



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners - Sunday 30th April 2017

The meeting was held within the context of a service of worship which started at 10:00am.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham

1. Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.

Rosemarie Hall was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 17th April 2016.

These were displayed on the church noticeboard and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. Limited copies were also available at the meeting. **There were no changes proposed and the minutes were therefore approved.**

3. Matters arising.

None raised.

4. Election of Church Wardens.

Nominations for the role of church warden must be received in writing in advance of the meeting. Derek Hadden was nominated by Val Moore, seconded by Mark Parsons; Sian Lowe was nominated by Jo Hewitt and seconded by Giles Chanot. Derek and Sian were duly elected as church wardens for 2017/18. Thanks were expressed to Sian and Derek for the work and contributions carried out in the previous year.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 30th April 2017

The APCM followed on immediately after the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and was chaired by Paul Langham.

Apologies were received from Malcolm Bourne, Lucy Bourne, John Butler, Alison Capey, Mair Davies, Chris Davis, Nelly Davis, Maria Fenner, Andy Hains, Katherine Hill, Richard Hill, Kath Lane and Graham Stuart.

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2. Matters arising.

None raised.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll. At last year's meeting there were 455 members of the Electoral Roll. During the year 31 names were added to the roll and 71 names removed. The Roll therefore stands at 415.

4. Elections and Appointments.

Elections to the PCC

PCC elections are for a three year term and members may serve two terms before they are required to have a year's break.

Thanks were expressed to Patrick Bolster who was stepping down from PCC and as Treasurer at the APCM.

There were 2 vacancies this year and 2 nominations had been received in advance of the meeting: Adam Marriott who was nominated by Geoff Lambert and seconded by Robyn Thomas and Kevin Stone who was nominated by Chris Whitwell and seconded by Rosemary Barker. There were no further nominations, so no election was necessary and Adam and Kevin were duly elected.

Elections to the Deanery Synod

Lay members to the Deanery Synod are elected for a three year term which starts this year. Christ Church is entitled to 5 representatives. Thanks were expressed to Melanie Griffiths and Martin Freye who were standing down. Val Moore had also served a three year term but was nominated by Brendan Biggs and seconded by Di Noon to stand again. Cluff Noon was nominated by Val Moore and seconded by Simon Collier. Val and Cluff were therefore duly appointed.

Appointment of Welcomers and Stewards

The list of welcomers and stewards as displayed on the noticeboard in the entrance to Christ Church was approved.

5. Finance Report.

Patrick Bolster, PCC Treasurer, gave a short presentation on the summary finance report for 2016 which had been circulated via email before the meeting and was based on the full audited Annual Report and Accounts for 2016 which were available on the church website.

Patrick outlined the various church funds: Unrestricted General Fund, Designated Funds (Legacy and Renew), Restricted Funds and Endowment Fund.

Patrick gave a resume of the past few years showing Provision income for the last 10 years and General Fund income and expenditure for 2015 and 2016, along with the 2017 budget.

The main items for 2016 included:

- A 2% increase in our giving income.
- £182k given in Parish Share, paid to the Diocese of Bristol to support clergy, those in training, church schools and other areas of the Diocese.
- Staff Costs, which have increased due to changes in the staff team during 2015.
- £117k given to missions partners.
- £14k was invested in building and equipping the Coffee Shop ready for launch.

For 2017 the PCC has stepped out in faith to:

- Increase our giving to the Diocese
- Employ a full time youth pastor

A provision appeal was launched in February to increase our giving by £34k. We are not there yet but we are close to this target. We give thanks for everyone who has responded and we are now in a position to appoint the youth pastor.

The Spire Coffee Shop is not about making money. We are hoping to break even in 2017 but if we don't, any shortfall will be funded from the Legacy Fund.

6. Questions on the Church Finances.

Members had been invited to submit questions in advance of the meeting and also in writing at the start of the meeting. One had been received:

It was announced a few months ago that the PCC had set a 'faith budget' for what is now the current financial year. I'm puzzled by the repeated requests to complete forms giving indications of our planned giving and would be interested to know how they are justified against the declared position. Surely setting any budget is a decision of faith (even for commercial companies). In over thirty years of church attendance, Christ Church is the only one where I have been regularly asked to give an indication of my intended giving?

Patrick replied that all budgeting has a faith element but for 2017 the PCC "stepped out in faith". Christ Church has a long standing practice of an annual Provision appeal. While everything we do is "in faith" we do need a basis to plan, and Provision enables us to do this and therefore make decisions.

There was also an opportunity for questions from the floor:

I'm curious why Parish Share dropped £18k between 2015 and 2016?

Patrick replied that in 2015 we had a cautious budget and found that at year end our income was ahead of budget so the PCC decided to give an additional gift to the Diocese in that year.

What progress is being made on the broken loop system?

Paul will comment on this later as it's not a financial question.

Several mentions have been made that information can be gathered on the internet. Will hard copies be available for those who do not have this facility?

Yes! There are hard copies available here today and copies can be requested from the InfoHub at any time.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Patrick and the Finance Team for their work during the year.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiners.

Patrick Bolster proposed the appointment of Burton Sweet as the church independent examiners for 2017. This was approved.

A time of prayer followed.

8. Paul's Talk.

Paul began by thanking the members of Church Family who have embraced the way we have done things this morning. Paul's talk will be extended over the next couple of weeks (and will be available online).

Paul read from Isaiah 54: 2-3 - God's design for the church is expansion and growth: people, territory and influence.

Paul gave three examples of how growth is happening at Christ Church

- Trailblazers – are needing a larger meeting room
- 20's and 30's moved up from the crypt to the church
- Midweek service growing week by week.

Headlines

- **Appointment of Youth Worker** - 11 applicants have been short-listed to 3 strong candidates. Paul asked for prayer for the candidates and for God's guidance to the three panels who are deliberating. Paul expressed thanks to Kate Moreton and the team for all they have done in overseeing the interim.
- **People** – Our core driver is to see people coming to Christ. Archbishop Welby had launched “Thy Kingdom Come”, an initiative from Ascension to Pentecost with an emphasis on praying for people we know to come to Christ. Paul gave a definition of Evangelism as when someone knows more about Jesus when they leave you than when they met you. Paul urged the church to join in the initiative.
- **RENEW** will be happening in stages.
 - Phase 1 (Coffee Shop) is complete. Paul expressed a huge vote of thanks to those involved and gave a call to encourage people to visit and use the Coffee Shop. Volunteers are still welcome to join the team. The Coffee Shop Manager Role is being now being advertised.
 - Phase 2 (Crypt) is to be discussed at the next PCC.
- **Changes to the Sunday pattern.** It is six months since the changes were made and time has come to conduct a review. Copies of a questionnaires have been circulated by email and are at the InfoHub. The key question is “What do you see God doing?”
- **Our call to bless the City.** Erica Bebb was invited to talk about her work in the Diocese. She shared that since September she had been sensing the call to serve artists and creatives in a new way and has been given space and time to listen and explore this further. Part of our vision is to see the church move out; to serve the city and be a resource centre. Erica will be setting up a “Fresh Expression of Church for Creatives and Artists”. Erica advised that she will still be at Christ Church once a month and will continue to be involved with the CC Creative group. Members of Erica's Core Team were prayed for and commissioned for the work ahead.
- **Coffee Shop** – Paul noted that when we get a vision God always does more and opportunities are now being discussed for hosting a Memory Cafe for the community.
- **Remembrance of church family members who had died in the past year** Beryl Davis, Joan Hodgson, John Warne and Liz Wright. A time of silence followed.

An opportunity for questions to Paul followed:-

[Is there anything more we can do in the short term to improve the hearing aid loop?](#)

Mark Parsons was invited to respond. Mark advised that the existing system is infra-red and currently has a broken transmitter, of a design which is now obsolete. Mark is actively looking at how this can be repaired as soon as possible.

No further questions were received.

9. The meeting closed at 11.45am with a prayer, a blessing and a final hymn.