



**ST MARY & ST JOHN, ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
**Sunday 7th April 2024 at 11am in the Church**

**PRESENT:** The Vicar (Rev. Rob Gladstone) in the Chair and 89 parishioners.

**1. WELCOME AND APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY FOR THE MEETING**

Rob welcomed those present, and Susan Pinkus (PCC Secretary) was proposed to take the minutes of the meeting. This was agreed.

**2. OPENING PRAYERS & READING**

Rob opened the meeting with prayer and a Bible reading from John Chapter 21 (the resurrection account), stressing the need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to recognise and to serve.

**3. MINUTES OF THE 2023 MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS**

The minutes of the meeting of parishioners held on Sunday April 2nd, 2023, had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were agreed unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting.

**4. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

Margaret Rouse and Fred Sleath had been appropriately nominated and seconded and were unanimously approved.

Rob thanked the Wardens for all the hard work they had undertaken over the last year. Also, the work of the Assistant Wardens has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Rob also wished to express our gratitude to Ray Prince as Church Building Manager, Liz Sleath as Administrator, and Linda Poole for her tireless work overseeing and maintaining the functionality of the Old School Rooms. In fact, Rob wished to thank all those who provide service to the Church, including our musical director Simon Murphy, not just for his musical ability but also his spiritual insight.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.



**ST MARY & ST JOHN, ROTHLEY PARISH CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Sunday 7th April 2024 at 11.15am in the Church**

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**PRESENT:** The Vicar (Revd. Rob Gladstone) in the Chair and 89 members on Church Electoral Roll.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** 7 apologies had been received.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

These were circulated before the meeting and agreed as an accurate record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

None.

**4. REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Rob gave huge thanks to Marion Whitby for her hard work on this. The electoral roll now stands at 261, which is slightly down from 268 last year.

We were asked to accept the electoral roll formally. Proposed by Margaret Rouse and seconded by Alison Parkinson All agreed.

**5. THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2023**

This is a legal requirement for Churches registered with the Charity Commission. Many thanks to Sue Wilson for the collation and presentation of this document, and to all the many contributors. It is not required to agree them, as that has already been done by the PCC (Trustees) and the Independent Examiner.

**6. TREASURER'S REMARKS**

Sue Wilson spoke to the congregation and thanked everyone for the part they had played in the ministry of this church day by day and week by week during 2023. Their generous contributions of time, talents and funds are evidenced on every page of the Annual Report and Accounts. Sue asked that this document be used as a resource as it provides detailed information about all our activities, as well as our finances. This document gives a very useful comprehensive overview of the life of this church.

Sue also wished to thank to whole team working on Church finances.

Rafe Cherry as Chair of the Finance Committee, Charles Poole as Stewardship Co-ordinator, including for the current Church Building Improvements Project, Wendy Phillpot as bank signatory, Susan Pinkus as bank signatory, Linda Cherry for banking, Trevor West for external accounts (utilities and BT) and payroll.

**7. ELECTIONS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**PCC Representatives**

Having been appropriately nominated and seconded, the following were elected:

Margaret Leverment (Second Term)

Chris Garnett (Second Term)

Marie Palmer (newly appointed)

David Hodgson has stood down and Rob thanked him for his contribution during his service.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2024**

Sue Wilson, Church Treasurer, proposed Scott Bradford of Newby Castleman Chartered Accountants, Loughborough, to conduct the Independent Examination of the Church accounts for 2024. This was seconded by Fred Sleath and agreed by the meeting.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None received

**10. UPDATES**

### •Church Building Improvements Project

It was hoped that building work would be authorised by the end of April. The total giving to date amounted to £103,000, including loans, and it was hoped that all pledges would be notified by the end of April. Work was due to start early to mid-summer and be completed by Christmas, if all goes smoothly. Grant applications were starting. The final cost was not yet known, but adding the contribution of £125,000 from legacies to the current donations received, at least another £100,000 would be required.

### •Evangelism

Rob laid out four challenges last year, one of which was evangelism. The PCC has included this item at every meeting, working on the course 'How to nurture a faith-sharing culture' by CPAS. We have established an Evangelism group, which has organised successful summer picnics and holiday clubs. We have also established a prayer meeting for evangelism once a month on a Sunday evening. We are very much aware that the new development at Broadnook offers an opportunity to welcome new members into our church community.

### •Minster Communities

The Diocese is developing a pattern of Minster Communities with the aim of growing the church younger, including an eco agenda, new communities and reconciling inter-cultural aspects to reflect the demographic of an area. The PCC is currently involved in local conversations. As Area Dean, Rob has been heavily involved for over 18 months and there is still a long way to go.

### •Service Pattern

The service pattern at church changed after COVID. The evening service, in particular, has changed as it was not well attended; there is now one choral evensong and one prayer meeting each month. It was proposed that during the six weeks of the summer school holiday there would be one church service at 10am, with Communion offered immediately afterwards every other week. It was proposed that we have shared lunches and picnics again this summer. There will be no Shine services during the summer holidays.

### •Sexual Ethics

Rob gave talks over three Sunday evenings on this aspect of church life and there has been discussion over whether to use the new Prayers of Love and Faith. This decision has to be made by each individual incumbent and, for theological reasons, Rob is not prepared to use them. Rob pointed out, however, that we do warmly welcome everybody to join the church fellowship.

## 11. QUESTIONS TO CHURCH OFFICERS

Questions were taken after each of the Updates above. There were no further questions.

In conclusion, Rob described a very busy year with enormous pressure as Area Dean supporting parishes in vacancy (Thurmaston, Thrussington, Ratcliffe and Queniborough) as well as taking on pastoral oversight of Cossington. This could have taken him away from being Vicar of Rothley, but he has continued to be committed and present. Rob wished to thank David Wilson, Alison Godfrey, Sneha Ninan, Andy and Sue Willetts, Valerie Joyce and Nigel Elliott, the ministry team, for taking some of the pressure off. He also recorded huge thanks to Jean Arkley for her pastoral work. Rob also wished to thank Sarah and his family for their support.

David Wilson thanked Rob for his continued faithfulness and commitment, despite the pressure he has been under this year with changes in the Diocese. He also thanked Sarah for her unfailing support for Rob.

A letter will be written to the Pook family to express our thanks for making the Victoria Mills car park available to the congregation on Sundays.

## 12. CLOSING PRAYERS

Rob returned to John Chapter 21 with a reminder to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is always with us as we look ahead with joy and enthusiasm to another year.

The meeting closed at 12.16 pm.