

**THE PARISH OF ST. NEOTS WITH EYNESBURY: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS
& ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Sunday 28th April 2024 in the Church Room after the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist at St Neots.

Apologies:

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

1. **Appointment of Clerk**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Meeting of the Parishioners.**
3. **Election of Church Wardens** (*two for St Neots, two for Eynesbury, all being wardens of the whole*).
4. **Disapplication of six-year time limit** (*Churchwardens Measure 2001, s.3*)
5. **St Neots Charities Report.**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Appointment of Clerk.**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**
3. **The Receipt of Reports:**
 - (a) **Electoral Roll Report.**
 - (b) **The Annual Report of the PCC and the Financial Statements of the PCC.**
 - (c) **The Safeguarding Officer's report**
 - (d) **The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report.**
 - (e) **The Deanery Synod Report.**
 - (f) **Other informal reports of sub-committees and organisations**
4. **Election of 5 Representatives of the Laity to the PCC.**
5. **Appointment of Independent Examiner to PCC**
6. **The Rector's remarks (delivered orally)**
7. **Questions about parochial church matters (if any).**
8. **Resolutions to discuss matters of general church interest (if any).**
9. **Date of next meeting**

A meeting of the PCC follows:

For the appointment of: a Secretary of the PCC; a Treasurer of the PCC; a Vice-chair of the PCC; an Electoral Roll Officer; a Parish Safeguarding Officer; the standing Committee (being in addition to the Minister, two of the Churchwardens and two others); a Stewardship recorder and Gift Aid Officer; Sidesmen.

For the discussion of possible future church bookings.

For the identification of the date of the next meeting, and no other business.

**The Annual Parochial Meetings of the Parish of St. Neots with Eynesbury
Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners, Sunday 23rd April 2023 held during the 9.30am
Eucharist at St Neots Parish Church.**

Attendance: 70

Following the opening greetings in the service, the Rector, Revd Paul Hutchinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that all on the Church Electoral Roll and all on the Civil Electoral Roll for the Parish are entitled to attend: anyone else was welcome to be present but could not participate.

Apologies were received from David and Hilary Read, Roger and Jill Henthorne, Melvyn and Ann Barnsley, Liz Linley, Liz Elson, Roger Simmonds and Carol Way.

1. Catherina Griffiths was elected as **clerk to the meeting**.
2. **The minutes of the 2022 Meeting of the Parishioners** were accepted on a show of hands by a substantial majority of the meeting, with 2 against, and signed as a correct record, after an objection which was overruled as not relevant to the agenda item.

3. Election of Church Wardens:

Christine Miles proposed by Marion Catmull, seconded Jean Donovan.

Tony Hopwood proposed by Christine Thompson, seconded Marion Catmull.

Jacky Isaac proposed by Christian Laughton, seconded Chris Seward.

All were duly elected with thanks for their service during the past year. All will serve as wardens over the whole parish of St Neots with Eynesbury.

4. **St Neots Charities Report.** (Circulated in advance) The report was accepted with thanks to Ron Watkins for his work with the charities.

The meeting of the Parishioners ended, and the service continued.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting, Sunday 23rd April 2022 held after the Gospel reading during the 9.30am Eucharist at St Neots Parish Church.

Attendance: 70

The Rector explained that members of the Electoral Roll were entitled to attend, but that, as with the previous meeting, others were welcome to observe but not participate. The Rector further explained that, as a more complex meeting, it would be recorded to assist with minute taking.

1. Catherina Griffiths was appointed as **clerk to the meeting**.
2. **The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting** were accepted on a show of hands by a substantial majority of the meeting, with 2 against, and signed as a correct record. Before this, the objector in the Meeting of the Parishioners had again stood in her seat to speak. The Rector pointed out to her from the platform that it had been noted last year that she and her husband had left last year's APCM at the start of the meeting, and so an observation of the accuracy of the minute was probably ill founded unless she was going to call a third party witness to say that the minute doesn't correspond with what was said in the meeting. There followed a substantial exchange between the Rector and the objector (who had been given a microphone) during which she was ruled to be out of order.

The objector continued to speak; a churchwarden was asked to take the microphone from her: it was eventually surrendered.

3. The Receipt of Reports: a) Electoral Roll: Elizabeth Sibson, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that since the last meeting on 3rd April 2022, 9 names had been added, and 9 removed from the roll. The roll stands at 237. Of the 9 removed, 6 people had moved away and 3 of these people had died and so the meeting paused to remember them – Reg Flower, Marion Noble and Frank Owens. Elizabeth was thanked for her report.

b) The Report of the PCC: (Circulated in advance). This was accepted by the meeting.

The Financial Statement of the PCC: (Circulated in advance). There were no questions, and the accounts were accepted by the meeting with thanks to Tony Hopwood.

c) Safeguarding Officer's Report: (circulated in advance). There have been no safeguarding issues during the year and the report was accepted by the majority with 2 against.

d) The Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments Report: (circulated in advance). Accepted by all. The inventory is still to be carried out. Thanks were expressed to the Church Wardens and the Treasurer for all their work and support.

e) Deanery Synod Report: (circulated in advance) Accepted by all.

f) Informal Reports: (circulated in advance). Thanks were expressed to all who contribute to the common life of the parish and the time given up to these tasks.

4. Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives:

David Wells Prop – Jacky Isaac, seconded Tony Murfin

Tony Hopwood Prop – Christine Thompson, seconded Marion Catmull.

Catherina Griffiths Prop – David Read, seconded Wendy Ibbett.

All were elected unopposed to serve for 3 years.

5. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the PCC:

There were 5 nominations presented to the meeting for 5 places. All were elected, and were appointed to serve for 3 years:

Carol Way Prop – Jacky Isaac; Sec – Glenna Cooper

Christian Laughton Prop – Jacky Isaac; Sec – Chris Seward

Val Freeman Prop – Jacky Isaac; Sec – Christian Laughton

Peter Raggatt Prop – Bruce Elam; Sec – David Smith

Philip Barrett Prop – Catherina Griffiths; Sec – Elizabeth Sibson

6. Independent Examiner to PCC: After three years' service to the new parish, David Jones has stood down as Examiner. Thanks were expressed for his diligence. Fr Paul explained that we had not yet been able to find a replacement, and, as it was the responsibility of the APCM to make the appointment, the remainder of the meeting would need to be adjourned. He proposed and it was generally agreed on a show of hands that the remainder of the meeting be adjourned until Thursday 18th May, after the Ascension Day evening service, when it is hoped that an Examiner can be appointed. The service resumed with the Affirmation of Faith, and Intercessions were led by Canon Robert Sibson.

Minutes of the resumed Annual Parochial Church Meeting, on Thursday 18th May 2023, held at 8.30pm (following the Ascension Eucharist) at St Neots Parish Church.

Attendance: 27

The Revd Paul Hutchinson (Rector) returned to the Chair, and proposed that – in the absence of the PCC Secretary, and in view of the simplicity of the business – he should act as Clerk. On a show of hands, all agreed.

6. (cont) Examiner to PCC: The Rector explained that various enquiries had been but had not yet produced a nominee. Under the Rules, the responsibility for appointment would now pass to the PCC. The Rector also explained that we were in the unusual position of already having regular external scrutiny of our accounts by Sue Chase, accountant – Tony Hopwood said this happened once or twice a month. Sue Chase had confirmed that it was becoming more difficult to find willing independent examiners. The PCC would explore further options.

7. Rector's remarks: there were none.

8. Questions: there were none.

9. Resolutions: there were none.

10. Date of next meeting: The Rector proposed, and on a show of hands all agreed, that the 2024 meeting should take place in St Neots Parish Church on Sunday 28th April (the Fifth Sunday of Easter), immediately following the 9.30 Eucharist (the 11am service at Eynesbury being cancelled). The advertised start time would be 10.30am (allowing the possibility of brief adjournment should the time be needed).

The meeting ended at 8.37pm.