

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3RD OF APRIL 2019 AT 8 pm

1. Apologies for absence:
 - a. Simon Barker, Jan MacFarlane, Sandie Beck, Lynn Evenett

Attendance: 27

Philip opened the Meeting with a reading from John 10

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

2. Annual Vestry Meeting to appoint Church wardens
 - a. Jane Palmer was nominated for another 12-month appointment by Janet Reddish and Philippa Thompson
 - b. Hedley, Pamela, Doreen, Bron, Philippa, Ian, and Jan noted as a great help in the event of Jane as a sole-warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. Approval of minutes from last APCM
 - a. Brought to PCC in May last year, approved by PCC, congregation are happy to approve based on this.
 - i. Move to accept presented by Jill Pearce, and seconded by Bryan Hillan, unanimous approval taken by show of hands
 - b. Matters Arising
 - i. Graveyard
 1. As in the Fabric report, the Parish Council refused grant funding, and various ideas put forward to PCC. The idea of fundraising specifically for the graveyard was rejected by the PCC as it was deemed inappropriate
 2. The person who stopped mowing the area beyond the sheep pen has returned, and grateful thanks are extended to them
 3. Promise of a grant this year from Parish Council (£1000)
 4. Received an anonymous donation of £1000 (£1250 with gift aid) to reclaim the overgrown area at the bottom of the graveyard, which created extra burial space
 5. Parish Council are actively looking for land to purchase to extend the graveyard, Philip and the Council are in discussion.
 - ii. Safeguarding
 - a. Sexual Harassment and Harassment fall under safeguarding, which fall under Church of England Policy and national guidelines
 - b. Health and Safety is a different matter, and is covered by PCC policy

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. Reception of Annual Reports
 - a. PCC and Electoral Roll

- i. Electoral Roll is 68 names, published 10 days ago on the church door
 - ii. 13 names removed, and 17 added, with 9 not resident in the parish. An increase of 4.
 - iii. Thanks extended to Jill Pearce for her efforts compiling the roll
 - iv. PCC component statement of intent and action, report received without any additions
- b. Deanery Synod
 - i. Report on page 9 of the Annual Report
 - ii. Jane and Gill attended 4 meetings over the year about all aspects of church
 - 1. Different forms of church were discussed, the Bishop of Hertford talked about new housing, Mercy Ships talked about Church Partnership, and the Compassionate Neighbours Scheme gave a talk.
- c. Fabric
 - i. The Vestry renovation was brought to the APCM last year
 - ii. Various works and the Quinquennial Inspection were carried out
 - iii. Successful November working party, with another on 6th April
 - iv. A piece of painted fabric similar in style to the fabric paintings attached to the wooden screen is missing. Efforts to find it have so far proved fruitless.
 - v. The wooden screen and painted fabric have been deemed too precious to use as a splash back, but without enough significance to warrant a conservation report. There is very little information in the archives, one reference to the wooden screen, and no mention of the fabric. We require other options, one of which may be donating it to a museum or disposal. The plans may need to be altered to reflect this.
- d. Finance
 - i. Ian presented the 2018 accounts, previously agreed by PCC
 - ii. £34,982 requested parish share was paid to the diocese
 - iii. However, the 2019 parish share requested has increased to a level of equivalent of £3000/month, which will be hard to raise as giving is already very good for our congregation
 - iv. Rich Redfern, a member of Finance Committee, is looking into contactless methods of donation, which is encouraged by the Church of England
 - v. The sheep escaped, which has led to Philip taking over as the official Shepherd, and questions about insurance, which are being investigated [POST MEETING NOTE: insurance in place from April 2019]
 - vi. Page 17 of the Annual Report is the start of the Accounts with commentary from page 12
 - 1. Our total general fund income, including giving and fees was around £55,000, which is steady in comparison to previous years
 - 2. The budgeted deficit was smaller than anticipated: £753
 - 3. The church and parish centre gas and electricity running costs are through the parish buying scheme, as encouraged by the Church of England, but there is an outstanding PCC item to ensure the best deal is being found
 - 4. We received compensation from the crash into the front wall by the lychgate
 - 5. There was no increase to the value of fixed assets
 - 6. Reserves were agreed to remain as they are

7. The Church building is a heritage asset, and heritage assets do not need to be valued
8. Planned giving has increased slightly, but not keeping pace with the parish share increase and this should be addressed for the future.
- vii. There have been two notifications from local solicitors of two separate legacies that may be coming
- viii. Grateful thanks are conveyed to Susan, Ian, and the finance team
- e. Safeguarding
 - i. National Policy dictates what we do
 - ii. There is nothing to add to the report
 - iii. Safeguarding is an ongoing project as more requirements and regulations are added
 - iv. Payment of DBS checks, as volunteers should be free. We pay an admin fee, not the whole cost
5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
 - a. Jill Pearce was prepared to continue, thus reappointed, and was thanked for her service
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
 - a. Susan Boardman was prepared to continue, thus reappointed, and was thanked for her service
7. Election of up to 6 new PCC members to serve for 3 years
 - a. Bryan Hillan and Malcom Dawn are the elected PCC members stepping down after 3 years, and were thanked for their service
 - b. Rob Griffiths was elected
 - i. Nominated by Emily Griffiths and Seconded by Philippa Thomson
 - c. Nicole May was elected
 - i. Nominated by Philippa Thompson and Seconded by Simon Chivers
 - d. Jill Pearce was elected
 - i. Nominated by Jane Palmer and Seconded by Philippa Thompson
 - e. Philippa Thompson was elected
 - i. Nominated by Emily Griffiths and Seconded by Margaret Connold
 - f. There are still 2 vacant spots
8. Appointment of Sidespersons
 - a. A list of those happy to be Sidespeople was read out and approved
9. Review of the pattern and style of Sunday Worship at St Giles
 - a. Matter was brought to PCC in March
 - b. It has been noted that since January there had been a large drop off in the numbers of those attending the 10.30, and the numbers are very inconsistent (fluctuating from 15 adults and 2 children to 25 adults and 8 children). This is partially due to some people deciding to attend worship closer to home. It has been particularly difficult for children's work.
 - c. Licensed Ministry resources have significantly diminished over the last 5 years, so that there is now just one licensed Reader (Paul) and a half-time vicar. The last vicar was full-time in the parish, and was supported by two other Readers and an ordained associate.
 - d. The number of people willing to be on the rotas had also dropped, although a recent appeal by Philip yielded positive responses.

- e. Café Church is holding very good numbers, 84 at the March event (compared to the average of 28 for traditional worship, and 25 for informal worship) – all numbers inclusive of adults and children.
 - i. This fresh expression is very resource heavy, and carries different challenges, such as how to disciple people.
 - ii. It may also require a small amount of additional funding, although that shouldn't be an issue
- f. Paul doesn't think his contribution lies any longer in weekly services in church, but in café church, and it is planned for him to withdraw from leadership of worship in the church building to concentrate on developing café church. This was unknown at the PCC meeting in March.
- g. In light of this, the current pattern of worship is unsustainable, and Philip put forward four questions for people to discuss in small groups and write thoughts about on post-it notes
 - i. How should we respond to the changing situation?
 - ii. What forms and times of worship should we plan to have on Sunday?
 - iii. How can we best accommodate children and parents?
 - iv. How can we best accommodate baptism families and those unfamiliar with communion?
- h. The post-it notes were readout
 - i. Reduce the number of services, have more joint services, but only 1 service a week
 - ii. Look creatively at music content, move towards the combined service
 - iii. Informal children's activities at every service
 - iv. Baptisms on the 3rd or 5th Sundays
 - v. Children's work is accommodated by café church and Sunday school for 10 am service
 - vi. Baptism not to be in a communion service, unless the parents wish it
 - vii. Ask people what they would like
 - viii. Importance of unity between the services, no 'them' and 'us'
 - ix. Monthly family service at 10 am in church building
 - x. To what extent can we use Welwyn Team Resources? Change times to reflect that, 9.30 am service time, although may be too early for some members
 - xi. Consider one non-Eucharistic service, informal, in church once a month and have that as the baptism service
 - xii. Café Church plus something else family orientated
 - xiii. Baptism service needs to be in the main service
 - xiv. Informal service becoming too formal
 - xv. Café church more often – possibly afternoon
 - xvi. 2 x Communion, 2 x informal a month and baptism on 5th Sunday
 - xvii. 9.30 am service time
 - xviii. Mixture of music required, choir to not always be robed and sing modern songs
 - xix. Café Church to be a launch pad for community ministry, e.g. a foodbank or similar
 - xx. 1st Sunday to remain as it is, 2nd and 4th as the current joint service but at 9.30 am, and another fresh expression on the 3rd Sunday

- i. Brief comments were then made
 - i. Times here and in the rest of the Welwyn team do not match. Lining them up may help to increase available Ministry resource
 - ii. Unity is paramount
 - iii. Gill Thwaites gave the example of the football team church as a fresh expression
 - iv. To what extent can we network with other churches, e.g. Wheathampstead
 - v. Not all young people dislike traditional worship
 - vi. Children's work is unsustainable, numbers are too low and erratic, having a second family focussed service could help this
 - vii. 2 services a week is unsustainable

10. AOB

- a. £500 was raised from the bike and hike for the church
 - i. Jill Pearce would like to pass on the co-ordinator role for this

11. Closing remarks from the chair

- a. It has been a busy year, and Philip is grateful to all those who contribute to leadership; Colin, Sandie, Jim and Paul
- b. There are challenges in the year ahead, including changing the worship pattern, and how we respond to the new housing developments
- c. Café church and the vestry refurbishment are Philip's main priorities, and long term goals
- d. Other goals include the new worship programme, publicity, children's work, and the use of social media
- e. Philip thanked those present for their attendance and contribution

Janet Reddish proposed a large thank you and round of applause be extended to Philip, with thanks also to Ian.

Meeting was closed with the grace at 9.47 pm

First PCC Meeting of the new committee will be 8th May 2019 at 7.45 pm in the Parish Centre