

**ST JAMES CHURCH, WEST LITTLETON**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018  
AT ST JAMES'S GRANGE**

**Present:** Reverend Sally Wheeler, Chairman  
David Adams  
Christopher Bell  
James Golob  
Michael Horgan  
John Mackenzie-Grieve  
David Sandeman  
Elizabeth Sandeman  
Alan Young

**Apologies:** Carolyn Adams

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**1. Appointment of Churchwardens**

David Adams and Elizabeth Sandeman were elected as churchwardens.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Apologies for absence**

There was an apology from Carolyn Adams.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 3 April 2017**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. The Reports:**

a. Electoral Roll

There were 28 on the Electoral Roll for 2018.

b. PCC Report

- The Secretary's post remained vacant
- The PCC had met 3 times during the year (APCM plus two PCC)

- There were 10 members

c. Financial Report

The accounts for 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Net Assets value as at 31 December 2017 was £43,560.39 compared to £34877.31 on 31 December 2016 (a period increase of £8783.08 of which £1034 was unrealised {investment account}). The accounts had been examined independently by Jarrod Waring. The accounts were accepted as a true record. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Michael Horgan, for all his hard work, and Jarrod Waring for acting as independent examiner for the year.

**Note:** Before the meeting there had been a short briefing from the Client Relations Manager (Mark Hodgkinson) from CAF Investments. He went through the portfolio report and explained that despite the recent severe market correction the portfolio was still up. Mark Hodgkinson stressed that our portfolio (Defensive Capital Growth) was a long term investment. It had good diversification and aimed to achieve 5% after charges. The members of the PCC expressed their satisfaction at the way things were going and thanked Mark Hodgkinson for taking the time to give his briefing.

d. Fabric Report

There were no items of work outstanding other than possible further redecorating. This would be discussed during the Quinquennial due during 2018. The chancel arch had been repainted last summer but was showing one or two peeling patches. Adrian Packer had agreed to attend to these without further charge. Routine maintenance had been carried out as normal during the year. The bell had continued to cause problems in wet weather but the installation of a new pulley and pipe runs appeared to have solved the problem. New gravel had been spread on the church path last summer. The Parish Council had kindly funded the gravel which was spread by volunteers from the village.

e. Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod had met 3 times during the year.

**5. Elections and appointments:**

a. Deanery Synod Representative

Elizabeth Sandeman agreed to continue in this role for the coming year.

b. PCC

None.

c. Sidesmen

John Mackenzie-Grieve and David Sandeman were re-elected.

d. Independent Examiner

Jarrod Waring was appointed subject to his willingness to continue in the role.

**6. Incumbent's Report**

The Chairman thanked the many people who helped and supported the work and activities of the Parish. The full report is attached to these minutes.

**7. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Rev Sally Wheeler  
Chairman

**To:**

Rev Sally Wheeler  
Carolyn Adams  
David Adams  
Christopher Bell  
James Golob  
Michael Horgan  
John Mackenzie-Grieve  
Elizabeth Sandeman  
David Sandeman  
Alan Young

cc Village website  
Church Folder

## **St James West Littleton Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018**

### **Incumbent's Report**

I would like to thank the PCC for their service to the church and especially the church officers: David Adams as both Church warden and PCC minute secretary, Elizabeth Sandeman as Church warden and Michael Horgan as our long-serving Treasurer.

St James' Church continues at the heart of most village activities and my appreciation also extends to those who support the church in other ways: cleaning, arranging flowers, tending the churchyard, washing the linen, and setting up for services; and in the wider parish - preparing food, hosting social events, and generously opening their gardens for the church. I am also grateful to Christopher Bell who maintains our musical worship on a monthly basis and on special occasions.

The worship pattern continues unchanged with at least two services a month, usually in the morning, unless it is the special Open Gardens or Harvest evensong services. St James' church provides regular BCP services which are appreciated for their consistency. The Rev. Christopher Mulholland has worked alongside me over the last five years in maintaining this service pattern and as he enters more fully into his retirement, we will miss his humour and pertinent words, but hope we will still see him occasionally.

Earlier this year we said goodbye to Rev. Ness Whiffin at the end of her curacy as she took up her first Team Vicar post in Witney, but unexpectedly have now said 'hello' to a potential new curate, the Rev. Lynne Godfrey, and a new LLM, Mr Charles Keen who has moved into the Benefice. We are fortunate to have an able team of lay ministers who will help us maintain our current pattern of worship.

Our social events help to connect us with the wider parish. Already in 2018 we have had the Madrigals, with the Open Gardens' weekend planned for June and the expectation that we also celebrate Harvest with the village and hold our Christmas Carol concert.

West Littleton members also support the Benefice particularly joining for the Plough Service and Remembrance in Marshfield Church. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the war graves in the churchyard have been acknowledged by a new sign on our gates provided by the CWGC.

St James' PCC has shown continuing generosity in response to the Diocese request for a pledge towards the cost of ministry, and more congregation members have been encouraged to give through standing orders. The amount we need to give to the Diocese to cover the costs of ministry in this Benefice is significant for our smaller churches and means our giving levels need to be regularly reviewed as we encourage each other to be as generous as we can.

### **Church Activity 2017-18**

Attendance has stayed much the same with regular attendees from nearby villages as well as from the parish itself.

Since last year's APCM, there has been one funeral in church with burial.

There were two weddings, and one baptism, with another baptism planned for June this year.

### **Diocesan News:**

The Rt. Rev. Mike Hill, Bishop of Bristol, retired in September after 15 years as Diocesan Bishop. We will hear who our new Bishop is towards the beginning of May and look forward to a new chapter in the life of Bristol Diocese.

The Diocesan vision remains our focus for the next few years, as we continue to help people to connect with God, each other and build community. Nationally, the Archbishops are calling all Christians to pray for our nation from Ascension to Pentecost, praying 'Thy Kingdom Come'.