

Parish of All Saints, Wellington
With St Catherine's, Eyton-upon-the-Weald Moors

Minutes of the Annual Vestry and Annual District Meeting
Held in church on 15th March 2020 11.15

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. The Rev's Tim Carter opened the meeting with prayer
2. Apologies: Geoff and Elsie May, John Bradley, Ann Lovatt
3. Minutes of the DCC Meeting from January were accepted and agreed.
4. There were no matters arising and no new wardens required at this time.

Annual District Meeting

1. **Minutes:** there was one small amendment - Ann Lovatt not Ann Robertshaw. Alteration noted and Minutes agreed and accepted.
2. **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising.
3. **Electoral Roll:** In the six-yearly review of 2019, our numbers went up to 56. As it stands in March 2020, the total is 53 as follows:
Four members of our congregation passed away and one member married and moved away. We are pleased to welcome two new members on our Electoral Roll for 2020, equalling 53.

Yvonne Crow

4. **Secretary's Report** *Given by Maggy Terry*

The DCC has met on 3 occasions since the last ADM under the Chairmanship of the Rev'd Tim Carter: I.E. in June and September 2019 and January 2020. During the meetings, some of the items discussed were:

1. Storage of archives
2. New churchyard plan
3. Non-alcoholic wine for Communion and new chalice assistants
4. Harvest preparations and plans for services to be held
5. Quinquennial
6. Dementia-friendly churches
7. Summer fete - which was held in June 2019
8. Reburishment of the entrance to the church and repairs to the stonework
9. Pride in the Community
10. Memorial stones
11. Attendance at joint Summer services
12. A new system for registering marriages
13. Safety in church when weddings/funerals are taking place
14. Christmas services: feedback and future plans
15. Event-planning, including forthcoming weddings and open day at Eyton Hall. Other suggestions were:
 - Visit to a gin distillery
 - Talk on farming
 - Wrekin Forest School
 - Barbecue in the Summer

5. Fabric, goods and ornaments report (as at 15/3/20) *Given by Yvonne Crow*

1. Mary Harrison completed the restoration of the next altar kneeler in time for the Carol Service. It is her intention to restore the final one.
2. Bruce mended the hinge on the vestry coffer.
3. The two Churchwardens carried out a stocktake of all the church valuables in August 2019. A few items are stored in All Saints for safe keeping and the one (a pewter plate) unaccounted-for has since been found by Judy Meeson.

4. There was the five-yearly Quinquennial Inspection in August 2019 by the newly-appointed architects Baart, Harries and Newall of Shrewsbury and Mark Newall did the inspection. As a result, following the recent loss of stone from the corner of the roof, a restoration plan has been started.
5. There is no more news about the restoration of the old church clock workings.
6. We had previously engaged Smartwater for our church security but as in line with All Saints' advice, we have appointed Selecta DNA this time. The security chemicals have now arrived and Kim will be arranging to start applying it to all our metal, wood, and - with Bruce's help- to the rook lead. This should only apply to the vestry roof and in a small quantity.
7. A fire extinguisher annual inspection was carried out recently and as a result we will need to replace two water appliances which last five years.
8. On behalf of the DCC and congregation, I would like to thank Kim and Lynn for all their hard work in looking after the churchyards. Cutting grass and going the extra mile with flower borders and maintenance within.

6. Financial report *Given by Bruce Udale*

The fees are up - thanks to Tim for sorting out fees for funerals, etc. Income is up slightly on last year and the Parish Share has been reduced considerably.

Running costs: architects' fees, Quinquennial, stone.

Giving (collections) is down on last year.

We can pay for the stonework (23,000 inc VAT) and should still have enough for E & Cs.

There was a question about services being affected by the Coronavirus situation. Mass gatherings won't affect us, but isolation will (correct as at 15.3.2020). Bruce reported that we have enough in reserve, but suggested that we put money on one side and/or pay through SO or DD.

Bruce is happy with the state of our finances.

Balance sheets presented and agreed.

7. Deanery Synod report *Given by Rev'd Tim Carter (on behalf of Geoff May)*

There are changes happening within Telford and Tim Storey is moving on. There will be no area Dean but Libby Loughlin is stepping up. Libby Leech will be talking to clergy and discussing how we use the clergy in the area. The ratio of clergy within Telford is not enough, but we have a good ratio of clergy to congregants. There may be some redistribution of clergy. Central Telford has about 6 - 7 churches: there is a different configuration on the north.

8. Chairman's report *Given by Rev'd Tim Carter*

As I look back over the last year, there have been some joyful times, and some sad ones.

We had a successful Summer Fete, with our thanks going to David and Caroline Sankey for the loan of the field, and to all those who helped to organise and run a good community event. The Harvest was it's usual success, though the Ukulele player was a little suspect. Our Christmas services last year were particularly well attended, which was very encouraging.

On the more difficult side of things, it was sad to say goodbye to friends, for a long time such faithful members of our church and local communities.
- Check list of funerals in the book for names- at least ...

There have also been practical challenges to face, with the five yearly, quinquennial review of our buildings. To no-one's surprise some of the stone work needs repair, and this process is due to start shortly (if it hasn't already started). In general, however, the rest of the building is in good shape.

As we look forward to the next 12 months, I'm pleased to say that we are planning another Rogation service, and that there are plans afoot for a

community event in the summer. We have taken note of the feedback we received last year, and will pilot continuing morning services through the summer here at St Catherine's. We will also tweak our Harvest Festival arrangements, so that we have one, main, Harvest Service in the morning. We will all have our part to play, and I'm excited to find out what God is going to do here over the coming 12 months.

Any other business

- a) There will no longer be any hard copies of the books about the history of St Catherine's, but they are available digitally.
- b) Geoff May's term on the Deanery Synod is ending. He has communicated verbally with Lynn that he would like to continue and be re-elected to the DCC. Tim approved this provisionally and will be able to share his report if Geoff is unable to attend meetings. *Tim to confirm.
- c) DCC is strong at the moment - 9 members. No new elections needed.
- d) *Date of next meeting - to be confirmed.
- e) Tim thanked Yvonne and Kim for all their hard work as churchwardens.
- f) Terry Tuffnell offered his help with anything he can do - possibly with archives.

*Tim spoke to Geoff May on 19.3.20 and Geoff is happy to continue as Deanery Synod member of the DCC.

Meeting closed in prayer