

APCM Meeting

27th April 2019 at 11.00am

Present: 34 church members (see sign on sheet)

Apologies: 11

Vestry Meeting

Opening Prayer

Election of Churchwardens.

Currently there was one nomination, Paul Savvides, who was elected unanimously.

Paul provided an overview of the highlights of the role from his perspective and encouraged members of the Church to prayerfully consider whether they could stand for the role of Church Warden. Paul reminded the church that the role of warden, was not just to look after the fabric of the church, but was also a role that would contribute to the spiritual life of the church. Thanks were expressed to Steve Jones and Bill Morrison for their support with the grounds work.

Arthur Blakemore was thanked for his service as a warden as was his wife, Bernice who has supported Arthur to undertake the role. It was reported that Helen Jones and Ian Cooper would continue to serve as Assistant Wardens and thanks were expressed to them for their service in these roles.

There will be an extraordinary Vestry meeting on the 12th May, following the 10:30 service, to elect a second warden.

APCM Meeting

The minutes of last year's meeting:

These had been circulated. All agreed that they were correct.

Matters Arising:

None

Electoral Roll report:

Allan Walker reported that this year required a new electoral roll to be created (required every 6 years) and that the 2019 roll has started with a membership of 136 individuals.

This year has seen the largest single increase in new names added to the roll, 25 in total, but has also seen a large decrease in recurring names, totaling 50, a net decrease of 25 names.

It was reported that this decrease is not unexpected, when creating the new electoral roll and in

discussions with other churches within the diocese, they have seen more significant decreases.

Thanks were expressed to Allan for undertaking the role of Electoral Roll Officer for another year.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurers report began with thanking the key supporting roles that enable the management of the churches finances to be effective. Thanks were expressed to Helen and Michelle for their cash-handling and banking support and also to Jim for his work on preparing the Gift Aid and envelope scheme, which amount to a significant amount of church income.

Equally, Kate Page and Carolyn Barker were thanked for their support in processing and checking the invoices and liaising with external suppliers, such as the energy companies, as well as the commercial activities within the church hall.

All details of income and expenditure were detailed in the Annual Report booklet and this was discussed. Income for the year was reported at £212k, slightly lower than the previous year. Expenditure was reported at £223k, showing an overall deficit of £11k.

A summary of the main income and expenditure areas were provided as follows:

Income:

The planned giving in 2018 was £75k, 35% of income, a slight decrease on last year.

OOSC £57k 27% of income which is slightly down on last year

Hall lettings £26k 12% of income, slightly up on last year.

Gift Aid £13K 6% of income

Donations £12k 5% of income, which is significantly lower than the £20k of the previous year.

PCC Fees etc make up the balance and in total income is down by £12k on the previous year.

Expenditure

Parish share £64k 29% of Expenditure. This is set by a formula from the parish and we are unable to influence the expenditure amount on this category.

OOSC £50k 22% of expenditure (costs for OOSC have been reviewed in year, due to decreased income)

Hall £45k 20% (includes depreciation)

Admin & Publicity £18K 8%

Children and Families Outreach & Mission and Giving combined totals £19k, just 8% of our total expenditure, with Outward Giving at 10% of our income, at £10K, or 4% of expenditure.

The deficit of £11k, set against the total assets of £1.3m does not appear to be of significance, but members were reminded that these assets are mainly buildings and therefore liquid assets amount to £210k in the reserves. The reserves policy was presented in the annual report, including the provisions made for Cheshire East rental which may, or may not be claimed and also provision for 2019 and 2020 for the Associate Minister role.

The members were reminded that it is the church family who fund the activities of the church and members were encouraged to prayerfully consider the opportunities for regular giving.

Projected expenditure for next year will be higher, due to a staff pay rise, to bring wages closer to the national living wage (at a cost of £3k per annum) and increasing utilities costs, which will be as a consequence of our fixed-term rates expiring in the autumn. There are also hall maintenance costs, which will continue to increase each year, due to the aging of the building.

The treasurer reported that there were opportunities to support him in his role and that he was particularly seeking assistance with the management of contracts for the church. A description for a role of 'contracts coordinator' was being developed and would provide assistance to the treasurer role.

Mark thanked all those who assist with the finances of the church and was pleased to report another year of sound financial management and good stewardship of resources, as the bible calls us to do.

David expressed his continued thanks to Mark for undertaking the role of treasurer.

Annual Report

Cathryn provided an overview of the work that she is privileged to do with the church and surrounding community, working with children and families of all ages. The growth in the popularity of xplore, xplore+ and the holiday clubs is a particular area of success and the church were asked to prayerfully consider how we can continue to support the young people of the community, particularly teenagers beyond the age of xplore+ (15 and above). It was suggested that this might be delivered in partnership with other churches within the area, although we do tend to have the larger of the children's groups at St Peters.

Members were encouraged to prayerfully read and reflect on the broad range of activities that the church undertakes, as presented in the annual report.

Elections and Appointments.

Elections to the PCC

This year there was a call for up to 9 new members of the PCC, resulting from a number of vacancies over the years. There were 6 nominations for the PCC:

- Ruth Pollard
- Miriam Astley
- Helen Coppenhall
- Sharron Bull

- Stash Podhorodecki
- John Cargill

All 6 members were elected unanimously.

David expressed his thanks to those who serve on the PCC and to those who are standing down this year.

Elections of Sidespersons;

All sidespersons who were currently serving were re elected. The congregation were encouraged to volunteer for these duties.

Independent Examiner

Sam Corcoran is willing to continue as independent examiner and this was unanimously agreed.

Electoral Roll Officer:

Allan Walker has said that he is willing to continue in this role. Unanimously agreed.

Vicar's Report:

David started by reminding us that there are two very important principles within the New Testament that the church should live by;

“Everybody Ministry” – that we are a collective body and that everyone has a role to play in supporting the church. David noted that this can be done in many ways, service can include governance, admin, maintaining the fabric of the buildings, small groups, outreach, youth work. It includes the work of the Out of School Club, which in itself came out of ministry and supporting the local community. As the world changes around us, and education itself changes, the role of the OOSC may also need to change, but it is important that the church continues to support the local Schools and be involved in the life of those schools.

The second principle is that God gifts each church to do the role that needs to be done – David reminded us that we are the church of the area and our role is to proclaim and share the message of Jesus in this place. This can be difficult and challenging at times, we are challenged sometimes by the financial and social changes, but God has been good to the church.

As the church congregation ages and gets smaller, there are more pressures on the church, but this also presents us with opportunities. Everybody ministry, motivated through spirit and word is the opportunity. Our motivation should come from God’s love, not through duty, but in response to the love of God, acting as our motivation to serve.

2018 was a year of uncertainty and divisions. A focus was also on ‘protection’, through the GDPR changes and Safeguarding needs. The church should continue to ensure that safeguarding procedures are taken extremely seriously, we must be robust and diligent in these areas.

The church mission statement is an important reminder of what roles we should fulfill as church members;

24/7, whole-life worship

Growing the church; through discipleship, growing in God, through sermons and small group study that is increasing our knowledge of the bible and our discipleship

Serving others; there are so many needs in society and through God, our service can be guided, supporting each other and the community can be achieved.

Leading people into a personal relationship with Jesus; Jesus should be our continual focus for all of our service and worship.

David reminded us that there is much we can do to deliver this mission, through prayer and our personal relationship with God; through relationships with each other within our church community; through our relationships in the wider community, our conversations and opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

As we enter the next year of the church, there will be challenges ahead. Of the 13 incumbents within the deanery, 7 have either recently, or plan to retire in the next 6 months. This smaller number of ordained ministers will bring challenges and as a church we remain keen to recruit an Associate Minister, which will be re-advertised in a few weeks. Bishop Peter has announced his retirement in the autumn and thus further changes can be expected.

David will take a Sabbatical from September to November, to conduct some research within the Middlewich Deanery.

Our Methodist neighbours are also seeking significant change, proposing to reduce the 5 local churches to just 1 and using the churches to re-purpose the buildings for more specific missions. This is a bold strategy and will have implications for St Peters, with the LEP having to be disbanded and hopefully a new one negotiated with the new church. The plans are intended for implementation from September 2020.

Working with Wheelock Heath and Grace Church there are a programme of events for the Real Lives Mission, all are encouraged to consider who could be brought to share in these events.

David thanked the church community and reminded us, as a church family to commit to everybody ministry.

Questions for the PCC

A comment was raised in relation to David's sabbatical, noting the importance of the Assistant Minister role during this time. If we are unable to recruit to the role, we, as a church will have to find new ways to manage during the time, which may be an opportunity for church members to step into new roles, if it is God's will.

No further questions were asked.

AOB

Members were reminded about the Christian Aid collections, in a fortnight.

The May events leaflet was also shared and members were encouraged to note the Spring Clean date: Saturday 11th May. A wide range of tasks are available and so all can contribute to the day.

Members were also encouraged to note the 7th July as the date of the joint-service with the Methodist church, held outdoors in Elworth Park

Helen Jones, on behalf of the congregation, expressed their thanks to David Page for his service to the church community over the previous year.

The meeting finished with prayer