

Minutes of St **Botolph's** Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in Church on Monday 24th April 2017

61 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Rev Mark Lucas.

Apologies are as for the Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2016. The minutes were approved as a correct record.
2. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.
Rev M Lucas expressed his thanks to all who sit on the PCC.

Four members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, namely Jim Roughton, Martin Adamson, Joe Griffiths, Richard Sewell. A further place was vacant due to Ken Ansdell accepting the post of churchwarden after the APCM last year.

The following nominations had been received:-

- Robert Smith, nominated by Gemma Griffiths, seconded by Joe Griffiths
- Asha Silk, nominated by Andrew Thomson, seconded by Paul Gosling
- Kate Curnock, nominated by Judith Edwards, seconded by Bob Edwards
- Louise Adamson, nominated by Penny Wright, seconded by Kirsty Clark
- Jem Palmer, nominated by Derek Wade, seconded by Jane Wade

There being 5 nominations and 5 vacancies all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

4. Election of Deanery Synod Members.
Rev Lucas gave a brief description of the place of Deanery Synod within the structure of the Church of England and explained that because of the size of our electoral role we were entitled to 6 places on Deanery Synod.

The following nominations had been received:-

- Joe Griffiths, nominated by Derek Wade, seconded by Jane Wade
- Dan Baynes, nominated by Pippa Evans, seconded by Nick Evans
- Adrian Keach, nominated by Carol Keach, seconded by Bob Edwards
- Peter Jackson, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Jim Roughton
- Maurice Haynes, nominated by Mary Haynes, seconded by Derek Sibson
- Julie Lucas, nominated by Claire Johnson, seconded by Nick Johnson

There being 6 nominations and 6 vacancies all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
Alan Deans was nominated to be Independent Examiner again and was unanimously elected.
6. Election of Sidespersons.
Rev Lucas explained how important the role of sidespersons is especially with regard to welcoming newcomers.
A couple of changes were necessary to the published list as follows:-
Karen Snape should replace Ida Snape
Claire Bell had been omitted from the list in error.

With these amendments those on the list presented in the Annual Report booklet were unanimously elected.

7. Annual Reports. Rev Mark Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet.

Finance: David Wright presented and explained the financial accounts for the year to 31st December 2016. There was a deficit of £9,798 split between restricted funds – surplus of £13,149 - and unrestricted funds – deficit of £22,947.

Income was down by £868 on 2015 but expenditure was up by £15,103.

David presented charts to identify the sources of income and areas of expenditure.

Income headlines:-

- A gift day had been budgeted to raise £8000 but raised only £3000
- Income from legacies were down
- Over the last few months of 2016 planned giving was seen to be dropping
- Wedding Fees were up on previous years
- Rents had been increased on the flats but it cannot be guaranteed that there will be full occupancy during any year.
- Investment income had remained static

Expenditure headlines:-

- Mission payments had remained stable. We are also now contributing to Rock UK
- Our Parish Share had increased to £125,000
- Repairs had been necessary to Rectory Cottage
- Church Management costs had increased due to new legislation on pensions

Budget 2017:-

The aim of the Finance Committee is to always ensure that expenditure can be financed through a balanced budget or with prudent use of existing reserves.

A deficit budget of £35,000 has been set for 2017 which the Finance Group had decided should be partly funded from our reserves. It is anticipated that £9,000 will be funded from the Property Fund and £11,000 from the Legacy Fund.

A further £8,500 of work to the church and buildings will not be carried out unless funds are forthcoming.

This leaves a shortfall of about £6,000 which may have to be funded from the General Reserve. A chart was shown of all the fabric work it was hoped to carry out in 2017.

Conclusion:-

- The financial year for 2016 ended in a deficit position.
- We continue to have a financially challenging year for 2017.
- We are planning to use reserves to cover the Fabric costs.
- We are still showing a funding shortfall for 2017.

Questions were asked as follows:-

M. Haynes – in view of the fact that the diocese is short of money was it likely that St Botolph's would be asked to increase their Parish Share?

Rev Lucas said the Parish Share is set by a formula. Although Diocesan income had fallen last year, St Botolph's would not be asked for a further contribution.

J. Rouse – Looking at the state of the economy generally will we have to consider radical ideas so we are not continually drawing on our reserves?

David Wright said that for the first time those involved in the various areas of expenditure had been asked to fill in budget requests and the figures budgeted are a result of these requests.

We are looking at obtaining funding from other sources e.g. Ken Ansdell had obtained a grant for the fitting of the alarm on the Church roof.

Rev Lucas reminded everyone that the church is a charity and PCC members are trustees. Charity guidelines do not recommend setting a budget deficit but it was felt that we had to do so given the expected expenditure. The Diocesan Stewardship Advisor would be with us in the near future and hopefully he would advise on how this deficit could be tackled.

Rev Lucas told the meeting that the church has been offered a gift of £10,000 for Youth and Children's ministry but it came with conditions. For every £1000 the church raises the donor will match it up to £10,000. This could possibly be for another worker – how the money would be used would be decided at a later date.

8. Any Other Business.

a) Rev Lucas reported that this would be Rev Adams last APCM as he was coming to the end of his curacy with us and would be moving to be vicar in a parish as yet unknown. He has permission to stay until Christmas to help cover Rev Lucas's sabbatical. Rev Lucas said how wonderful it had been to have both Nigel and Jo on the ministry team and how grateful we all are for their work among us. He asked Rev Adams to say a few words about their time here.

Rev Adams spoke of the many encouragements he and Jo had found at St Botolph's, how much there was to give thanks to God for and that it had been a privilege to work here. He cited the following areas of ministry:-

- i) The Gospel is always preached faithfully
- ii) Both he and Jo felt able to worship God when they came here – there is a sense of God's presence, helped by the many talented musicians
- iii) There are so many faithful servants working in so many ways and he picked out 2 areas in which he and Jo have been particularly involved.
 - a) The growing and developing of evangelism. E.g. Sports quizzes, Foundations weekend, breakfasts, Knit & Natter, Made with Love initiative and the various seekers groups.
 - b) Seniors work which offers opportunities for people to get involved and then increasingly more so. Each Thursday offered an event – Coffee Shop, Pilgrim's Venture, Potter's Place and Firm Foundations.

Rev Adams said it was wonderful to see these things sustained by our wonderful God. He thanked Mark, Andy and the team for everything he had learned here and also thanked everyone who had worked so hard to make the above ministries happen.

Rev Lucas asked us to pray for Nigel and Jo as they search for another post to continue God's work.

b) Rev Lucas thanked Rev Clark for all his work during the year and asked him to say a few words about the Youth and Children's Work.

Rev Clark quoted from Colossians 1 v 28:- "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

He told the meeting that working with children and young people is not about the few years we have them under our care – it's about seeing them mature and continue

growing so that in years to come they will still be living for Jesus and taking on leading roles in the churches of the future.

Our database currently shows that we have 110-120 children and young people we see regularly – not including schools work or holiday club. This shows God's generosity to us and that there is much for which to thank Him.

We have a fantastic team of leaders who serve faithfully. One to one Bible Studies are being developed with Link – these can have a huge impact on the lives of our young people.

He asked the congregation to pray for the children and encourage them.

Rev Lucas asked that the congregation pray for Andy as he heads up this work.

- c) A. Keach wanted to express thanks to all who provided refreshments at the events held by the church.
- d) M. Haynes said no mention had been made of our musicians. Rev Lucas said we were very grateful to them for their commitment each week and we are also grateful to the many, many volunteers who contribute in any way however large or small to the ongoing running of the church.

- 9. Date of Next Meeting. Rev Lucas suggested that the date for the APCM next year should be 16th April 2018.

The meeting ended with sharing the grace at 21.08pm