

PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS, SHALDON

St PETER'S AND St NICHOLAS' CHURCHES

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS
12th APRIL 2025**

The Rev'd Carol Green in the chair.

Present: Chairman and 24 members.

The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting with prayers.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

The Chairman began by saying that a huge vote of thanks was due to Lesley Bill (who is stepping down as Churchwarden) for the energetic and enthusiastic way she has carried out her role as Churchwarden. She has served the church very well with a good eye both for the community and the church. Leon Winston added that the level of commitment from Lesley was huge. Malcolm Watson said he wished to record his personal thanks to Lesley for her stalwart support.

This was greeted with a round of applause and Lesley was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation.

The Chairman also thanked Malcolm for all his hard work and dedication in carrying out his role over the past year.

The Chairman then said she had received one nomination duly completed in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

Malcolm Watson had been proposed by Nia Pearson and seconded by Lesley Bill. She therefore proposed that he be elected.

This was agreed unanimously and he was declared duly elected.

The Chairman said that we would therefore be going forward with one Churchwarden.

This would mean some changes in sharing responsibilities. Frances Commander and Keith Robinson would become Assistant Wardens initially for the duration of her sabbatical.

She had produced a document entitled "Developing the churches of St Nicholas and St Peter's" which had been circulated at the start of the meeting and which is annexed to these minutes.

This document focuses on the roles of leadership in the church, the role of the priest as a spiritual guide and the responsibility of everyone to make our churches places of worship, friendship and love

It recognizes the individuality of our two church communities and the importance of working together and coming together on occasions for worship.

A chart has been produced to facilitate "Sharing the Load" of running our churches. This shows who is currently responsible for carrying out various duties and people are encouraged to put themselves forward where there are blank spaces.

In summary, the Chairman said that transitions can be uncomfortable, but it is really important that we support Malcolm as the legal holder of the post of Churchwarden and all take our share of the duties involved in running our churches.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX

Developing the Churches of St Nicholas and St Peter's

Jesus model of leadership evolved out of his understanding of each human being as a precious child of God. This meant he saw a potential in every person even where it wasn't apparent to them or others around them. This meant he had a generous approach to forming teams and groups of people. Last Sunday's reading for Passion Sunday shows this for Jesus accepted the presence of Judas in his close group.

A church is made up of people who are "a work in progress". We are people who have accepted that we must die to ourselves to be made new in Christ. Our church's should be places of worship, friendship and love. Safe places for the vulnerable and safe places to make mistakes, apologise and move on. This applies from the newest member to the oldest, from those with no responsibility to those who hold office.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Leadership held in our church is a huge privilege and one that needs to be exercised with care and thoughtfulness for church members and the wider community. The church's actual guidance for Churchwardens is rather sparse:

Canon E1 says that CWs are to use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them.

Putting that in more modern language my interpretation is that they should be people of faith. People who encourage others and make them feel better about themselves.

What is a priest for?

In short to be a spiritual guide discerning where the spirit is moving in a community both within and outside the church. Listening to the joys and woes of this generation and bringing people to see where God is and how he loves them. They are a person responsible for offering and showing God's love and healing to dispel the corrosiveness of sin and guilt: offering God's love and forgiveness generously.

We are blessed with 2 lovely buildings in a fantastic location herein Shaldon/Ringmore with a great deal of potential. It is important to recognise the individuality of each church community whilst also encouraging their working/worshipping together – such as Palm Sunday service. St Nicholas has core congregation of talented and dedicated people who between them will be able to run the church on a day-to-day basis. I pray the spirit will give people courage to come forward to take this role supporting Wenna who does so much for the church.

Treasurer

Frances Commander with a small amount of assistance from her daughter Helen has kept the books for 4 years. By her own admission she is not a person who's comfortable with figures but has done it as there was no one else – thank you Frances. She has been helped by Brian Hamblin who has reconciled and audited the accounts.

Frances will continue for another year but the bookkeeper will be Sarah Whitty who will be paid an extra 1.5 hours a week by the Shaldon parish. She will provide a quarterly report for the PCC drawn from the spreadsheet she'll keep. She will have a dedicated "treasurers" email address accessible to Frances and Keith too.

Churchwardens

Malcolm is allowing his name to go forward to again be CW, we thank him for his dedication in this last year. Lesley Bill is stepping down from the role and from the PCC and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work she has put into the task.

With Lesley's departure I feel we need to take a different direction as we support and develop the lay leadership roles in the church.

I have asked Frances and Keith to take up the role of assistant warden from the APCM working alongside and in parity with Malcolm at least for the period of my sabbatical. The congregations need to be clear that there is a change in the way things are happening going forward and they need to be reassured that I'm having a sabbatical and not that there is a Vacancy in the Parish.

Lesley, I know your heart is in the choir at St Peter's and so it feels that you regard it as your church it is also where your very successful Ukrainian coffee morning has its heart. In spirit your duties will cease on Saturday at the APCM. Please step back after the APCM.

Transitions are rather uncomfortable, but I feel we need to look forward and make some changes. My absence will give an opportunity for progress to be made in developing a collaborative way of working and of supporting Malcolm in making the changes. I don't expect things to be perfect but we need to be ready to work for the future together. There is already so much good happening in our church communities and the first meeting about the churchyard last night also confirmed our community's trust and support for us

Rev Carol Green

Passiontide April 2025

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF
ST NICHOLAS, SHALDON, 12th APRIL 2025**

St PETER'S AND St NICHOLAS' CHURCHES

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Keith Robinson.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28th April 2024:**

It was proposed by Malcolm Watson and seconded by Chris Morris that the minutes of the meeting were a true and accurate record. This was agreed unanimously and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Election of three members of the laity to the PCC:**

The Chairman explained that there were three vacancies all for a period of three years. Valid nominations had been received in respect of Sandra Davies (proposed by Malcolm Watson and seconded by Chris Morris), for Chris Morris (proposed by Peter Weeks and seconded by Brian Green) and for Sue Morris (proposed by Keith Robinson and seconded by Frances Commander) and the Chairman proposed that these persons be duly elected. This was agreed unanimously and they were declared duly elected.

5. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner:**

Brian Hamblin had indicated his willingness to serve for a further year as Independent Financial Examiner for the parish. His appointment was proposed by Frances Commander and seconded by Anne Mears. He was therefore duly appointed by the meeting.

6. **Chairman's Report:**

The Rev'd Carol Green said that she had been really encouraged by the use of our buildings and she acknowledged that the Churchwardens had been largely instrumental in facilitating this. She said we had our lovely Shaldon Festival and Shaldon Singers concerts.

She would like to see the spiritual life of the church developing further and she had been encouraged by the support for the recent Lent group. We have lovely traditional worship but there are other ways to strengthen and deepen our spiritual awareness. In March she led a pilgrimage in Cornwall which was very successful and she is encouraged by this. When she returns from her sabbatical, at the beginning of August she hopes to have new material to inspire us.

She expressed thanks to everyone for all that they do and for supporting the Rev'd Dave Wilkie in his mission. She said that the Future of the Church Group has helped us to take a different view of things.

7. **Annual Report (including Fabric Report):**

The Annual Report and associated reports had all been agreed by the PCC and made available on the website before the meeting.

The adoption of these reports was proposed by Chris Morris, seconded by Lesley Bill and agreed unanimously.

8. **Ringmore Churchyard**

The Chairman raised the issue of the Ringmore Churchyard and the open meeting held on 10th April which was attended by over 40 people. She explained that as incumbent she and the Parochial Church Council have responsibility for the churchyard as long as it is an "open" churchyard which it will be for many years. It is however a community space because all residents of any faith and none can be buried there. She is therefore keen to involve the wider community in caring for the churchyard and she was encouraged by the huge amount of goodwill that was apparent at the meeting.

We need to be good custodians of the space. A professional person is employed to mow the grass but a group needs to be formed to oversee that person, to undertake other work in the churchyard, perhaps some re-wilding or other eco projects within the churchyard. Nia Pearson suggested a way forward was a "Friends of the Churchyard" group and gave examples of groups in West Ogwell and Littleham. The Chairman said that we would need to be sure that such a group was not in competition with the church. A sub-committee or working group to include representatives of other Shaldon churches and those of no faith is to be formed to take this forward and a report of the meeting will be submitted for the Parish News.

9.. Financial Statement:

The Chairman said that the Financial Statement and Accounts had been approved by the PCC for presentation to the meeting.

Frances Commander said that we are still running at a loss, but we are nonetheless doing better this year thanks largely to the Stewardship campaign and to the monies reclaimed through Gift Aid. Unfortunately, the Parish News made a substantial loss due to decreased income from advertising. This comes under the umbrella of our parish accounts. Frances will be looking into this to see how it can be remedied.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Malcolm Watson, seconded by Anne Mears and agreed unanimously.

10. Deanery Synod Report:

Keith Robinson said he had nothing to add to the paragraph in the Annual Report.

11. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer:

Our Electoral Roll Officer, Chris Morris reported that the Roll was completely re-compiled this year, as is required every sixth year, the old Roll being discarded. Everyone on the old Roll was contacted and invited to apply again for inclusion on the new Roll. All other members of the congregation were also invited to apply.

As at the date of publication of the new Roll, there are 51 names on the Roll, of whom 36 are resident in the parish and 15 non-resident.

This compares with 54 on the old Roll, but it is important to remember that all the names on the new Roll are newly-added.

12. Planned Giving Report:

Keith Robinson reported that said this was reflected in the Financial Statement and there are currently 57 members of the giving scheme. We benefit greatly from being able to claim gift aid and we can now claim on cash collections. The amount donated through the card reader is growing by the month. The chairman thanked everyone for their huge generosity.

13.. AOB

Leon Winston said that he found the acoustics were very poor and he was having difficulty hearing the proceedings. The Chairman said we need to experiment with the arrangements.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded at 12.30 pm by the Chairman leading prayers and giving the Blessing.

Signed.....

Date.....