

Parish of All Saints – Wellington
with St Catherine's, Eyton

Annual Meetings

Thursday 11th April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Minutes

Present:

Revd. Tim Carter (in the chair), Revd. David Sims, Nicholas Brooke, Ged Ackerley, Joan Ackerley, Nicola Adams, Jillian Archer-Jones, David Ball, Gillian Bamber, Susan Barry, Andrew Beach, Thelma Bielinski, John Bradley (E), Sydni Brooke, Angela Bruno, David Bunn, Lynda Bunn, Liz Carter, Tom Chapman, Barry Church, Yvonne Crow (E), Abigail Dixon, John Edwards, Gemma Everson, Susan Farnham, Barry Farnham, William Fincher, Janet Garvey, Heather Grivell, Hope Gwilliam, Natalie Headley, Albert Higgins, Ann Higgins, Christopher Hill, Anthony Hulme, Barbara Hulme, Nick James, Dawn James, Alwyn Jones, Trevis Jones, David Kershaw, Rose Kershaw, Sheila Knowles, Pam Lamb, Ian Lawson (Churchwarden), Liz Lawson (Treasurer), Heather Lloyd, Jonathan Lloyd, Richard Long, Judy Meeson, Nigel Meeson, Sheila Moule, Catherine Pickering, Christopher Pickering, Pauline Pike, Jon Powell, Laura Powell (Secretary), Calvin Protheroe, Rebecca Rawlins, Judith Robinson, Neil Robinson, Mary Rogers, Rachel Rouse, John Rushton, Christine Rushworth, Johanna Saunders, Kim Scott-Webster (E), Elizabeth Seall, Kimberley Sims, Margaret Smith, Sean Spellen, Melanie Stevens, Lesley Stone, Karen Taggart, Richard Taylor, Marguerite Thompson, Paul Thompson, Susannah Underwood, Christopher Vaughan, Margaret Watkins, Carol Whitehead, Lynn Woodward (E), Fiona Wright (83)

(E) Denotes member of St Catherine's Electoral Roll

A Opening Welcome and Welcome

Tim opened the meeting by reading: John 12 – 1 – 3 Lazarus- where Mary poured perfume over Jesus' feet. Tim said that this helps us understand learning to grow in faith, serving wholeheartedly and that everything we do is a fragrance to God.

Richard Taylor and Jon Powell lead the singing with 'Bless the Lord, O my soul'.

B Meeting of Parishioners: *All residents of the Parish and all members of the Electoral Roll are entitled to speak or vote.*

1. Election of Church Warden

Paul Thompson has agreed to continue as a Church Warden, proposed by Liz Lawson and seconded by Ian Lawson.

There was one nomination in writing for a Church Warden before the meeting: Judy Meeson, proposed by Paul Thompson, seconded by Liz Seall.

There being no other nominations the Chairman declared Judy Meeson elected.

Tim thanked Ian Lawson for his service as a Church Warden.

C Annual Parochial Church Meeting: *Only members of the Electoral Roll are entitled to speak or vote*

1. Apologies for absence

Charlotte Adams, Nicholas Adams, Sheila Ball, Malcolm Bamber, Hiliary Beach, Nigel Bruno, Rita Church, Michael Dixon, Lorraine Donaldson, Pat Edwards, Pauline Fincher, David Grivell, Sheila Long, Dorothy Martin, Madeline Pattinson, John Patinson, Jacob Pickering, Ewen Powell, Rebecca Powell, Anthony Protheroe, Edwina Protheroe, Lilian Rushton, Revd. Margaret Smallman, William Stone, John Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Deborah Taylor, Anne Watkins, Mark Watkins, Elizabeth Watkins, Sandra Williams, David Wright

2. Elections

- a) Election of 1 Deputy Warden to serve for 2 years (*Ex-officio member of PCC*)
Rachel Rouse who was retiring was thanked by Tim Carter.

There were no nominations prior to the meeting and there were no-one else to stand, therefore this vacancy was not filled.

- b) Election of 4 members on the Parochial Church Council to serve for 3 years

7 nominations had been made in writing prior to the meeting

Tim explained that there would be a vote for 5 PCC members – 4 to serve for 3 years and 1 to serve for 1 year. Due to there being 7 nominees, Tim proposed that the 4 people with the most votes would be elected for 3 years and the 5th vote would be asked to serve for 1 year. The nominees were:

Gemma Everson proposed by Sydni Brooke, seconded by Nick Brooke
Emily Mackinnon proposed by Paul Thompson, seconded by Rachel Rouse
Ian Lawson proposed by Paul Thompson, seconded by Tony Hulme
Sean Spellen proposed by Paul Thompson, seconded by Nigel Meeson
Jillian Archer-Jones proposed by Fiona Wright, seconded by Chris Mayo
Sydni Brooke proposed by Michelle Stidder, seconded by Kimberley Sims
Hope Gwilliam proposed by Susie Underwood, seconded by Natalie Headley

- c) Election of 1 member on the Parochial Church Council to serve for 1 year

A vote was taken and due to there being a tie in the votes between Gemma Everson and Hope Gwilliam, they discussed this between themselves and Hope agreed to serve for 1 year. For clarification the following people were elected:

Ian Lawson, Jillian-Archer Jones, Sydni Brooke, Gemma Everson – to serve for 3 years
Hope Gwilliam to serve for 1 year

Tim thanked all those that had served and finished their term on the PCC.

- d) Sidesmen/Sidewomen

The following were elected to serve as Sidesmen for the following year: Sue Barry, Leslie Beamond, John Edwards, Sue Edwards, Patrick Edwards, Barry Farnham, Pauline Fincher, Simon Fox, Carol Griffiths, Preeti Guria, Albert Higgins, David Kershaw, Rose Kershaw, Michael Lamb, Fraser Mackinnon, Nigel Meeson, Barbara Morris, Sheila Moule, Joan Murchison, Calvin Protheroe, Mary Rogers, Rachel Rouse, Elizabeth Seall, Jenny Simpson, Richard Simpson, Margaret Smith, Les Stone, Will Stone, Linda Sylvester, Karen Taggart, Helen Tipton, Rick Tyrer, Chris Vaughn.

Judy Meeson asked to be removed now that she had been elected as a Church Warden.

Tim asked for a vote to approve these Sidesmen, proposed by Mags Thompson and seconded by Tony Hulme. The vote was unanimously in favour with no abstentions.

3. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 26th March 2018

- a) John Rushton said that he and Lilian Rushton were present at the meeting so their names were added. The meeting minutes were then agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman. There were no matters arising. Tim asked if the meeting agreed to this: Richard Long proposed that we accept the minutes, seconded by Ged Ackerley. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour with no abstentions.

4. Report of Annual District Meeting held on 7th April 2019

Yvonne Crow (Churchwarden, St. Catherine's) gave a verbal report of the St. Catherine's Annual District meeting held at Eyton. The full report is attached at Appendix 1. Tim thanked Yvonne and welcomed Kim Scott-Webster as our new District Warden.

5. Annual Parochial Reports

- a) The Annual Report

Tim presented the printed annual report. He mentioned that there were slight additions in the safeguarding section and the reserves policy and risk management to the one that was attached to the APCM papers. The copy emailed to PCC was correct. Tim said that if anyone would like a copy then a copy could be emailed or printed upon request.

Tim asked for a vote for this report to be agreed. This was proposed by Chris Pickering and seconded by Angela Bruno.

- b) The Annual Accounts – Liz Lawson

Liz Lawson presented the accounts summarised on one statement sheet and the balance sheet together with a summary of mission and charitable giving and a calculation of the mission tithe for the year. Liz stated that copies of the full accounts were available to anyone who wanted one. Liz gave a Powerpoint presentation explaining where the income comes from and the expenditure goes.

Liz said that, despite the turnaround from a predicted deficit of £20K, she reminded the meeting that we would still be budgeting a £12k deficit for the coming year.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Paul Thompson and seconded by Maggs Thompson. A vote was taken and these were accepted unanimously.

Tim thanked Liz for all of the hard work that she does throughout the year.

- c) The Electoral Roll – Sue Barry

Sue Barry, the Electoral Roll Officer had prepared a report which she said was self-explanatory. There were no questions or comments. Tim (the Chairman) thanked Sue for her report and to Sue and Natalie for the work this year on the complete revision of the Electoral Roll.

Acceptance of the Electoral Roll Report was proposed by Judy Meeson and seconded by Liz Lawson and was accepted unanimously.

d) Fabric, Goods and Ornaments – Churchwardens

Churchwarden Paul Thompson presented the report which he had prepared and thanked everyone who helps with the maintenance of the fabric.

Acceptance of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report was proposed by Sean Spellen and seconded by Tony Hulme and was accepted unanimously.

e) The Deanery Synod – Tim Carter

Tim explained that the Deanery Synod was getting local churches to work together. There is a project planned for Telford with a fund that's designed to fund new mission projects. They are planning to plant a new church for new housing estates in the area. There is a working party and Tim is working with other leaders within Telford. The plan will go back to church commissioners in May with the plan to have something up and running by September. We will need to start thinking about how we can support this.

Nick James asked what the vision for the project was.

Tim explained that the vision was that within 5-7 years they would grow a church of 300 people. They are looking to appoint someone as well as a youth worker and a curate. There will be a central venue and then have projects in 4 or 5 new build estates. It is more likely that there will be 6 congregations of 50 people.

Acceptance of the Deanery Synod report was proposed by Ian Lawson and seconded by Nigel Meeson and was accepted unanimously.

6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Liz Lawson proposed that we use the Diocese as we had done over the last 3 years. There were no counter suggestions so this was seconded by Rita Church. There was a vote with 81 in favour and 1 abstention.

7. Refreshments

The meeting paused briefly for refreshments.

8. Chair's Annual Report

Tim spoke of how the items that he'd spoken about at the APCM last year was now going to be put into practice. The full transcript of Tim's talk is attached at Appendix 2.

Tim asked the meeting to take time to read all of the other reports provided as part of the APCM papers. He said that this was important that we understood what is happening behind the scene with our projects/Action Groups.

9. Any other business of parochial interest: Any member of the electoral roll is entitled to ask a question or raise a topic for consideration by the newly elected PCC.

Gemma asked if we could have an Orbit specific meeting. Nick said that there are so many plans so it would be best wait until it opened in 1-2 weeks.

Ian Lawson asked what will be happening in Orbit regardless of what we do. Nick said that they have a heart for the community. There are many things using the café and the cinema together, they are going to invite the Polish community, there will be dementia screening. Saturday morning will be the biggest thing which

will have a focus on young families. The things in the café and cinema will have themes. There is already a great team of people involved.

Mary Rogers asked if someone from Orbit could come and talk to us about what they are doing. Nick said that this would be possible.

Yvonne Crow said that there was a stand in the market on Tuesdays and Saturdays about Orbit and they also have a website.

Andrew Beach asked if we can be volunteers as there are 8 different areas to be involved in. Nick said that he would have a pile of volunteer forms for Orbit.

Tim said we can let people know how they can get involved.

Liz Seall said that there are plenty of spaces to volunteer within All Saints.

Barry Farnham asked if there were any other churches getting involved with Orbit. Nick said All Saints are taking the lead on this.

D. Closing Prayer

Richard Taylor and Jon Powell closed the meeting by leading the singing of 'The Lord is gracious and compassionate' and Tim closed the meeting with the grace and thanked everyone for their attendance.

APPENDIX 1

St Catherine's ADM Report – 7th April 2019

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report 2019

Medieval Window Glass Pieces

- (i) Since our last ADM the medieval window glass pieces have been refitted and rededicated which included the cleaning of the medallion at the same time. Light has been noticed through a join recently and Jim Budd conservation restoration glazier will return to rectify this.
- (ii) As requested at our last ADM, to clean the remaining five medallions in the north and south nave windows, I have received a quote of £1430 plus VAT. They could be cleaned in situ.

Altar Kneelers

Rosemary Udale has completed one of the three altar kneelers following conservation restoration for which we are very grateful. Mary Harrison has expressed interest in restoring a second one.

Church Valuables/Security

Geoff Harrison has provided me with a copy of the photographic record he took of St. Catherine's brass and silver in meticulous detail. A police security officer recently looked around the church with me as we need to renew the Smartwater security. He recommended including the Wooden Coffin/Bishops Chair/Collection Box and marking the led on the vestry roof. I am looking at another provider, Selecta DNA that All Saints have just used and is more cost effective.

Church Inspections

Annual Fire Extinguishers inspected on 13th February 2019

PAT Inspection (Portable Appliances) carried out on 26th March 2019.

Church Clock Mechanism

In 2016 Messrs Christopher & Tom Jobson (father and son clock historians/restorers) visited our 'rare surviving mechanism'. It was agreed it should remain in its original setting and put into the condition it deserves. Tom was to provide postgraduate involvement in its restoration. David Crow is chasing this up and has spoken to Tom who will endeavour to carry out the above.

Church Organ

There have been some minor repairs carried out. The organ will be tuned by Longstaff & Jones as soon as the weather warms up at a cost of £150. No. VAT.

Thank You

- (i) A very big thank you to Kim and Lynn for cutting the grass in both churchyards and for plantings.
- (ii) Also to Bruce for the time he gives both inside and outside the church and for collecting and planting the new shrubs recently by the trellis (money donated by Anita Knight, Eyton).
- (iii) I thank David Crow for the hidden time he gives to St. Catherine's and to everyone contributing to the running of the Services.

Yvonne Crow – Churchwarden

Electoral Report 2018/19 – St. Catherine’s

The Electoral Roll at St. Catherine’s has increased by eight with the addition of

Non-Resident – 23

Resident – 33

Total: 56

APPENDIX 2

Chairman's Report

In previous years, I have talked about what the most important number at an Annual Church meeting is. It's not the numbers on the Electoral Roll report, the accounts, or the number of PCC members that we need to elect. It's the number of people living in our parish.

If we don't remember any other number from this evening, this is the number to remember. 15,000. That is the number of people in this area that we are responsible, as the parish churches, for sharing the good news of Jesus with.

There are however a few other numbers that I thought that I would share with you this evening, some that we can celebrate and some which might challenge us.

The first thing to celebrate is that our worshipping community, the number of people who worship in one of our congregations at least once a month has grown again, and is now around 440 people. The percentage of youngsters, those under 18 in that worshipping community has been growing as well, it has risen from 13% in 2015 to 19% last year. This compares with 21% of the population of Wellington being under 18, which is pretty close. This is a real testament to the work being led by Susie and Abby amongst children, schools and families, details of which are in the reports in your packs. We are growing younger as a church, which is brilliant, and gives us some fantastic opportunities.

Earlier this week we had the funeral of one of our long standing church members, Margaret Swain. As people were sharing their memories of her, many of them were about her as their Sunday school teacher, or Guide leader, and what a positive impact she had on their lives.

We have that opportunity now. We have more and more youngsters in our church life, we have more and more schools work developing. We can be the people that these youngsters look back on as the people who taught them and disciplined them, who showed them Jesus' love for them. If you'd like to be part of this, to have this legacy, then please talk to Susie or Abby about how you can get involved.

More challenging is the fact that about 16% of our electoral roll is aged 18-44, compared to 32% of the population. This is a gap that challenges us. The visit of Phil Knox from the Evangelical Alliance gave us some thought starters for how we might engage more effectively with people in this age group, but there is work to be done here.

As some of you will know, we have been working in the office to move to some new membership software which is helping us to improve our pastoral care and to streamline our administration. As we were entering the information of the people who are on the Blue rota, who fulfil various roles in our services, I was pleasantly surprised to find that there were over 80 people involved. When you add in all those who have other ministries around the church, it is so good to realise how many of us take an active role in the life of the church.

I worked out another couple of numbers that surprised me pleasantly when I was doing a bit of work for the Mission and Discipleship Action Group and realised that we currently have sixteen small groups of one kind or another, with 29 leaders, and about 140 members. There is a great deal of learning together, prayer, and pastoral care that these groups enable that is encouraging. At this meeting last year I talked about the launch of the Action Groups, and particularly about their importance in supporting the many small groups of different types across the church – and particularly in revitalising those that had got into a "holding pattern".

I am really grateful to those who have been the pioneering initial chairs and members of the Action Groups. It has been an interesting journey as we have taken the idea from the paper that it was formulated on and found out together what it means in practice.

In your packs you have reports from each of the Action Groups about what they have been up to, and some of the triumphs and challenges that have been faced.

I'd like to spend a bit of time now drawing out some of the highlights from these reports. Please do take them away and read them thoroughly and pray for those who serve on these groups as we go into the next year. If you would like to get involved in any of these groups, then please do talk to members of the groups. The Pastoral Care and Hospitality Action Group has developed a new "refreshments" team, distinct from the Sunday morning refreshments team that has been a really invaluable resource that has drawn new people into an opportunity to exercise their ministry of hospitality, and has improved the coordination and organisation of hospitality at different events. On the pastoral care side, the group identified a pastoral care need – to help people talk about death and dying, found a possible initiative to help meet this need, ran a successful pilot of the resources, and are now planning to roll it out into the community.

The biggest highlight from the work of the Fabric, Finance and HR Action Group was the great news that we have already talked about of us ending up with a small financial surplus last year. We are very grateful to God and to all those who gave, and continue to give, towards the work of this parish. Most of the buildings projects that we have been working on have been frustratingly slow. We do believe that there is good missional potential in the changes we want to make, but the process of navigating the bureaucracy involved in making changes in a building like All Saints can be difficult.

The Worship and Prayer Action Group has been encouraged by training for the prayer ministry team, and some new initiatives encouraging our prayer life being developed. It has also been great to see our mixed economy of seven different congregations flourishing and being fruitful, whilst maintaining strong links with each other. The work on the proposed Organ restoration has been taken on by a small team which is making good progress on a big project.

As the different congregations grow, and as we think through how we can reach out to those missing generations, how we develop our worship and prayer life is going to be critically important in the coming years.

The Mission and Discipleship Action Group has been excited to see the positive growth coming from a number of initiatives such as the Alpha courses, Wonderfully Made, Experience Easter, and the Ironmen ministry. The agreement to partner with Orbit to provide a venue in the town centre for us to be able to run courses and events in has the potential to provide us with a step change in our engagement with the community.

One of the reasons that we developed the Action Groups was to allow the PCC to focus more on the vision and strategic direction of the parish. The big piece of work that we did this year was to think about what our values are. We started exploring this at our PCC away day last summer, and continued to reflect and refine through the autumn before sharing our thinking with the congregations at the beginning of the year.

These values link in with and support our purpose and vision.

We believe that we are called to be closer to Christ, and sent to be closer to others.

We see the generous riches of God pouring into this church, a beacon of light, overflowing to the community around us.

We see a Christ centred church of faithful service, intimate worship, and friendship with God. We see a connected community of fruitful congregations, sharing the same DNA, growing in a variety of contexts.

As we live out our purpose, and work towards our vision, we aim to live by these values.

Loving God, we value having hearts for Jesus, being expectant to meet with God, doing our best for God, being rooted in the Bible and prayerfulness.

Loving our neighbours we value being accepting and welcoming, hospitality, sharing faith, reconciling people to each other and to God, making disciples.

Loving each other we value forgiving, humility, kindness, being encouraging, listening, talking to each other and not about each other.

Exploring, we value being Spirit led, openness, being innovative, risk taking, creativity, and being able to rethink and shift.

Celebrating, we value joyful worship, noticing what God is doing, giving thanks to God, showing appreciation, and being generous. Some of these values I believe are already pretty well embedded and lived out. Some I think we will have to work on expressing more fully. As I was going through them, I expect that each of us were having our own ideas and thoughts about where the gaps are.

As we seek to live out these values together, I see three challenges.

The first challenge is to recognise and hold on to what is good, to celebrate it, without minimising what needs to change.

The second challenge is like the first, but flipped on its head. It is to recognise what needs to change, without losing sight of all that is good and that we can celebrate.

The third challenge sits in the middle and involves finding ways of talking about what we disagree on. What happens when some of us think that we doing well on one of our values – say “doing our best for God” and others think that we’re not living it out faithfully. How do we have that conversation without falling out? I don’t fully know the answer to how we meet these challenges. I’m sure we’ll get it wrong at times, but I trust that if we listen carefully, make generous assumptions, and prefer each other, then that will be a good start.

So, as we look forward to the coming year, and seek to live out our purpose, vision, and values what have we got coming up?

Well, there is loads. From our normal yearly round of Midsummer fayre, harvest, confirmations, Alpha courses, Christmas, Easter to the building projects, pastoral initiatives, worship development, the Organ restoration project and other things being headed up by the Action Groups.

But I would like to focus on one in a bit more detail to conclude this evening. As you’ll see from Nick’s report the Orbit is nearly ready to open. We have already invested in this financially, and in Nick’s time and energy in building relationships with the management team.

When we first were planning to appoint a parish mission enabler, and again last year at this meeting I posed a couple of questions, the answers to which are going to be critical for the success of our engagement with the community through the Orbit project:

Firstly: Are we ready and willing to accompany Nick? We've appointed someone to come and work with us, to train us up, to be our guide, not to do it all (or even most of it) for us.

Secondly: Are we ready and willing to change? As Nick's insights into how we can reach out to the local community develop, he might suggest that we need to change the way we do things. Are we willing to do that?

It is now rubber hits the road time. We need to engage positively with this opportunity, to accompany and support Nick, and that might mean change, it might mean stopping some of things we are doing currently.

I know that there have been folk here at All Saints who have wanted us to have a town centre presence for some years.

On Saturday morning we will be meeting at the Orbit building at 9:30 to pray around the building and to explore the next steps in making the most of this opportunity. We have the possibility of a step change in our engagement with our community. Let's take it.

Signed as a true record.....

Date.....