

Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church on Monday 16th April 2018 at 7..45

51 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

Apologies are as for the Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2017.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising.

A query arose about £10,000 donated for match funding for children work in light of the wish for a children's worker. There would be a shortfall in funding but it would be a matter to consider.

3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.

Seven members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, namely Rob Cowan, Graham Farrier, Victoria Hutchinson, Nick Johnson, Andrew Saville, Helen Tilney and David Wright.

Revd Lucas expressed his thanks to all who sit on the PCC, and especially for Nick Johnson, Graham Farrier, Victoria Hutchinson who are standing down after their term of office.

The following nominations had been received:-

Robert Cowan, nominated by Peter Jackson, seconded by Kate Curnock

Helen Tilney nominated by Victoria Hutchinson, seconded by Louise Adamson

David Jacobs nominated by Nick Johnson seconded by Andrew Saville

David Wright, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Andy Clark

Andrew Saville, nominated by Ken Ansdell, seconded by Bob Edwards

There being 5 nominations and 7 vacancies, all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Alan Deans was nominated by David Wright to be Independent Examiner again, Mary-Ann Ansdell seconded, and he was unanimously elected.

5. Election of Sidespersons.

Revd Lucas explained how wonderful sidespersons are, shepherding people in, and they need to be thanked. Those on the list presented in the Annual Report booklet were unanimously elected.

6. Annual Reports.

Revd Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet.

Finance: David Wright as Treasurer indicated that there was going to be a deficit of £30,000 for the year ending December 2017 but the year had ended up with a surplus, mainly due to a figure of £40,000 having been budgeted for property works of which only £11,000 was spent. There was also a net increase in income as a result of the Gift Day, a legacy, and an increase in wedding and funeral fees received, which together led to a surplus of just over £8,000.

Whereas in 2017 general income was up by £14,000 in recurring gifts and a legacy, weddings fees will be going down in 2018. Rental income resulted from full occupancy in 2017 but that cannot be assumed for 2018 as one tenancy is on a month to month basis. A parish weekend has not been budgeted for, and additional income which increases the total to £270,000 would take the church over the £250,000 income threshold, which means having to fall in line with financial reporting and a fuller audit, incurring accountants fees.

There was a reduction in spend in 2017, mainly due to reduced property repairs but offset by an increase to the Parish Share, which is increasing by about 5% per year. The church paid the full Parish Share in 2017.

Back in October/November time, an increase in giving was sought and potentially an additional £15,000 was pledged, but over the year this was offset by other people leaving the parish or decreasing their giving, so the net effect was an increase of only £1,200 for the coming year.

About £6,000 per year is received in collections on a weekly basis. Voluntary receipts are one off gifts. The budget is conservative regarding the rental income in case there is not full occupancy throughout the year. The Parish Share is biggest expense. Church managements costs are likely to increase as so many repairs were deferred from last year. Mission giving is stable at £20,000.

The budget for 2018 has been prepared as a balanced budget, split into a general fund and restricted funds which have a deficit of £11,000 which will be funded by the property fund. The budget assumes property repairs will be £31,000. There is continued reliance on planned giving. There are 99 regular Standing Orders of an average of £100 per month, roughly £9,900 per month. But the cost of the Parish Share on its own is approximately £10,667 per month, so the church is under pressure to cover the additional costs.

Although the last financial year ended in a surplus, the church will still have a challenging year for 2018. A major issue is how to spend the resources. The Parish Share is 55% of all costs. The church is looking to offset restricted funds against the Parish Share, as some of the costs are due to youth ministry expenses. Property reserves will be used to cover fabric costs. If all plans come to fruition, the budget should be balanced at the end of the year. There will be monthly meetings to monitor the finances.. Based on the 2018 budget, including property repairs, it costs £695 per day to run St Botolph's, and even without repairs would still cost £606 per day.

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

Revd Lucas said there is a possibility to pay the Parish Share by Direct Debit which can be variable. This system is possibly being brought in by Peterborough Diocese. A church can agree to it being increased every year by e.g. inflation, or the RPI. A number of people present were opposed to the plan, or were ambivalent about it. It was mentioned there is a possibility of contactless payments and giving by text in the future.

Revd Lucas asked for prayer for a temporary chair of the Finance Task Group in the absence of Graham Bell.

7. GDPR.

Problems had arisen with access to the consent requests. Those present were asked to look for emails but may need to check junk mail as well. PCC members are entitled to Microsoft Teams to access to PCC documents and minutes. Individuals sending emails to group members will probably need to send things out on a church server. Some church server addresses are available enabling emails to be sent from the church. Paul Gosling is doing a lot of extra work on this data protection issue. All those on the electoral roll will receive an email requesting consent to use of their data.

8. Any Other Business.

Revd A Clark mentioned that he went to a youth conference in the year in which there was a talk on 1 Peter pointing out that when there are babies around, they scream when hungry “give me milk or I’ll die”. They are totally dependent. For us, our desire for God’s world should be the same “give me God’s word or I’ll die”. The work we do at St Botolph’s is quite basic, but the young people come back and the only thing that will sustain them is the word and Jesus Christ. Not doing things on the world’s terms. Revd Clark asked for prayer that these young people will crave God’s word. The idea of a Children’s Minister is important as most people come to faith before the age of 18. What people heard as children often brings them back in later life.

Thanks were to be given to all those involved in the youth work, and prayers are needed for them. Thanks were also given for the children. It was noted that child numbers are growing at Warkton. The services there are small and traditional but more families are coming. In both churches, there is a need for more leaders to bring in more people.

The 1eighty youth group stands out. It is lively and has a great atmosphere, and a number of those attending are from non-church backgrounds. One to one bible reading is useful. Make and Play is growing, as is Creche. This year, Holiday Club took place at a different time and with a different format. There was a good response for leaders and the children engaged well with bible work.

9. Date of Next Meeting. Revd Lucas suggested that the date for the APCM next year should be 8th April 2019. The next PCC meeting should take place on 30th April.

The meeting ended at 21.18 after singing the hymn To God be the Glory.