

St Bartholomew's Church Ducklington

Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2024

3rd March 2024

Covering letter

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

The context

Annual Parochial Church Meetings APCM can often be described as the 'business' part of church. It is my desire to facilitate this as an act of worship and commissioning in the life of the community.

Firstly, all reports are available for you to read two weeks ahead of the meeting. So, take time to read, digest, reflect and discuss what is in them - this does not have to wait for the meeting.

Secondly, the purpose of the meeting is framed within the worshipping context, recognising that all that we do *is* worship. Our church officers are doing that as an act of worship, offering their gifts in order that the life of the worshipping community can be maintained, and more than that, flourish and grow. By moving the meeting to within a worship setting, many more of the worshipping community are present, everyone's contribution has space to be celebrated, the whole community can commission and pray for those who are standing to serve them and everyone has an opportunity to see their part in the whole.

How that looks

Our APCM will be framed within a service of celebration for all that has been, and commissioning those who will serve us into this next year.

Each person will come to those times together having read the reports, and having followed up, or at least having arranged to follow up, with any questions they have or conversations they would like to have. Each report should have the name of the person who has written it, so if you have any questions do get in touch with them directly.

Everyone will have an opportunity to say thank you to those who have served this worshipping community over the past year, and to pray for and express their support for those who will be doing so in this next year.

Each person will have a greater sense of the many and varied aspects of our church's life together, and have the opportunity to respond by offering their gifts where they are able.

This will be the first year we will do this, and so we are learning as we go... some things may need to be changed, but I hope that this letter helps you to understand the thinking behind it.

With heart felt love and prayers for you all and our worshipping community.

Revd Andrea Colbrook.