

Abbots Ripton Parish Council

**To ALL Electors of Abbots Ripton & Wennington
You are invited to the**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On

Tuesday 2nd May at 7.00pm @ Abbots Ripton Village Hall.

11/05/2023

MINUTES

1. Report from Abbots Ripton Primary School

May 2023 Introduction It has been a full calendar year since the last report and a lot has happened in that time at the school. A year ago, we were still easing into post-covid life at school but when considering all that has happened over the last year, it is clear to see that Abbots Ripton School is back to preCovid levels of activity and our links with the local community are flourishing once again. End of academic year results The school's end of year results for 2021/22 were most pleasing. The full data can be found at http://www.abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk/storage/secure_download/TkFIUFN3VEVUb3VaNnVsb2h3SWhKQT09 but the highlights were that 75% of the cohort met the expected standard for reading, writing and maths combined, compared to 59% nationally and 57% in Cambridgeshire. Further to this, 13% achieved greater depth (exceeding the expected standard), compared to 7% both nationally and in Cambridgeshire. A leavers questionnaire was completed by Year 6 parents and pupils and this provided data that the staff can be very proud of, and included some very heart-warming comments. 100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that their child; • had been supported well in their learning and in their emotional well-being. • were happy at school • considered school to be a safe environment • received good communication from school • had been well prepared for secondary school • would recommend the school to others • had been enabled to 'learn for life, achieve their best and growing in faith' in accordance with the school vision. Platinum Jubilee Children spent time learning about Queen Elizabeth II's life and monarchy and celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with a themed sports day and picnic. Children produced artwork to contribute towards the display in St Andrew's church in Abbots Ripton and in the village hall. (http://www.abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk/website/flower_festival_and_jubilee_art_display/610314). Kandinsky class also helped to plant trees for the Queen's Canopy, organised locally by Lady de Ramsey. 2022/23 The school started a new academic year with a full intake into the Van Gogh Reception class with many of the children coming from Daisies nursery. We were extremely sad to lose our two Ukrainian children who moved to another sponsor family, and therefore a school closer to their new home. SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodists Schools) In October, the school underwent a SIAMS inspection and was judged, 'excellent' in all areas. Full details can be found at http://www.abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk/website/siams_inspection/576060. The Governing team are extremely proud of the staff, children and their achievements. The key findings were as follows: • The Christian vision permeates school life as the golden thread binding

the work of the school together. Pupils, staff and families flourish because they receive meticulous care and support. This encompasses academic and personal growth, mental health, wellbeing and spiritual development. • Thoughtful, caring and reflective leadership at all levels is a strength, encouraging bold, innovative practices. The inspirational headteacher is well supported by talented colleagues. Governors, through the highly effective 'faith matters' committee, robustly evaluate the empowering impact of the vision upon the community. • Spiritual development is excellent. Adults and pupils appreciate the rich opportunities they have to respond prayerfully to the wonderment of God's world. Pupils are encouraged to look beyond their locality and widen horizons through a global outlook. • Religious education (RE) is superb because leadership is inspirational, and the curriculum carefully planned and delivered so pupils flourish. Teachers inspire pupils to respond enthusiastically and knowledgeably to big questions asked, showing excellent religious literacy. Adaptations to RE ensure that pupils learn about a range of religions and world views and expand their appreciation of diversity. • Collective worship is remarkable because planning is exemplary. It is creative, follows the liturgical calendar and captures the pupils' interests and aspirations. As the heartbeat of the school day it involves pupils and adults in joyful reflection. Charity support • Monet class raised £159 at their Macmillan cake sale in September 2022. • The Salvation Army staff at Kings Ripton Court were extremely grateful for the Harvest donations of food that were collected and the pastor visited school to lead a worship. • Over £200 was raised for Children in Need in November 2022. • Poppies and other items were sold in school in support of the British Legion to mark Remembrance Day. • Shoeboxes were filled with donated items for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas initiative. • There are plans for Comic Relief fund-raising this month. Enriching the curriculum As part of the school's mission to encourage a variety of experiences beyond the classroom, and to build cultural capital, there have been lots of visitors, trips and special events taking place. • In September, Key Stage 2 children went on a residential trip to Grafham Water where they completed lots of outdoor pursuits and team building activities. • Some of the children visited Rose Cottage residential home to lead a Harvest Service for them which included readings, poems, prayers and songs which the residents thoroughly enjoyed. Sadly, their visit to join us for lunch at a later date had to be cancelled due to several cases of Chicken Pox/ Shingles in school at the time. • All of Key Stage 2 and Year 2 have taken part in a football festival day for each year group, learning skills in the morning and then playing against other local schools in the afternoon. Year 1 have a date in the diary for their turn soon! • The whole school took a trip to Cambridge to see the pantomime in December. • In January, Key Stage 2 went to the O2 to join thousands of other children to sing in the Young Voices concert. • Key Stage 2 went on a faith tour where they visited a church, gurdwara and mosque and met faith leaders in each place of worship to learn about the differences and similarities between the faiths. • Van Gogh currently have caterpillars in their classroom to experience the life cycle of a butterfly and are due to have piglets joining them for a few weeks next term! • The whole school dressed up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day in March. • Picasso class have recently completed their Bikeability lessons. • Van Gogh continue to use the 'Wild Wood' to explore their natural surroundings. • The children were invited to come to school wearing their Rainbows, Squirrels, Beavers, Scouts etc uniforms in February. • Plans are currently being discussed, to celebrate the King's coronation and the school's 60th birthday next academic year! Church links • The governing body welcomed a new Foundation Governor, James Harrison in 2022 and James has now replaced Robin Price as Chair. • Key Stages 1 and 2 visited St Andrew's church in Abbots Ripton for the first time since the Covid outbreak for the Harvest service in September. • We were extremely happy to welcome parents to join us at church for the Christingle service in December. • Reverend Mandy has continued to join us in school for a weekly service and a Eucharist service this month. • Our Easter Service was held in the

church, led by Rev Fiona and parents in attendance. • Children are currently taking part in Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge to 'fill their cup with good things'. We were extremely sad to see Reverend Mandy move on from our school. We are immensely grateful for her support during what was a challenging time for everyone, during Covid. She has been a constant presence and beacon of faith for staff and children at the school and will be sadly missed but we wish her all the best for her new ventures.

2. Chairman's Report to include the Year's Activities.

Firstly, may we thank the whole community on the way they have continued to support one another.

As you can see from the accounts we have managed to operate within our budget and accordingly only increased our capitation by a very small amount,

We have completed several projects:

We continue to monitor the music festivals to try to reduce to minimum the inconvenience to the parishioners

We are still working hard with County and District Council to prevent any future flooding.

We have continued to make an application to the LHI funds, and this year we have applied for a weight limit along the 1090/Huntingdon Road.

Also, we work closely with our county and district Councillors to try to resolve issues relevant to the village that they deal with

Geoff Richardson.

3. Report from Cambridgeshire County Council

No report received.

4. Report from Huntingdon District Council

AGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS - SAWTRY & STILTON DIVISION CCC COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON BYWATER I continue to be humbled by the various voluntary groups locally who have continued to "step up to the plate" supporting individuals and their own communities and I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to you all. It has been a busy year since my last annual update, with Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) both recently setting their annual budgets for next year. The costs of this can be seen in the recent council tax bills you will have now received. Sadly both councils decided to increase their parts of the council tax bills to the maximum. Given the pressures on households I just couldn't support this approach by the joint administrations. In short, I felt CCC didn't need to do this (4.99%) and our alternative budget of a reduced increase with better delivery was voted down. I couldn't support the HDC budget increase (3.31%) because I was very concerned with their Medium term financial Strategy over the next five years, in particular their plans to consider charging for Garden waste Bins along with their business plans for Leisure in the district. I think we need to leave as much money in residents pockets as opposed to councils thinking they know better on how to spend money through taxation. I've been dealing with countless other issues including the sad proposals by CCC to Close Gidding Primary school, which has effected many families in Sawtry and surrounding villages. Thank you to those residents who spoke with me against this at the Children and Young Peoples Committee. I would like to say a massive thankyou to everyone in our community who have helped in providing our warm spaces through the winter. Please do take a look to see how they may be able to help and support your residents. I have been meeting a wide variety of people, partners and stakeholders to ensure both Councils are doing their very best for us all. I have particular concerns on how CCC are

budgeting and maintaining the conditions of our roads. Despite this huge frustration I have had some local success in ensuring some of our roads and pavements were treated and repaired, but it is a continuous battle to ensure we have a voice, and that our local roads, and areas where the County Council have responsibility, get the attention that is needed. You can help me by reporting any highways faults/issues that you find here <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> A large part of my time is also occupied by the various local planning issues in the Division. For example I attended a recent appeal to the Planning inspector regarding change of use of a commercial building in Stibbington to the withdrawal of an application for large Commercial units on the A1 near Alwalton. Both had significant impacts on local residents. If there is a local planning issue that is important to you please do not go on Facebook to complain or have a rant, it is more effective to have your voice heard on the Huntingdonshire Planning portal here <https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/onlineapplications/> You may be aware that the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) are looking at congestion charging for Cambridge. At the moment there is no clear plan on how congestion charging will work and more importantly the impact on residents. I'm yet to be convinced what benefits we will get in particular this part of Cambridgeshire. We will have to wait and see what these proposals look like following the consultation which has now finished. I would urge you all to keep an eye on this going forward. I support moves to improve public transport and make it easier for people to travel via means other than their car but I'm concerned this part of Cambridgeshire will be used as a "Cash Cow" for the Cambridge centric County Council. County Councillors will have the final vote on any proposals although no dates/timelines have been set. Proposals for a 20 mph zone in Stilton and the consultation results are now being considered by CCC. Thankyou to everyone who has taken part or emailed me with their thoughts. A final decision will be made later this year by the highways committee. This year's 20mph scheme is open and CCC are accepting applications. You can apply via the link. The deadline for submitting the applications will be by Sunday 30th April 2023 at 17:00PM. Further information on the process, funding available and application timeline is available on our website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding> Despite the many challenges please rest assured I have been working hard as your Councillor representing our communities and bringing a voice for you. I would like to thank you all for your help and support over the last 12 months in particular our Clerks and Chairs. It is not always possible for me to attend Parish council meetings, given all my responsibilities and diary clashes, but I do try my utmost to attend as many as is possible. Finally I would like to thank my District Cllr Colleagues, Tim Alban, Marge Beuttell and Ross Martin for their continued support. Don't forget you can get more info on what I'm doing on my face book page Cllr Simon Bywater "Sawtry & Stilton" Cambridgeshire County Council | Facebook You can contact me at Simon.bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 07984637553 Many thanks for taking the time to read this short report. Best wishes Simon Simon.bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Simon Bywater (County Councillor Sawtry and Stilton Ward

5. Report from Abbots Ripton Village Hall

No report received.

6. Report from Abbots Ripton Church

Parish of St Andrews with Woodwalton, Abbots Ripton

AIMS AND PURPOSES:

The individual PCCs of the North Leightonstone Benefice have the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Rev Mandy Flaherty, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parishes, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC of St Andrews with Woodwalton, Abbots Ripton is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Andrews, Abbots Ripton and the churchyard of St Andrews, Woodwalton. The PCC are also managing trustees of Abbots Ripton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

While planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Diocesan Strategy and also the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish communities through

- Worship and Prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parishes
- Mission and outreach.

The Ministry team of the North Leightonstone Benefice consists of the ordained clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers. The Ministry team is committed to praying for the parishes, and thinking through vision for the group as a whole. However, all its work comes under the authority of the PCC, and any implementation of ideas has to have the approval of each PCC

Bankers

Barclays

Independent Examiner

Ross Jones

Report and Accounts were adopted at a meeting of the PCC held on 29th March 2023

Administrative Information

Churchwarden: Mrs Valerie Scothern

PCC members

Revd Mandy Flaherty
Valerie Scothern – Secretary
Roger Gough – Treasurer (to 28.4.22)
PCC Accountant Geoff Burn (from 19.10.22)
Lois King
Nicola Crawford
Pamela Simpson (to 19.3.22)
Robin Price – Foundation Governor for Abbots Ripton School

Stephanie Lamin
From 18.1.23
Charlie Perring
Sam Wardman

Canon Fiona Brampton
Deanery Synod representative: in vacancy for 2022
Safeguarding Officer: Bronwen Rayner – from Kings Ripton PCC
The PCC held 6 meetings during 2022
Church Electoral Roll: 38 members

Churchwarden's and Secretary's Annual Report 2021

Membership of PCC

For Personnel see above under Administrative Information

The sudden death of Pam Simpson in March 2022 was devastating to the PCC and the Church as a whole. She is sorely missed and on behalf of the PCC I would like to express in this Report the great debt we owe to Pam for the dedicated work she did for St Andrews Church and all who attended it.

On Roger Gough's resignation as Treasurer at the APCM Geoff Burn agreed to take over the duties as Accountant to the PCC, for which we were extremely grateful.

At the end of the year two Church Members agreed to join the PCC, Samantha Wardman and Charles Perring, and they were co-opted in January 2023. We are delighted to welcome them.

As Churchwarden and Secretary I would like to express my gratitude to Stephanie Lamin who has been such a tremendous help to me over the last year.

Abbots Ripton School

Mandy has continued with her Collective Worship at the school and has expressed a wish that members of the PCC could become involved in this. The PCC would be happy to do so and would like the school to let us know how we can help with this, and with the Permanent Prayer Space project which they are undertaking.

The PCC provided a contribution towards 16 bibles for year 6 and are happy to continue this on a yearly basis but expressed a wish to be consulted in advance in future.

The PCC was pleased to know that the school received an Outstanding SIAMS report.

Fabric Report

During the year a serious crack appeared in the arch over the North door. Advice was sought from Browne and Ralph of Cambridge who agreed to do the required repair work. Before this could be done however the crack worsened and a structural engineer, Peter Stuart from Andrew Firebrace, was consulted. He said the damage was caused by the ongoing movement of the Church due to the expansion and retraction of the clay on which it is built. A root barrier had been suggested in the past, at a possible cost of c£15,000, but it was by no means certain that this would solve the problem. He agreed that the crack should be repaired by Browne and Ralph and that reducing the Chestnut and Holm Oak trees on the North perimeter of the Churchyard could help the situation. The repair has been very well

done and the Abbots Ripton Estate have very kindly agreed to arrange for the reduction of the trees in February at no cost to the Church, for which we are very grateful.

Review of the Year

Services have continued as in 2021 with one All Age service a month at 11.30am on the 3rd Sunday and a BCP service at 9.00am on 5th Sundays.

Special events were a Service held in June for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee together with a Flower Festival, and a Pet Service was held in October. There was also a Palm Sunday walk from Kings Ripton to Abbots Ripton with a short service and refreshments, which is due to be repeated in 2023, and the Harvest Service this year was followed by an informal lunch in the Church instead of the usual Harvest Supper at the Village Hall. The Church was kept open for a Book of Condolence for signature following the death of the Queen. The usual Carol Service and Christmas Day morning service were well attended.

Bees Further work has been done to try to solve the bee problem. It will not be known if this has been successful until they become active in the Spring.

Concert by Tapestry This has been postponed to, hopefully, Autumn 2023.

Electrification of the Bells Thanks to the generosity of the Simpson Family this project, which was started by Pam, is now going forward. It will be dedicated in her name, and that of Lord Renton, whose family also have also provided funds for it. The Faculty has been obtained and Sue Redmond is in the process of getting it started. It would be lovely if it was completed before the Coronation.

Estate Map Due to deterioration this has been removed from the Church for renovation by the Cambridgeshire Archives conservator. Unfortunately this has been delayed as the conservator left and has only just been replaced. It is however now in hand and the Archives representative has promised to keep me informed of the progress.

Church Gates and Shed A new metal shed is required as the churchyard mower, which was kept in Pam's garage, needs to be rehomed. The Estate have agreed to do the work required for the hard standing if the PCC pay for the materials. This has been agreed and a shed identified. They have agreed to re-cement the Churchyard gates at the same time.

We are now waiting for the Estate to sort out the cost and time scale.

Restoration Account We have at last received the amount due to us from Barclays.

Woodwalton Churchyard The PCC have agreed to take on the maintenance of the Woodwalton Churchyard once the Friends of St Andrews Woodwalton have disbanded, using their remaining financial assets, which will be made available to the PCC for this. When these assets are exhausted the matter will have to be looked at further.

Organist Ann Tollington, who has been our organist for many years, has sadly decided to retire. There is very little prospect of getting another organist and the PCC is looking into providing a mechanical alternative. An event and gift to thank Ann for all her service to the Church will be held in Spring 2023.

The Parish Share was paid in full.

Looking Forward

With Mandy leaving in March 2023 we hope that a replacement will be found before too long. We wish Mandy every success in her new role.

We hope to be able to perform some Fund Raising events in 2023

We hope The Deanery Development Plan will continue to go forward successfully.

I am resigning as Churchwarden at the APCM after some 25 years. I am happy to hand over to whoever takes on the role and have no doubts that the PCC that we now have will be more than capable of carrying forward the work of St Andrews Church

Acknowledgements

As usual many thanks to

The Cleaning and Flower ladies who did a really wonderful job for our Flower Festival and who do sterling work month by month.

Geoff Richardson who was our Independent Examiner for many years and has sadly had to give up due to ill health.

The PCC who have given me so much support, and to those new members who make me very optimistic for the future of our Church.

Valerie Scothern
Churchwarden

7. Report from Abbots Ripton Village groups

ABBOTS RIPTON FISHING CLUB

The Abbots Ripton Fishing Club last year had around 150 members who now pay an annual subscription of £60, O.A.P.s pay £40 . Under 16s are free but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For this members are allowed to fish four lakes in the village, rented from Abbots Ripton Farming Co. Ltd . These lakes are Brooklands, Wild Goose Leys, Foxenfields, and Holland Wood. All lakes contain a mixed variety of coarse fish, e.g. carp tench, roach bream and perch.

The family ticket (now costing £70 per year) which allows a member, his/her partner, and any children of the family under 16 to fish continues to be popular.

A charity match for Dream Drops children charity was held on Brooklands lake in early June.

Although the children enjoyed the day very few fish were caught.

A picnic lunch was supplied by parents and helpers.

In agreement with ARFC, fishing on the days before shoot dates is no longer allowed, as well, naturally, as on the shoot date itself.

Night fishing was allowed all year on Wild Goose Leys and Brooklands lakes only.

Carp of 30lb have been caught from Holland Wood and Foxenfield lakes.

There are carp over 20lb in Wild Goose Leys lake.

Again some roach and rudd have also been taken from Holland Wood lake and put into Brooklands. The appropriate movement licenses have been granted by the Environment Agency.

As the carp fishing on Wild Goose Leys lake has been poor we have put 500 carp of about 8 ozs into this lake. They should reach 3 lb. in a year.

Our aim is to continue to add fish to the lakes to improve the fishing.

To achieve this, we are increasing the fees for 2023.

Alan Scothern

Treasurer and Secretary