

ST JOHNS CHURCH, CHILCOMPTON

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.45am at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Chilcompton

Present: Revd. Esther Smith (Rector), Revd. Steve Miles (Curate), David Aldridge, Dawn Beecroft, Gill Bushill, Mike Bushill, Tony Chivers, Marion Chivers, Winifred Clover, Chris Collins, Tina Collins, Fred Corp, Elaine Corp, Margaret Holcombe, Geoff Holcombe, Judy Jones, David Jones, Kristin Marshall, Tom Mayes, Richard Moon, Viv Moon, Connie Moore, Felicity Redmond-Lyon, Dett Saunders, Jane Seymour, Robin Singh, Leisa Thorne, Peter Van Peborgh, Linda Van Peborgh, Sarah Williams, Lesley Close, PCC Secretary

Via Zoom: Tony Pook, Deidre Thomas, Geoff Thomas and Nigel Wood.

Esther outlined national attendance in the Church of England, which from 2016-2019 was in decline by 7%. Then came the pandemic, after which the national figures show attendance returned at 81% of its 2019 level. Esther encouraged the fellowship by outlining the fact that in spite of losing friends in the congregation, St John's Church has returned at 87% of its 2019 level. Furthermore, nationally only 28% of churches are still offering online attendance to services, whereas in St John's the Zoom congregation continues strongly. The service most likely to have failed nationally is Messy Church where attendance fell from 30 to 27. But, in Chilcompton this has risen from 13 to 26. In 2019 we did not have a toddler group, but now we have 39 attending. God is at work in our parish.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Adrian Beck, Rob Beck, Thelma Coomer, Rachel Grant, Freda Meadows, Jen Miles and Pam Patch.
2. **To approve the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 27/4/22**
It was proposed by David Aldridge, seconded by Leisa Thorne that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2022 be agreed.
3. **Election of Churchwardens**
Tom Mayes was nominated as Churchwarden by Margaret Holcome and seconded by Judy Churley. His appointment as Churchwarden was **agreed** unanimously.

Linda Van Peborgh was nominated as Churchwarden by Chris Collins and seconded by Tony Chivers. Her appointment as Churchwarden was **agreed** unanimously.

Huge thanks were offered to both Tom and Linda and the team they lead. It was noted that this is Tom's last year as Church Warden and Linda had initially only offered her services as Churchwarden for a year. She would stay on as part of the team but two vacancies are likely to arise at this meeting next year.

The Meeting closed at 11.55 am.

