

Draft minutes of APCM meeting held on 3rd April 2022 at noon in church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Welcome and apologies

Tim welcomed a good turnout, commenting that it was three meetings in one, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the PCC meeting following the latter. Apologies were received from Jean and Fraser Sims, Ann Jordan, Sue Cooke, Betty Rootham, Jane George, Jill Warsop and Janet and David Coleman. At the meeting apologies were also received from Gill Parker.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the previous APCM meeting on 23rd May 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by Tim, having been proposed by Hazel Little and seconded by Ian Robinson.

3. Opening prayers

Tim's opening prayer used Isaiah 43 v 18, from today's readings, as its focus.

4. Election of Wardens

There were two nominations:

Charlie George - proposed by Ann Shephard and seconded by Bob Oldroyd,

Wendy Pearce - proposed by Bob Oldroyd and seconded by Lyn Lygo.

Both were duly elected and applauded. Tim observed that they are both fantastic wardens, great to work with for both Tim and the leadership team. He thanked them for their wisdom, spiritual depth and insight.

He asked those present to consider if God was calling them to the role of warden. Could it be the ministry for them? (*Charlie will be standing down having served for 6 years.*)

APCM

1. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Elections to PCC

There are 4 vacancies, 3 for 3 years and one for 2. Four nominations were received.

Janet Colman was nominated by Maureen Hollins and seconded by Hugh Williams.

Angela Harriss was nominated by Maureen Hollins and seconded by Penny Carrier.

Madhu Limbachia was nominated by Wendy Pearce and seconded by Ann Shephard

Leia Morales was nominated by Camilla Gilmore and seconded by Penny Carrier.

All were duly elected and applauded.

Tim expressed his gratitude for all PCC members, for their quality, enthusiasm and positivity, before praying for them and the wardens and for those newly elected.

3. Election to deanery synod

There are 2 places but were no nominations.

Tim observed that many see Deanery Synod meetings as needless. In some deaneries this can happen but this is not the case in ours.

4. Revision of Electoral roll

Maureen reported that there are 122 on the roll, a decrease of one since the APCM on 23rd May 2021. There have been seven additions and eight deletions. Three people have died, four have moved away and one has left. 46 on the roll live outside the parish. There are 82 women and 40 men.

5. Annual report

a) Accounts

Debbie Caine presented the accounts in summary form via a power point presentation. She began by expressing her thanks to Andrew, as chair of the finance group, for all his help, to Glenys and Hugh for counting and banking the money and Ian Robinson for claiming the gift aid.

Highlights

The accounts show an overall surplus for 2021 of £5,788, which when added to the brought forward funds gave a closing balance of £67,826. The surplus is made up of a number of different items, including a general fund surplus for the year of £6,932. Although that is much better than expected it should be noted that there was a deficit for 2020 of £5,504.

The closing balance of £67,826, is comprised of the general fund balance of £26,533, the LoCYFM (designated) balance of £12,439 and restricted fund balances of £28,854 (which includes door refurbishment funds of £11,088 and Cafe/Social eating fund grant balance of £8,196).

The budget prepared by the finance committee for 2022 indicates a likely deficit on the general fund of £3k, assuming committed giving stays at its current level. If full share were to be paid, which is currently budgeted at £62k, that would increase the deficit to £10k. Although there is a brought forward general fund balance of £26k, the current reserves policy suggests that the general fund should not be allowed to fall below £12k, and it would not be possible to continue meeting the full parish share in future years if the deficit position were to subsist.

i) Any questions

Mike Spalton asked where the diocese gets its money from if parish shares are not paid.

Debbie responded. They budget for income needed is decided before passing it down to the deaneries. Many churches do not pay their share and other churches have to pick it up. The diocese has money to cover the gap. The amount we pay shows our commitment.

Tim added. Some dioceses have better reserves than others to cover the gap. If not paid clergy retirements will not be replaced and consolidation of parishes will be made.

Andrew, as lay chair added. A decision will be made in November whether we can increase the shortfall of £7k budgeted for on what is our allocated share. We could afford the deficit this year but not next. Only once have we not been able to meet our share.

Mary Griffiths asked how the special appeals for the doors and the future of Penny's role as Leader of CYFM were progressing.

Doors: Charlie replied. All the money needed had been raised for the doors with no funding campaign, a fantastic result.

Penny's role: Andrew added. Twelve people had already committed and we were on the way but not there yet.

Camilla Gilmore asked about the energy crisis.

Ian Robinson replied. Our energy comes from the Parish Buying Energy Basket with the price fixed till September.

ii) Acceptance of accounts

Carol Williams proposed that we accept the accounts. She was seconded by Camilla Gilmore and all were in favour.

Tim expressed massive thanks on behalf of everyone to Debbie for the time and effort, for her faith and the faith filled way she carries out her role. Debbie commented that it was a pleasure to do it.

iii) Appointment of independent examiner

Thanks were expressed to Andrew for initially approaching Eddie George to be our independent examiner. Hugh Williams nominated and Hazel Little seconded that Eddie George be appointed again as our independent examiner. All were in favour.

Tim thanked Eddie on behalf of us all.

b) Any other questions or concerns

There were no further questions or concerns.

6. Vision

a) The common cup, the Peace and ventilation

Tim began by asking for a show of hands to establish how people felt about the above at the present moment, whether a) not at the moment, or b) relaxed. All are constantly under review by the leadership team while continuing to listen to alternative methods recommended by the CofE. It was felt we have maintained a good compromise throughout the pandemic. The congregation was thanked for its patience, forbearance and respect for each other.

The common cup: a) 22 uncomfortable b) 6 relaxed

The Peace: shaking hands or hugging is not easy for some. Ros Donovan asked whether that meant just with your immediate neighbours or walking around the church. No one should feel excluded. Those who prefer to make a gesture of prayer or open hands should feel comfortable to do so. a) 4 uncomfortable b) 12 relaxed. People were also asked to indicate if they felt comfortable sharing the peace as per pre-Covid, but only with those immediately around them. 18 responded that they would be comfortable with this.

Ventilation: Generally, two ceiling windows are open as well as the louvres around the church. Wearing appropriate clothing to keep warm was suggested. a) 13 uncomfortable b) 16 relaxed
Charlie added that the right side facing the communion table would still be kept for people wearing face coverings. They could sit anywhere in church however, but those not wearing masks, to respect the views of others, should continue to sit in the middle or left blocks. Tim was in complete agreement, adding that some churches have had fireworks to deal with over the past two years, but the situation has been dealt with well at St Paul's.

With a power point presentation. Tim went over the **three Es** of our Vision for three years. Last year it was **Experiencing God**, this year **Exploring Discipleship** and next year **Engaging with Community**. Our key values are **Invitation and Grace, Generosity and Celebration** as well as **Inclusivity and Safety**. He sees St Paul's as a church which gives and does not take, people who are inviting, gracious, generous, and celebratory as in Deuteronomy 14. We recently signed up to be an Inclusive Church. Thanks to Ann Shepherd, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, our safeguarding is in excellent hands.

b) Café and Social Eating

Why prioritise the Café and Social eating? It is our outreach to the community. The opportunity to invite people in and be welcoming. Jesus said 'I have come so you may have life in abundance.' We are inviting people into eternal hope and life in its fulness. Since the opening of the café and the beginning of Social Eating (a small event for 14 had been held in the café on 1st April), Tim has had many conversations about spirituality and faith, inviting people to join in the Love Joy Peace course. There is a strong sense that we have things to invite people to, showing we are giving and not taking. The diocese is working with us to fulfil our vision as we follow its Growing Disciples plan. Our bishops believe in the power of Jesus and the power and importance of outreach. The targets for growth are exciting, our belief in what we have to offer matters and by invitation we will see growth. There is no external agenda in our invitation, but because we have something to offer.

Questions: Ian Robinson asked if the some of the slides shown in the presentation could be made available to those who are interested. They can.

c) CYFM role

The Growing Disciples Plan encourages the application for grants and it is hoped that we might be awarded as much as £30k over five years. We are already half way there in the 30 people for £30

monthly appeal to raise £10k a year towards Penny's role. Jesse Gray is going to donate over £3,000 next year, a great testament to Penny and all she has done for the school. Tim added that however much people can give will be fantastic, as would a lump sum.

7. Tim's final comments

Tim thanked the people of St Paul's from the bottom of his heart for being a fantastic church, a fantastic group of people. It is a broad, deep and loving place without divisions and differences and he is proud to be here. Exciting times lie ahead. Watch this space!

8. Closing prayer

Tim closed the meeting in prayer after presenting a gift to Camilla as she completed her term on PCC. She has a million hats and has given so much to church.

Final comment from Charlie. On behalf of us all, he thanked Tim for all he does, for his great enthusiasm, how he has pressed on regardless and his 'can do' approach.

Signed as a true and accurate record

vicar

2023