

**SAINTFIELD PARISH CHURCH**

**EASTER VESTRY MEETING**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in SAINTFIELD PARISH CHURCH**

**WELCOME**

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer, and sentences of scripture. He then welcomed everyone, and requested any apologies.

**APOLOGIES.**

The following apologies were received and noted:

Elaine Woodrow	David Woodrow	Michael Barnes
Jillian Barnes	Leonard Hill	Niall Stevenson
Sarah McCarter	Craig McCarter	Henry Saville
Helen Saville	Judith Stevenson	Kate Beattie
Maurice Brooks	Hilary Brooks	

The Vicar asked if the Easter Vestry minutes of 2023 could be taken as read. Jean Perrin proposed that they be accepted, Ian Gordon seconded, carried. A suggestion was made that the minutes could be published on the Parish website. The Vicar will consider how best to publish the minutes.

**Vicar Report**

<..\..\..\..\..\OneDrive\Documents\2024\accounts\FINAL Annual Accounts 2023.pdf>

The Report above contains the Vicar and Finance Reports.

The Vicar said that no questions had been received in relation to the Vicar or Financial Report which had been posted on the Parish website for everyone to view.

Chris wanted to mention a few points in the report. We currently use Church Suite for our administration. He wants to develop this so that, by September 2024, parishioners can access online information regarding, for example, their current freewill giving if they wish.

Chris also said that the treasurer, secretary, and he currently use their private email addresses for church matters. He intends to introduce the Microsoft Charity Package so that all emails are

on one system and applicable to the office held, rather than the individual. This will make handovers smoother, when people leave their posts.

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Church, and Chris wants to start planning. He envisages starting planning in May/ June this year.

Chris thanked all involved in the Vicarage refurbishment and the house moves to and from the Manse. He thanked Wenda for her support.

### **Finance Report.**

The full report is included in the Saintfield Parish final signed accounts report attached above.

Caroline said that no questions had been received in relation to the accounts, which have been signed off.

Caroline thanked Chris, Sally, Harry and Jean for all their help during the year.

Chris followed up by thanking Caroline for all her work in keeping the finances up to date.

Chris then invited questions from the floor. Elizabeth said that she would like to see the young people back in church. Chris said this has been discussed at Vestry. We have a shortage of leaders and rely heavily on Craig and Sarah McCarter, in addition to Chris and Wenda, to do all youth work. We have also consulted with young families who say they prefer worshipping together as a family rather than parents dropping off children for Sunday School.

Carol Andrews said that she felt the SPACE services in the Parish Hall were successful. Chris said that the problem there is that, when children get older, they drift away. We decided to introduce the Refresh services in Church, so that children would become more familiar with Church surroundings. We are also incorporating youth elements to our services, for example by holding Family Communion services. Chris agreed with June Butler that we could hold more family services.

### **Elections**

#### **Election of Church and Glebe Wardens.**

The Vicar said that Peter and Carol Andrews were standing down as Churchwardens. He thanked them for their work and support during the year.

#### **Vicar's Churchwarden**

The Vicar announced that Phyllis Whiteside would be Vicar's Churchwarden for the forthcoming year.

**People’s Churchwarden.**

Peter Andrews proposed Pamela McNamara, Carol Andrews seconded.

There were no other proposals so Pamela was elected.

**Vicar’s Glebewarden**

The Vicar announced that Craig Weston would be Vicar’s Glebewarden for the forthcoming year.

**People’s Glebewarden**

Dawn Gordon proposed Joy Whitley, June Butler seconded.

There being no other proposals, Joy was elected.

**Select Vestry**

The Vicar said that 11 current Vestry members had indicated they would be happy to continue if elected.

Stephen Erskine	Linda Bloomer	Caroline Kearney	Dawn Gordon	Leonard Hill
Craig McCarter	Carol Andrews	Peter Andrews	Catherine Griffith	June Butler
Rosemary Armstrong				

The Vicar asked if there were any other proposals, reminding the meeting that any proposals would have to be made with the agreement of the person being proposed.

No other proposals were made.

Joan Morris proposed that the eleven vestry members be elected en bloc. David McCarter seconded. All present agreed.

The Vicar said that two people had stood down from the Select Vestry, Kate Beattie and Judith Stevenson. He thanked them for all their commitment and support over the years.

**Independent Auditor.**

Election of independent auditor for 2024-25 then took place. Our current auditors, Hamill McIlwaine, were proposed by June Butler, seconded by Caroline Kearney. No other proposals were received, so Hamill McIlwaine will be re-engaged.

June Butler thanked Chris for all his work during the year.

The Vicar said that he and Wenda appreciated all the support. He closed the meeting with prayer.