

Minutes of St Paul's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Sunday 30th April 2017 in church at 12-15pm

1. Welcome and opening prayers

Revd Chris Hodder welcomed those present and led us in prayers.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nicola Whiteman, Janet Coleman, Betty Rootham, Suzanne Astill, Carol Williams, Sue Cooke, Rob and Jo Kemp, Kevin and Alison Lindsey, Wendy Pearce and Mary Larkinson.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Chris informed us that Lyn Lygo was stepping down as warden after 6 brilliant years of steadfast service. He commented on the very happy staff team during the terms of Lyn and Maureen Hollins as wardens of our church and said they were the "two finest churchwardens in the Anglican communion!" Chris said that Lyn was a gifted person in so many ways, practically she was organised and reliable, her faith was very real, she was especially gifted in dealing with people and in caring for all ages of our congregation and had been amazing at supporting him in pastoral ministry. Chris wanted to place his thanks on record for all that Lyn had done and for who she is. He also wanted to thank Alan Lygo for his supporting role. He also thanked Lyn on behalf of everyone for serving our church and for going above and beyond so many times.

Lyn thanked Chris for his kind words. She said that she would still be working with Maureen as a co-leader of Women's Fellowship, they were a good team! She now knew all about the fabric of the building! Lyn wanted to thank many people for their support during her term as warden, including Maureen and Andrew Little in the Office, Hugh Williams and Glenys Duce for counting the money, the sacristy team and the staff team. She truly believed that God was at work in our church, had learned a lot spiritually and was very grateful. In particular she gave thanks to Chris, Revd Andrew Stewart, retired clergy, lay readers, Maureen and for Alan's practical support.

Chris presented Lyn with a bouquet of flowers, cards and gifts from the church.

Chris confirmed that Maureen Hollins had agreed to stand as warden and serve for one more year. Legally Lyn would remain as warden until 23rd May. He was pleased to confirm that Charlie George had agreed to stand as warden alongside Maureen. Nomination papers had been received for both. There was a clear majority in favour of the election of Maureen Hollins and Charlie George as churchwardens.

4. Minutes of previous APCM

Since no one raised any amendments, these were duly approved and signed by Chris.

5. Matters arising

None notified.

6. Elections to PCC: 4 places

David Batte, Ann Shepherd and Jenny Shipman had completed their terms. Rob Kemp and our Treasurer, Claire Yates had been co-opted onto PCC for one year. Nominations were provided for 3 of the places on PCC from Ann Shepherd, Rob Kemp and Ann Jordan and they were unanimously elected.

Claire Yates had agreed to be co-opted onto the new PCC once again.

7. Deanery Synod

This year there were 3 places available on Deanery Synod, David Parker and Ruth Robinson having served their terms. Nominations had been received for two of those places from Andrew Little and Kevin Lindsey and they were unanimously elected.

8. Revision of the Electoral Roll

Maureen Hollins, Electoral Roll Officer reported that in her previous report to PCC there had been 163 people on the Roll, regrettably this had now been reduced to 162 due to a death. Overall 1 person had left, 1 had moved and 6 had died. It was noted that 55 people on the Roll do not live in the parish.

9. Confirmation of sidemen and women

The list for the coming year, as set out in the Annual Report, was confirmed to be accurate and accepted by everyone.

10. Annual Report

(a) Accounts

(i) any questions

A full set of the Accounts had been provided in the Annual Report and there were no questions to our treasurer Claire Yates.

(ii) acceptance of accounts

Claire Yates proposed and Andrew Little seconded that we should accept the Accounts as an accurate record and all were in favour.

(iii) appointment of independent examiner

It was proposed by Claire Yates and seconded by Andrew Little that we appoint Richard Nowell, Chartered accountant as independent examiner of the Accounts. All were in favour.

(b) any other questions or concerns

It was noted that it was sad to see no report from either the Brownies or Guides, who hadn't replied to our request. Chris said we should follow this up for next year with their Leaders.

Chris advised that he had an announcement to read out from Suzanne Astill, our CYF worker. After 4 years Suzanne had resigned from her post as an employee and would be leaving in July. She would not be leaving our church and would remain as a member of the congregation, leading Nurture and continuing to be involved in preaching and leading worship. Chris said that Suzanne was a gifted individual who had made an enormous contribution to St Paul's over the past few years and he would miss her hugely as a member of the staff team. He asked us to pray for her. We have 2 more years of funding for the post of CYF worker and intend to reappoint with a slightly differently shaped role. A consultation team will determine the job description, this will be ratified by PCC and advertised in summer. Hopefully a new person will start in September/October. We may have an evening to discuss this and Chris asked if anyone had a view to let him know.

Chris thanked Claire Yates as Treasurer, Andrew Little as chair of the Finance Committee and Suzanne Astill for all her hard work over the last 4 years as a colleague. He hoped that there would be a smooth transition in whatever shape the CYF post takes next so that we can build upon Suzanne's excellent work.

11. Vision Report

A presentation was given by Chris and Jane George as Chair of the Vision Group. We were referred to the Church of England, Southwell and Nottingham Diocese leaflet, "Growing Disciples Wider Younger Deeper". The Bishop's vision was that we were "joining together in the transforming mission of God" and we said the Bishop's special prayer contained in the leaflet. We remembered the different aspects of belonging, including worshipping, serving, giving, witnessing and learning. Vicky Larkin had helped us to restructure our small groups into life and welcome groups and our news and notes now refer to activities falling into one of the aspects of belonging. We remembered the Bishop's presentation of his vision, referring to Matthew - "Go and make disciples of all nations", and grow disciples in every community.

In 2017 the Vision Group chaired by Jane George, recommended 4 things to PCC :

1. How could we become more invitational?

Our church should be for the benefit of non members and hold events to which we could invite people. We had had a Burns night, a geo cash Easter egg hunt, carol singing at the Apple Tree and were going to hold a hog roast on Pentecost Sunday, 4th June 2017.

2. We could also hold and support events in the Community to increase our reputation and "friend raise" such as:

Fun in the Park where we enjoy activities for all ages as well as raising money for a charity

The monthly church service held at The Grand Care Centre and support for the residents and staff

Social justice, debating issues around elections

Dementia awareness, including urging cafes on The Avenue to become dementia friendly, giving free training to affiliate to dementia friends.

The carers evening held at church last Autumn.

3. Youth work strategy

We need to provide for our existing young people, especially those aged 10-16, who should be able to extend invitations to friends.

4. Develop and repurpose the church lounge.

The Vision Group had considered this and concluded that the lounge was under utilised, used approximately 5% of the time. It had not received any attention for many years and they thought that we needed to give it an intentional missionary purpose. It was the one part of the church which was visible from outside. It needed to be warm, welcoming and light, an evangelism hub. It would only be used by the church and would not be let out.

The proposals to be considered were:

1. We could just redecorate

2. We could carry out a modest revamp. Laura Gray, an interior designer had come up with some ideas including a teal and orange colour scheme which would mean we didn't need to replace the chairs. We needed to soundproof the doors and this would hopefully increase the usage to around 50%.

3. A more radical approach would involve the advice of an architect and include a revamp of the kitchen and toilets. Some had a vision of a conservatory being built which would extend out to the road. This may be the second stage after we have carried out the modest revamp.

We need to be clear what our purposes are and where is God in all of this. Who would benefit from a redevelopment of the lounge?

The Vision Group were meeting next week to discuss this matter further and the congregation were invited to discuss the proposals with those nearby and to share their concerns and ideas with members of the Vision Group.

After a short while Jane George asked for our responses and responses included noting that:

1. Teal/orange divided opinion. We should go for the modest revamp

2. In favour of the modest revamp - we can't see the lounge in isolation since Willow use the toilets and the kitchen, both of which need updating
3. We should go for the more modest revamp and call it "lounge redevelopment phase 1"
4. We should get rid of the blue chairs which were very old, not sensible to base the revamp around them
5. The lounge was the original entry into the church from the road
6. We need to plan for trained people to operate the lounge once it has been revamped- especially for young people. How we use it has to be based around who is going to be running it.
7. We need an exit as well as an entrance to the car park, for road safety. It was pointed out that it was a requirement of the Rushcliffe Borough Council that it be laid out in this way, for traffic safety reasons. Could one parking space be lost to widen the entrance/exit ? The site committee would discuss this.
8. At present people congregate in the foyer, waiting to go in to guides/brownies/playgroup. We could ask them to go for a coffee if we had the facility.
9. We should ask people what they want before we spend large amounts of money and not decide for them. There should be a full scale parish consultation before going down that route.
10. People were given the opportunity to offer further feedback to Jane George which would be considered, along with these comments, when they met this week.

12. Final Comments: The Revd Chris Hodder

Chris urged us all to join in the global wave of prayer 25th May - 4th June. The development of the lounge would come out of prayer. He referred to the Archbishop's initiative "Thy kingdom come" where there would be a number of opportunities to engage in prayer:

1. On Saturday 27th May there was to be a prayer walk of the boundaries of our parish
2. There would be a day of quiet prayer on Wednesday 31st May
3. Church picnic
4. 24th May - CTWB - St Giles service

Information on all these events was on the St Paul's web site under "Thy Kingdom Come"

13. Closing Prayer

Chris closed the meeting in prayer at 1-33pm