



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners - Sunday 22nd April 2018

The meeting was held within the context of a service of worship which started at 10:00am. Paul Langham thanked Helen Albon, Alice Denyer and Rosemarie Hall as they stood down from roles on the PCC.

Gay and Adrian Sawyer were celebrated for their full time voluntary service to CCC, and presented with a gift from the church family upon their retirement. Sue and Derek Hadden were celebrated as Derek steps down from his role as church warden and they prepare for their move to Exeter.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham

1. Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.

Morag Gillespie was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 30th April 2017.

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. Graham Stuart was nominated by Chris Davis, seconded by Roberto Elvira; Sian Lowe was nominated by Emelye Chanot and seconded by Sue Hadden. Graham and Sian were duly elected as church wardens for 2018/19. Thanks were expressed to Sian and Derek for their work and contributions carried out in the previous year.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 22nd April 2018

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

Apologies were received from Rosemary Barker, John Butler, Mair Davies, Andy Hains, Rosemarie Hall, Mike Innes, Kathleen Lane, Val Moore, Patrick O'Connor, Ginny O'Connor, Catherine Simmonds and Selva Venugopalan.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting – 30th April 2017.** 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.

2. Matters arising.

None raised.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll. At last year's meeting there were 415 members of the Electoral Roll. During the year 44 names were added to the roll and 19 names removed. The Roll therefore stands at 440.

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.

There were 3 vacancies this year and 1 nomination had been received in advance of the meeting: David Newton was nominated by Mark Parsons and seconded by Derek Hadden. David was duly elected.

Elections to the Deanery Synod

Lay members to the Deanery Synod are elected for a three year term which runs from 2017-2020. Christ Church is entitled to 5 representatives of which there are two vacancies. Errol King was nominated by Gemma Gaudion and seconded by Philip Coomber, and duly elected.

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, of the finance team, gave a short presentation on the summary finance report for 2017 which had been circulated via email before the meeting and was based on the full audited Annual Report and Accounts for 2017, available on the church website.

Patrick thanked the church family for their giving over the year and outlined the various church funds: Unrestricted General Fund, Designated Funds (Legacy and Renew), Restricted Funds and Endowment Fund.

The general fund received £400k in giving, £85k in gift aid, £79k in rental income, £9k in other income and £23k in events income. The expenditure was £210k in parish share, £160k in staff costs, £94k in mission giving, £95k on buildings, £27k on support costs and £50k in ministry costs. Our expenditure was 7% higher than our income, giving us a £40k deficit. £46k more giving was budgeted for than received, and gift aid fell by £13k as a result.

The legacy fund received £5k this year, and £14k from the fund was spent to pay the senior lay pastors. £7k was put into the legacy fund from coffee shop income, and £26k spent on coffee shop costs. The decision to extend the coffee shop opening hours is in response to feedback which suggests this will increase our income and help the coffee shop break even.

The Renew fund received £300 this year. The fund was used to cover depreciation costs of £13k, £9k was spent on Renew works, £5k on building the coffee shop and £15k was used to pay the senior lay pastors. The Renew fund reduced overall by £42k.

Looking to 2018, the General Fund budget forecasts that it will cost £11,750 per week to run Christ Church while income will be £11,200 per week. We will need £550 per week of new or increased giving to balance the General Fund.

Patrick noted that there were some one-off expenses in 2017, which constituted £10k of the £40k deficit. One contributing factor was the PCC's compassionate decision to house an asylum seeker in the Linden Gate basement flat, thus reducing our rental income potential.

Patrick acknowledged a need to talk more about money and giving in the year to come, and to add more details to our website.

A time of questions followed which were answered by Patrick and Paul:

Colin Havill asked, "In broad terms we seem in 2017 to have spent £110,000 more than we received in unrestricted funds, about £86,000 more than budgeted. This has probably come as a surprise to many of the people here. For 2018 there is a budget to spend an excess of £61,000, but this is dependent on The Spire Coffee Shop breaking even and an increase in net giving of £29,000. Going forwards:

- How does the PCC plan to keep the congregation informed of the church's finances?*
- What additional emphasis is going to be put on giving and the financial needs of the church as part of our times of worship?*
- What impact is the ongoing use of reserves going to have on the Renew project finances?"*

"If we use our reserves and Renew Funds then the amounts in the funds reduce. The uses of the Renew Fund have been for specific items that will last for a particular period of time, unlike the General Fund which is for the day to day workings of the church. We intend to increase financial communication through various media forms during the coming year. We welcome people's thoughts on the preferred ways to do this effectively."

Nick Pollock asked, "There is clearly a balance to be struck between living in faith and being prudent with resources. Over the past few years there has been an emerging pattern of running a deficit. Is this sustainable?"

"Over the last 11 years there have been 6 years in surplus and 5 years of deficits. The simple answer 'no'; we cannot go on with a situation where our giving does not cover general church requirements for ministry and mission. The separate funds are a different matter and I will talk about Renew very shortly. The PCC are beginning to pray very seriously into the use of our legacy funds, which always arrive with extraordinary timing. It seems to us that we are being given sums of money to enable us to manage the transition. There is clearly a transition in demographic from an older core membership to a much younger core membership. People who are older often have more disposable income, just because of their stage of life. This is one reality we are facing today. Acknowledging that we have no intention for this lack to continue, I feel confident that we have great capacity within the church family, not least because of the new people joining on a regular basis, but young people have less disposable income so it may take more incoming young people to match the giving of one older person who leaves for any reason. As a PCC we are looking at various ways in which we can communicate better. We will be creating videos to explain our vision in more detail, and how all of us are needed to make that vision a reality."

Chris Tothill asked: "I was wondering what the justification was for using the Renew fund to pay some of the [senior lay] pastors?"

Paul answered: "This was a PCC decision when we made the appointment, because we believed the lay pastors would have a significant role in encouraging and supporting the church family and to bring confidence in leadership to the church family, which would in itself have a direct impact on our ability to deliver Renew. That was the reason we saw the role both as a general pastoral role but also specifically a role to answer questions about Renew and bring confidence to that."

Alasdair Groves asked: "As a finance team, do you feel you have a good enough overview of the church to be able to say whether we as a fellowship could give more efficiently through gift aid?"

Mark Parsons answered: "The answer is 'yes', partly because we have moved our giving over to new software over the past year which enables us to see very quickly who has a gift aid declaration and who doesn't, and then to write to those people and say if you fill in this declaration you can increase your giving by 25p for every pound you give. One of the things we are finding, which is partly a product of our changing demographics and partly a product of the Single Person's Tax Allowance rising, is that quite a number of our givers then reply and say 'really sorry, I don't pay enough tax to do that.' We are on to it and we do do that periodically."

Paul thanked the finance team for all the work they do.

Paul took a moment to remember those who have died in the past year (Tony Blacker, Alastair Craig, Joan Grigg, Rhona Beare) and a time of prayer and worship followed.

6. Paul's Talk.

Paul began by telling stories about a 'City of Hope'; Bristol, Jesus, Christ Church and you. He asked whether they would remain stories, or whether we could really make them happen. Today marks a new journey, standing shoulder to shoulder, of transforming vision into reality.

- Why?
- How?
- What?

Why are we here?

We believe the Church exists to change the world one person, one city, one nation at a time. This is both our vision and our identity. It always has been the vision and identity of God's people

Isaiah 55: 1-7

*"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.*

*²Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labour on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.*

*³Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.*

*⁴See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.*

*⁵Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the LORD your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour.”*

*⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.*

*⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

God's people have never had the luxury of building just for themselves. Our work is to build great communities, great workplaces, great schools, a great city which flourishes for everyone in it. When the Church is at its heart, this is the Kingdom of God. If the voice of Jesus, and the good news He brings, is to be heard in a society increasingly alien to the Church, we need to show the Kingdom in more ways than just words. We do this by being the people God made us in the places He calls us. Jesus within us advances the common good. He increases generosity, mercy and justice. Jesus within us changes lives and culture. He changes everything.

What is our part?

- A heart of the individual
- A heart for the nations
- **A heart for the city**

On 5th May 2018, Mayor Marvin Rees will launch “Building Bristol: a city of hope”. One of Marvin's questions is ‘what runs in the veins of our city?’ There is a great deal of poison, cynicism, negativity and rejection of possibility running through the veins of Bristol. As believers, let's fill the veins of our city with positivity and hope: write to the Bristol Post, stand up and thank our councillors, telling them we are praying for them, wanting to see them thrive.

What would it look like if we asked ‘what have we got and how can we help’?

We will have three focuses for **Heart for the City**:

- Family life
- Partnership with Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston
- Extreme Poverty

Three of the final Old Testament prophets talk extensively about restoring and rebuilding the temple as a house of prayer, so that every person from every race, tribe, nation and tongue can come and receive a welcome and an invitation to come and discover that God is indeed good. That is our vision for the next phase of Renew. Paul then talked through the architect's plans for the changes to the crypt, which are currently on display in the main church.

The Church Family were invited to partner with the vision, under the great commission.

All attendees were given a vision booklet at the end of the meeting.

7. The meeting closed at 11.55am with a prayer, a blessing and a final hymn.