their donations if they are able. She identified inflation as a pressing concern for our finances, noting that the business energy support grant will reduce next year. It is also probable that utility prices for the churches will increase again, for example after the previous fixed price contract for the Callister Hall ended on 31st March, the cost per kWh has increased by 400%.

Elizabeth finished by concluding that we should give thanks that the parish remains solvent, but also keep looking for ways to improve our financial standing, trying to encourage giving and thank donors for their gifts as a vital contribution to the life of the parish.

5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Five PCC members were due to retire: Susanne Lifford, Eliza McIntosh, Charlotte Meek, Helen Render, and Terry Wheeler. Charlotte, Helen, Eliza and Terry wished to stand for a further two years and had returned nomination forms. The approval of the four nominations en bloc was proposed by Brenda Sanderson and seconded by Fiona Siekierkowski with all present in agreement.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

The reappointment of the PCC current independent examiners, Temporal Lennon and Company Limited, for a further year was proposed by Elizabeth Otty seconded by Alan Otty and passed unanimously.

8. Closing Remarks by the Reverend Angela Hannafin

Angela finished by outlining our progress against the five year plan for the meeting.

Growing in our Faith

The Bible study at Callister Hall has proved a success, with participants valuing being together and digging down into the bible. We held a quiet away day at Mirfield during Lent, and there has been an increase in family baptisms. Changing the service pattern has also contributed to building community, as we at first alternated churches to save heating costs and then moved to St Mary Magdalene due to the gas supply issues at All Hallows. Angela noted that she appreciates it was difficult for some people to change their ways, but that many people were very supportive of the joint services with subsequent growth in our community.

Welcoming spaces to Worship

Angela noted that our spaces to worship are not always the buildings but also outside, as was seen with the summer Patronal Festival service at St Mary Magdalene and the Christmas crib services which saw 130 attendees between the two churches. The craft areas in both churches are much used both during Sunday services and during the week, and St Mary Magdalene has been decorated in the past year.

Varied Styles of Worship

On 11th September a service was held to remember the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and a commemorative service will also be held this coming Sunday as we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. We have had a diverse mix of services throughout the month, and Angela explained that, even as we return to services at both All Hallows and St Mary Magdalene from this month, the PCC has decided to keep the first Sunday of every month as a joint service at 10 am. Angela noted that there is a need for other people to lead services, so that she can step back a little and we can increase church leadership in the parish. Terry Wheeler has been leading morning worship, and Angela hopes that in the coming year special services that don't need a vicar, such as the memorial and Christingle services, will be led by lay people.

Develop inside and outside church

The Callister Café has been used for a monthly community lunch, and both churches have used space differently serving food after services commemorating the patronal festivals. A new large TV screen is being installed in St Mary Magdalene to hopefully reduce printing costs and benefit the environment, and both churches are now members of the Small Pilgrim Places network and will shortly appear on the website.

Church at the heart of community

Angela highlighted the parish's contributions to St Aidan's FoodShare, with a group of volunteers in the village collecting food, donating money, spending donated money and taking food to drop it off. Charlotte Meek was thanked for her work with the churches together group organising a quiz in November which raised over £5000 for Ukraine, as well as a Christmas event. Angela continues as a governor at Bardsey Primary Academy, and the Headteacher is keen to promote close links between the school and the church. She also recognised the large number of volunteers involved in the church, including bell ringers, those setting up for services, those cleaning or locking/unlocking the churches and those serving refreshments.

Climate change and eco issues

Angela noted that we are involved in these issues as it matters to us, and that there has and will continue to be a culture change in the church and community, although this takes time. Eco issues feature in all our corporate prayer and often in our preaching, and on Sunday 21st May we will welcome a visiting preacher for Climate Sunday. She noted that we hope to achieve Gold Eco awards in both churches, but that this will be a challenge given the nature of the buildings.

More broadly, Angela thanked our Parish Administrator, Catriona, who has now been in post for just over a year. She also highlighted the growing culture of inclusion in our churches, and reminded the meeting that the General Synod, of which she is a member, has recently agreed that blessings of same sex relationships are now possible in churches for the first time. Angela also noted that we are developing stronger links with our Diocese and will be hosting our Deanery Synod in September 2023 at All Hallows.

To finish, Angela read the passage from Acts 2 42-end which was one of the readings from last Sunday, describing how the community of Christ was devoted to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, sharing in meals and prayer. She reminded the meeting that the key to church growth is about 'we' not 'me', and in creating a genuine community in which everyone is valued and can use their gifts and skills for God's kingdom. She expressed her hope that we can focus on finding the right volunteers and work out what we really need to do. Angela noted that our community is growing, and as well as growing in number, as part of this we need to grow in spirituality, in our relationships with one another and in our relationship with God.

9. Comments from the floor

It was clarified that Deanery Synod members will be re-elected by the PCC at their next meeting.

Robert Siekierkowski observed the reading from Acts rang very true of his experiences since he came to the village, and he thanked his friends from the church congregation.

Brian Dower commented that he likes being a member of the church.

It was noted that many people have enjoyed continuing with activities such as the art club and quizzes which started during lockdown.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m. with prayers, concluding with the Grace.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BARDSEY WITH EAST KESWICK

Registered Charity 1134014

The Parish Church of All Hallows, Bardsey and the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, East Keswick

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held at All Hallows Church on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.30pm

The meetings were both chaired by the incumbent, Reverend Angela Hannafin.

Angela opened the meetings at 7.30 pm with words of welcome and a reading from Ephesians. She explained that in the Easter season we celebrate all that is good, including the hope God has given, the richness of the inheritance with all the Saints and the power of the resurrected Christ living in us. She then led the meeting in prayer.

24 parishioners were present at the meeting. Apologies had been received from Gaynor and Peter Anning, Cathy Jones, Susanne Lifford and Jeff Snowden.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Minutes of the 2021 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2021 had been previously circulated. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Stephen Scales seconded by James Redmayne and approved by all present. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Election of two Churchwardens

Jacque Earnshaw (All Hallows) and Fiona Siekierkowski (Saint Mary Magdalene) were proposed jointly for re-election by Charlotte Meek, seconded by Liz Palmer and agreed unanimously by the meeting. Angela expressed her thanks for all the churchwardens have done in the past year, and thanks and a round of applause were given by all.

Both churchwardens then gave a summary of recent activities and achievements in their churches over the last year.

Fiona Siekierkowski - Saint Mary Magdalene (St MM)

Fiona reported that now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, services at St MM have essentially gone back to normal, although hand sanitiser and masks will continue to be available at the church door for anyone wishing to make use of them. She explained that many services, particularly in the latter part of 2021, were very different from pre-Covid years, for example the Christmas Eve carol service which was held in the churchyard, lit by a heart illuminated on the side of the church. A memorial service was held at St MM for the first time in October, and there was a Christingle service in Advent with a cake stall afterwards, organised by Carol Peace to raise funds for the Children's Society. St MM also hosted a service for the Women's World Day of Prayer in March. Holy week and Easter were busy, and services were complemented by an installation prepared by the Art club showing paintings on a Lent and Easter theme, with background reflective music in church throughout the day to provide visitors with an atmosphere of peace and reflection. The lower part of the East boundary in the churchyard was cleared in the Autumn to make space for a small community orchard and a very successful 'Joy of Apples' event was held in October. A working party prepared the land for the planting in February and six trees were planted at an event in March. Fiona expressed her thanks to all those who helped with the creation of the orchard, in particular Liz Palmer. Fiona commented that using the outside space for services certainly encouraged more people to visit St MM and increased its profile in East Keswick.

The architect, Richard Crook, carried out his Quinquennial Inspection in April 2021, and no issues of immediate concern were found. Recommendations were made to flush the drains and clear the gutters and roof valleys and this work has now been completed. The Archdeacon's visitation followed, with only a short action list which is already being addressed.

Fiona concluded by sharing the news received last week that St MM has now been awarded Silver Eco status from A Rocha status, and expressed her thanks to Liz Palmer as environmental officer for East Keswick for all the work she has put in.

Jacque Earnshaw - All Hallows (AH)

Jacque described the past year as a moving on year, and explained that AH have moved forward in the past year and will hopefully continue to move forwards in a positive way as regards Covid. Soon after the last APCM a confirmation service was held with Bishop Paul. In the summer, AH started to meet the backlog of baptisms and weddings from Covid, some of which had been rebooked several times. Moving into Autumn, it was possible to again celebrate some festivals with larger events including food, starting with lunch after the Harvest Service. The memorial service was then followed by the patronal festival, again with food, served in church and not in the Callister Hall as previously to make use of the new servery space. The Remembrance Sunday service was well attended, with a large contingent of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts present. During Advent, there was also a return to a more normal pattern of services, including the Christmas service and the Playgroup nativity. The outdoor Christmas carols in the churchyard were very well attended by several families, and there were also good sized congregations at Midnight Mass and the Christmas service. The school children and other members of the community made hearts for the trees to decorate the churchyard to fit the Church of England theme 'At the Heart of Christmas', and many family members visited to see these.

Jacque also mentioned the Archdeacon's visitation discussing the Quinquennial inspection, and echoed Fiona's comments that only minor issues were flagged up which either have already been dealt with or are currently being dealt with.

Continuing through to early 2022, two Winter Warmers lunches were held on Sunday lunchtimes, one each in Bardsey and East Keswick. The first winter warmers lunches were held, in Bardsey and East Keswick. Professor Joyce Hill gave a history talk on a snowy Sunday in February, with a very good attendance given the weather. The Sunday before Lent saw pancakes served in church after the 10.45 am service, with the Archdeacon preaching. On Mothers' day plants were given in church to those present to keep for themselves or take back to their families. During Holy week and over Easter a 'Walking towards Easter' display was created in the churchyard, and lots of families came to visit. Jacque expressed her thanks to Sara for all her efforts with this. There was a 6.15 am Easter morning service on the hill, followed by Bacon Butties in the Callister Hall. The other Easter services were also well attended, and it was particularly gratifying many families with children attended the 10.45 am service.

Jacque expressed thanks, on behalf of herself and Fiona, to everyone who has helped this year and during the intermittent Covid regulations of the past two years.

Angela echoed the Churchwardens' thanks to everyone who has helped in any way in the Parish, especially to Elizabeth Otty who is now in her last week before she steps down as Parish Administrator. Elizabeth was thanked with a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Minutes of the 2020 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2021 had been previously circulated. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Terry Wheeler, seconded by Brenda Sanderson and approved by all present.

2. Electoral Roll Report – given by Electoral Roll Officer Stephen Scales

Stephen explained that the electoral roll is our register of those eligible to vote at this meeting. It is revised every year and renewed every 6 years, the last revision was in 2019. The electoral roll had been revised during 2022 and now shows 100 names. This was an increase of 2 on the previous year when the roll was revised in March 2021.

3. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Report 2021 (TAR)

Elizabeth Otty gave the report. The Trustees Annual Report had been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the relevant Financial Reporting Standards, and has been improved by our independent examiner. An electronic copy had

previously been circulated and was also available on request. A non-statutory summary of the accounts section of the report has also been previously circulated and was available in hard copy at the meeting.

Elizabeth reported that the Covid pandemic has once again had a significant impact on the financial situation in the past year, with income remaining lower than in pre-pandemic times, partly attributable to fewer people attending church services. Elizabeth explained that ~ £7000 of the loss in the column named 'income activities for generating funds' is due to the fact advertisers had a free year in the Parish Magazine as it had not been published as usual during Covid. It was also noted that the impact on income would have been far greater if it were not for regular donations from those who donate by standing order, as well as the continued income from Bardsey playgroup in the Callister Hall. Weddings have also restarted, although the numbers remain lower than in previous years.

Elizabeth noted that expenditure has fallen significantly compared to 2020, mainly due to less expenditure on major projects, as expenditure otherwise has stayed roughly the same. The Parish share was paid in full in 2021.

Overall, there is a loss of ~ £30,000 in the last year, which was covered by withdrawal from investment funds. Elizabeth noted that although the balance sheet shows some unrealised gains on our investments, those gains were on the East Keswick endowment fund which can only be used at present for maintaining the churchyard at East Keswick. She also explained the breakdown of the total funds under the 2021 column of £800,000. Of this, £366,000 is the 'fair value of the Callister Hall', and so not money that we can spend. £264,000 is in the East Keswick endowment fund. Therefore, in practical terms only funds of ~£170,000 are available for general expenditure.

Elizabeth concluded by commenting that when she gave the report last year, she noted that the financial future of the parish depended very much on the course of the pandemic. She explained that the financial future of the Parish in the next year will depend a lot on inflation, as the costs of many repeated purchases have significantly increased, for example utilities and the cost of publishing the newsletter. Although the parish remains solvent, she cautioned that the way ahead may be difficult financially and that we will need to find ways of mitigating the challenges we will face in 2022 and 2023.

4. Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Four PCC members were due to retire: Phil Jones, Susanne Lifford, Peter Lord and James Redmayne. Philip, Susanne and Peter wished to stand for a further two years and had returned nomination forms. James wished to retire and was thanked for his faithful service to the PCC as well as his leadership and preaching. Angela also expressed her thanks on behalf of the meeting to Steven Scales who stepped down from the PCC during the year for everything he has done and continues to do. Marjorie Wilson had applied to fill a vacancy arising on the PCC and had returned a nomination form. The approval of the four nominations en bloc was proposed by Helen Render and seconded by Charlotte Meek with all present in agreement. Marjorie was welcomed into membership of the PCC.

5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

The reappointment of the PCC current independent examiners, Temporal Lennon and Company Limited, for a further year was proposed by Elizabeth Otty seconded by Alan Otty and passed unanimously.

6. Closing Remarks by the Reverend Angela Hannafin

Angela reminded the meeting of the five year plan for 2021-26 and reflected briefly on the progress made to date, under the five headings of the plan.

Grow in our faith: Angela explained this is about the quality of teaching and our discipleship, and making sure we grow in faith at all services and events, not just on Sundays. As examples, she mentioned the continued recording of the sermons and making them available online, sharing faith/eco/justice studies with Churches Together and St Aidan's, the growth of the 8 am service in numbers, and other people leading and teaching to make our worship vibrant.

Provide more welcoming spaces to worship: As mentioned by the churchwardens, it has been and will continue to be important to use the outside of our buildings. Examples in the past year have included displays outside at Christmas and Easter at AH, the Patronal festival service outside at St MM and crib services outside at both churches with very good numbers, possibly higher than if we had been inside. We are exploring ways of doing things differently and seeing what works.

Offer more varied styles of worship: There is now a regular family service on the 2nd Sunday of month at both churches, lasting around 30 minutes. One Sunday each month at both churches is now a service of morning worship, and there is a monthly service of Holy Communion at St MM on the 1st Wednesday of each month following an Iona liturgy.

Develop inside and outside church: In addition to the examples of worship outside covered above, Angela noted that all services at both churches now offer hospitality afterwards, encouraging people to stay and talk. AH hosted a history talk in February given by Prof Joyce Hill, and trees were planted in the community orchard at St MM earlier in the spring. Angela also noted that work on the new footpath in the churchyard at St MM began today.

Reposition church at the heart of the community: Angela explained how our work with St Aidan's has moved forwards, and expressed her thanks to Carol Bone as the FoodShare coordinator. Angela is in discussion with Mother Andi at Aidan's as to how to take the partnership further. Angela also noted that she is a governor at Bardsey Primary school and looking to strengthen the relationship between school and church which was lost somewhat during Covid.

Be a leader against climate change and environmental issues: Both churches now have Silver Eco status with A Rocha. We celebrated Climate Sunday last August and will host a sermon by a representative from A Rocha on 22nd May at St MM in a joint service. Angela reported that the culture of 'Eco' is growing amongst us.

More generally, Angela noted there are still challenges facing our parish: Covid is still with us and has affected us all; there is distress in the news relating to the Russia-Ukraine conflict; it may be a difficult winter for many people with fuel shortages and inflation. She reported that the most repeated command in the Bible is "Do not fear, do not be afraid" and explained that a church is a community of people with faith in God, and so we should try to put our faith in God rather than be fearful, and be courageous Christians, now more than ever.

Angela concluded by reading a passage from 1 John Chapter 1, reminding us that God is love.

Angela thanked those present for everything they have done over the last year, and for everything that will be done in the coming year together.

The meeting thanked Angela for all she does for the parish with a round of applause.

7. Comments from the floor

It was suggested that we could be clearer about how people could contribute financially towards the cost of producing the Parish Magazine, but felt that we should not require a financial contribution as the magazine is a gift to the village, serving an important purpose for mission and communication. A brief discussion was also held about whether people could opt out of receiving a paper copy if they prefer to read it online, but it was thought that lots of people read the magazine only because it goes through their door and that it may be too complicated to organise an opt out. Emails have gone to both parish councillors in the past week, asking for a contribution from the Parish Council to the cost of producing the magazine. Stephen Scales was thanked by the meeting for all his wonderful work with the Parish magazine and website.

Brenda Sanderson expressed a vote of thanks to the husbands of Angela, Jacquie, Fiona and Elizabeth for all the help and support they provide at home to enable them to serve our church and community with such dedication.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. with prayers, concluding with the Grace.