

# Record of Annual General Meeting

Taradale Anglican Church



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Date of meeting: 10 March 2024  
Location: Parish Hall at All Saints' Church, Taradale  
Time: 11:30 am

Present: Alan Burnett, Rob Jackson, Kay Jackson, Pat Ballard, Sue Bee, Robert Benjamin, Peter Bigwood, Shirley Brown, Ivan Brown, Warren Burch, Val Chapman, Gillian Cochran, Elizabeth Crawley, Bob Denby, Stephanie Fryer-Williamson, Maggie Goeldner, Sandi Hall, Julie Joule, Robin Millynn, Rosemary Millynn, Warren Mudgeway, Isobel O'Brien, Steve Pickett, Viv Pinkham, Mary Redington, Sherin Reilly, Jean Speakman, Valerie Stace, Philip Stephens, Robin Whyman, Jennifer Whyman, Peter Williamson, Kit Houghton, Bruce Houghton, Derry Boylan, Wendy Boylan, Dorothy Claypole, Kristina Dapson, Bruce Ellingham, Jane Harty, Phylida Isles, John Mathers, Hazel Pentreath, Rob Pentreath, Steve Pickett, Angela Rodway, Gail Spence, Ruth Spicer, Sharyn Stockwell, Jan Stone, Jan Tarrant, Bet Wilson

Apologies: Jo Shoebridge, An Arnold, Neil Eagles, Glenys Eagles, Ray Burney, Eric Lamb, Ruth Lamb, Joss Morrin, Tony Morrin, Allan Joule, Marilyn Thorp, Jill Udy, Laura Mathers, Rosemary Clare, Lester O'Brien, Lynne Prucher, Zita Thursfield, Belinda Galbraith, Dorothy Kelsey, Pauline Denby, Dick & Judy Wivell,

**1. Welcome:** Reverend Alan welcomed all those who were in attendance and introduced Michael Nes, the Parish's Treasurer to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:**

The motion was put:

*That the apologies be accepted.*

Moved From Chair

Carried

**3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 19 March 2023**

*That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 19 March 2023, be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Moved P. Stephens//R. Millynn Carried

**4. Additional Items for General Business**

The chair opened the floor to business for discussion as part of the general business of the meeting. We were asked to include a vote of thanks for Hunter Pickett as sound and tech operator.

**5. Amendment to Agenda**

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The chair sought permission from the meeting to bring forward the election of Vestry Members to allow enough time for the poll and count. The motion was put that the Governance Appointments, Nominations and Elections be brought forward.

Moved From Chair

Carried

## 6. Governance Appointments, Nominations and Elections

Reverend Alan Burnett announced the appointment of Joss Morrin as Vicar's Warden for 2024.

The Chair announced the nomination of Rob Jackson as Peoples' Warden and Sandi Hall as Synod Representative. There being no other nominations, the motion was put *that Rob Jackson be appointed Peoples' Warden and Sandi Hall be appointed Synod Representative.*

Moved P. Williamson//J. Speakman Carried

The chair announced that the retiring vestry recommended a total of 5 members be elected to Vestry for 2024. Discussion was held regarding who would be on the Vestry, with the note that these 5 would join the two wardens and Vicar as full members, with the Treasurer and Synod Representative able to attend *ex officio*. The Chair sought comment and discussion on the proposed number of representatives. There was no discussion. The following motion was put to the meeting: *that the number of elected representatives for 2024 be set at 5.*

Moved J. Whyman//S. Hall Carried

The Chair announced the nomination of 8 members of the parish to be Vestry Representatives and gave space for each nominee to introduce themselves to the meeting. The following members were nominated: Kit Houghton, Philip Stephens, Peter Williamson, Valerie Stace, Steve Pickett, Wendy Boylan, Robin Whyman, and Ruth Spicer.

The Chair sought nominees for the role of scrutineer. Jen Whyman and Bruce Ellingham volunteered. The motion was put *that Bruce Ellingham and Jen Whyman be appointed as scrutineers.*

Moved From Chair

Carried

As the meeting voted and results were tallied, the Chair proceeded to introduce the next agenda item.

## 7. Vicar's Report

Reverend Alan spoke to elements of his report, particularly noting the growing strength we showed as a church through 2023. We are one of few Anglican Churches to experience growth in both numbers attending and overall giving/income through the year. This is the result of a lot of hard work and the ministry of our church and community in service to others. He continued to note the challenges of this. In particular, the rising costs mean that if giving does not increase, he has to spend significant portions of time seeking and reporting on alternative sources of income



including trusts and other charitable entities. Alongside this, the push to increase revenue from the hall increases issues with management, staff hours and cleaning which require additional time and resources in the future. Alan believes there are positive signs as we continue to work through our strategic plan and to build the church in our parish and thanked everyone for their ongoing support.

## 8. Wardens' Report

Rob asked that the report be tabled as read. He proposed a vote of thanks to Jo Shoebridge for her dedication and tireless effort as Peoples' Warden for many years. This was seconded by Warren Mudgway. It was resoundingly agreed.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

Michael Nes introduced himself to the meeting and detailed how he had come into the role and what has motivated his contribution. As a chartered accountant and Junior Associate at BDO, he brings a wealth of experience and finds the church as a means for him to give back to the community.

Michael outlined some of how 2023 has been a significant year for the parish.

- **Cyclone Gabrielle:** saw the Parish stand in the gap, particularly for Pākowhai, leveraging its governance tools to directly support that community as fund holder and manager. This shows in the financial reports for 2023 where significant levels of funding came through the parish's accounts to do the work of cyclone recovery.
- **Installation of Solar Panels:** has become both a source of cost reduction and also income since installation. In addition, they have added to the resiliency of All Saints as a plant in the case of future disasters, allowing for the provision of power to support the wider community in events like those of Cyclone Gabrielle.
- **Sale of St Thomas' Church:** has allowed us to release capital to catch up on significant maintenance challenges around the parish, particularly at All Saints. The intention is to utilise these funds so that budgeted maintenance costs in the future can be reduced and be used on more operational issues than major deferred maintenance. This can already be seen in this year's budget, with a significant reduction in funds set aside for the maintenance of churches and vicarages.
- **Increase in hall hireage:** has been significant through 2023 and is a reflection of a much more business-oriented approach to the facilities we have. With this increase, we can offset some of the expenses our facilities carry and free up more giving to go toward the mission and ministry of the church.
- **We have good, consistent giving:** in a period where everyone is feeling the burden of rising costs of living. The consistency of this is a testament to our members and the work of our church as this often comes at the cost of personal luxuries and possibilities. Michael extended his thanks to all those who are presently giving.

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Michael then began to speak about the financial returns for 2023. The year saw a giving of \$179,000 versus \$178,000 in 2022. This was included alongside \$187,000 work of 'other revenue' from facilities, grants and other sources to complete 2023 within budget income of \$366,000, compared to \$289,000 in 2022.

Expenditure for 2023 was up in 2022, with higher levels spent on salaries and maintenance. The result was an operational loss of \$3,000. When all income, including that toward cyclone response and the expenses associated, are added to this, the Parish carried an overall surplus of \$126,000 for 2023 – though significant portions of this are funds held on behalf of Pākowhai (approximately \$100,000).

Michael then introduced the proposed budget for 2024. This has come to the AGM as a recommendation for approval from the Vestry. We have allowed for a growth in hall revenues, with offerings budgeted at a similar level to 2023 acknowledging ongoing affordability challenges and the departure of several members from the church to other cities. Insurance is the most notable jump, with a 40% increase over actual costs last year, and a 100% jump over budgeted. This cost comes alongside major rate increases.

The budget results in a projected operational surplus of \$24,743, with \$18,000 then deposited in our maintenance and capital accounts for future use. This results in an overall operational surplus of \$6,743.

The floor was open to questions or comments. Warren Burch spoke thanking Michael for his work and contribution, speaking with the awareness of the challenge parish budgets can present. The meeting acknowledged this with a round of applause.

The following motions were then put:

*That the Vicar's, Wardens' and Treasurer's reports be received:*

Moved P. Williamson//H. Pentreath Carried

*The annual financial report for 2023 is received and approved as an accurate record.*

Moved M. Redington//W. Burch Carried

*That the proposed budget as presented be adopted as the budget of the parish of Taradale for 2024*

Moved V. Stace//B. Wilson Carried

## 10. Questions of Vestry or Treasurer

The Chair opened the floor to questions of the governance and leadership of the Parish. There were no additional questions, and so the motion was put:



## 11. Ministry and Group Reports

The reports of parish ministries and groups were taken as read. Alan opened the floor to questions or comments. There being no questions or comments, the motion was put:

*That the ministry and group reports be received.*

Moved V. Stace//J. Speakman Carried

## 12. Governance Appointments

Alan announced the results of the election for Vestry Representatives. The following nominees were elected to the Vestry for 2024

- Reverend Peter Williamson
- Philip Stephens
- Ruth Spicer
- Robin Whyman
- Steve Pickett.

The meeting congratulated those candidates who were elected. The Chair noted thanks to those who had been nominated and the rareness of an election for such roles.

## 13. General Business

The Chair opened the floor to general business. Valerie Stace raised the change in practice regarding name tags, noting that these would no longer be tallied at the end of a service as a means of identifying when members are absent for several Sundays, allowing for pastoral response. Reverend Alan responded to this noting that the system did not work that well as only a small number of people regularly wore name tags and so the data was not accurate, which meant we had come not to trust it as clearly as it would work in theory. The decision to change practice is also a reflection of the time-consuming nature of the job when the result is not as significant for the life of the parish. Valerie noted that in her experience there was a failure to follow up when she has been absent, as has been the experience of others.

Alan noted that the ability to follow up on absent parishioners is a failing of a stretched team. There are many matters, people, and crises to address any given week and so it becomes very easy for absences and follow-up to be missed. However, he also noted that such circumstances can be used as a form of test by members, to see whether they are acknowledged as absent. Our inability to follow up is in no way a reflection of our lack of care, but instead the numerous demands on our time. Ticking off name tags will not remedy this. Instead, Alan noted he is forming a Pastoral Care team that will meet fortnightly to discuss the people and challenges faced by our members. This meeting will not end until a follow-up plan is in place for those people raised.

Reverend Jan Tarrant also spoke into this situation noting that rarely are people unwell enough to pick up a phone and call if they feel they need to be seen or some level of care. Alan added that

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the care of the people of a church is everyone's responsibility, and noted some of the ways in the future that members can raise pastoral concerns with the leadership and pastoral team.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 12:40 pm.