

Minutes of the APCM of All Saints Hertford on Sun April 24th 2023.

1. Present. Julia Gough, Samantha Bowden, Martin Penny, David Dean, Rosie Dean, Fiona Earle, Verity Tranter, Gillian Harman, Linda Meakin, Sandra Weedon, Janet Oldham, Shirley Glover, Malcolm Fry, Isabel Hurley. Janet Bird, Rev Canon Jo Loveridge, Mary Penny, Colin Bird. Apologies. Geoffrey Rice, Richard Toyn, Dorothy Toyn, Helen Harvey-Wright, John Harvey-Wright, Sue Newbold, Wendell Newbold, Graham Jones, Ann Stephens-Jones, Beryl Stephens, Malcolm Hollow and Anna Hollow.
2. The Minutes of the 2022 APCM were received and approved.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4. Martin Penny was approved as the new Electoral Roll Officer. He read the changes to the meeting and the list of them is now on the notice board.
5. Emily Belfield is the new Safeguarding Officer replacing Andrew Povey-Richards. The report is published on the parish website along with all other reports of parish activities. If anyone is unable to access them, please ask for a printed copy. A summary was published in the May 2023 Newsletter.
6. Colin Bird (treasurer) thanked Alixe Bainbridge-Spring for examining our accounts. The meeting also offered thanks to both Colin and Alixe. From the Activity Accounts, he highlighted the return to profit of St John's Hall thanks mainly to the manager Mario Jorge and the Church Work Party. The main accounts for the All Saints Charity are complete and signed. He thanked Julia Gough and Samantha Bowden for assistance, and also Alixe Bainbridge-Spring the Independent Examiner. Colin spoke of the serious financial difficulties ahead and noted that PCC has approved a deficit budget the cost of heating the church has doubled.
There followed a lively discussion including questions to the Treasurer. Members of the Standing Committee shared in the answering. Q. Would there be a problem of frost if we turned off the heating. A discussion followed around the fact that we now have only one boiler that works, and already this year we have had urgent repairs to restore heat. Q. Have we considered solar panels. Discussion ranged from the risk to our very old roof, that gas rather than electricity is our greatest expense, to the importance for the trustees (PCC) to be mindful of the law regarding the charity. The Vicar thanked everyone for their thoughts and suggestions. Q. What else could we do? Colin reported that as voluntary giving alone is unable to support All Saints fully, PCC has been discussing how to make us sustainable into the future. This is and must remain confidential and Colin spoke in general terms only. Discussion followed. The Vicar thanked Colin for his presentation and work to help us through these difficult times.
7. Fabric. Janet Bird reported that the Quinquennial report is still outstanding since the inspection last May. There is movement on the project to repair windows that were broken by missiles throwing from the churchyard last May and thanks to the age of the glass we must replace with the same type. Q. should we consider secondary glazing. A Yes but we would need a lot of money. Janet thanked the Work party for the many repairs and maintenance tasks they undertook for All Saints and its Hall. The Fabric Report is on the website.
8. The report from the Deanery Synod is on the website. Please ask if you cannot access it.
9. Nomination forms were received from Verity Tranter, Mary Penny, Martin Penny and Andrew Belfield. The meeting approved these nominations as there was no election. The Vicar expressed her appreciation for the many individuals who make up the community at All Saints, and especially for their support during her recent sick leave. She thanked the PCC and all who had attended the APCM. The meeting ended with The Grace.