



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners - Sunday 29th April 2019

The meeting was held within the context of a service of worship which started at 10:00am. Neil Shepherd welcomed those attending the gathering from the 8, 10 & the 5.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham

1. Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.

Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 22nd April 2018.

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 Churchwardens.

Nominations for the role of Churchwarden must be received in writing in advance of the meeting. This year only one Churchwarden has been nominated - Graham Stuart who was nominated by Mark Orriss, seconded by Catherine Simmonds. A second Church Warden has yet to be identified, however once this happens an extraordinary meeting will take place within a Sunday gathering. The reason for this is that Sian Lowe is stepping down as Churchwarden.

Paul expressed his gratitude to Sian and her family for everything she brought to the position, including exemplifying the ability to speak truth to him and fellow leaders, her wisdom and insight and being one of the first to suggest bringing items to prayer.

Graham was elected to stand as Churchwarden for the coming year.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 29th April 2019

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

Apologies were received from John and Beryl Collins, Andy Hains, Colin Havill, Susan Hooper, Peter and Susan Smithson

1. Minutes of the last meeting – 22nd April 2018. 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 440 members of the Electoral Roll. Every 6 years the Church of England requires every parish to completely renew their roll – which means every name is removed and those who wish to be members are invited to join afresh. This was the case in 2019 and the revised Roll presented to the meeting numbered 354.

4. Elections and Appointments.

Elections to the PCC

There are 15 elected places on the PCC with 1/3rd of the places elected each year. PCC members stand for a three year term but sometimes members resign mid-term. This is why there were 14 places available for election at this year's meeting. The PCC will aim to rectify this during the year by asking some of those elected this year to stand for either a one or two year term. This will not affect their right to stand again at the end of that term.

Paul thanked those who are stepping down from the PCC: Alex Creavin, David Daniels, Andy Macpherson and Sara Wadsworth.

There were 14 vacancies this year and 10 nominations had been received in advance of the meeting:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
John Butler	Rosemary Barker	Colin Havill
Mark Ellis	Matt Lowe	Nick Price
Alasdair Groves	Nelly Davis	Chris Brown
Jonathan Hendry	Mark Parsons	Michael Sharp
Di Noon	Oni Milne	Mair Davies
Mark Orriss	Catherine Simmonds	Graham Stuart
Tavi Price	Sian Lowe	Jen Ellis
Catherine Simmonds	Mark Orriss	Val Moore
Peter Smithson	Mark Parsons	Nick Carter
David Troughton	Mark Orriss	Graham Stuart

As there were fewer people standing than places, there was no election and so Paul declared that each of those standing was elected.

Thanks was also expressed to others standing down for their roles:

- Richard Bebb looking to stand down as a Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Hannah Parson – has moved on from being Spire Coffee Shop Manager
- Andrew and Rebekah Stansbury, who have been involved in the leadership at the 5 gathering, are leaving to be Associate Pastors at Hope Chapel. Paul expressed his thanks for the amazing work they have done giving 2½ days a week in leadership and how this has born fruit in particular within the Tuesday Community in raising up new leaders.

Paul welcomed Rhean and Kevin Fox to the church family – Rhean will be our new Pastor for Older People as Nelly Davis steps down as Seniors Minister.

Paul gave a few words of thanks for Nelly. Nelly is a woman of prayer and was Nanny to Pete Greig! (of 24/7 prayer movement). She started working for Christ Church in 1981 as Parish Worker. She has had many roles within the life of Christ Church as well as being Director of the SPACE Project helping the most disadvantaged families in our city. Much of what Nelly has done goes unseen, particularly on the

pastoral side. Nelly was extraordinarily dedicated and loyal as she found herself ministering to those most affected by changes that followed when Paul arrived at Christ Church but she was able to remain fully devoted to her seniors whilst remaining fully loyal to the leadership – which was extraordinary and not an easy thing to do.

Nelly was presented with a gift from the Church Family.

5. Finance Report.

David Newton, PCC Treasurer, gave a short presentation on the summary finance report for 2018 which had been circulated via email before the meeting and was based on the full audited Annual Report and Accounts for 2018, available on the church website.

David thanked the other members of the finance team, Patrick Bolster, David Daniels, Mark Parsons and recognised that being part of a team who can offer support and advice has been really appreciated.

A presentations was given by David in February 2019 that covered most of what happened in 2018 but he ran through the main points again within the meeting. Some questions that members of the church family had been sent in were also covered within the presentation.

General Fund

Most General Fund income comes from the regular giving of the church family plus Gift Aid and also some property income. The main expenditure items are the “parish share” (our contribution to the Diocese), salaried staff, mission, and maintaining and operating the church, its property and equipment. To achieve a balanced budget we set an ambitious target for income. However, this was achieved through new and increased giving, which was really encouraging.

Overall income exceeded expenditure by over £7k, taking the General Fund balance at year end to £43k.

Legacy Fund

One of the hardest things for the PCC is deciding what to do with this fund. A large amount of time is spent within the PCC debating and discussing what we should be doing with it. Nothing is spent from the fund without first going through the PCC.

There are 4 kind of things that Legacy Fund is used for - keeping in mind the balance of not frittering it away nor burying it in the sand:

- 1) One off items of capital expenditure or repair – e.g. church spire in 2018, plans to refurbishing the lobby in 2020
- 2) Temporary things: e.g. pay £10k of the parish share to enable us not to reduce our share
- 3) Transition – e.g. 50% of the lay pastor salary in 2018 / PA to Paul in 2019 (case brought to the PCC by the Churchwardens)
- 4) Seed Corn – to make an investment for the future e.g. the Spire Coffee Shop - building something for the future. [Spire Coffee Shop – tremendous progress in 2018 with a view to breaking even in 2019 – if this is not reached we need to review – however it’s worth reiterating that the primary purpose for the Spire was to have the church open and to make connections with the community and this is happening in a big way so this is not purely viewed from a financial point of view]

The overall fund reduction in 2018 was £41k leaving the fund with £368k.

Renew Fund

In 2018 the designated Renew Fund was used to fund costs associated with the development of plans to renew the church building (£19k), 50% of the salary costs of the Lay Pastors (£15k), and depreciation of items relating to the renewal of the church building (£13k). This was offset by a small amount of interest and investment income.

The overall fund reduction in 2018 was £46k leaving the fund with £666k

Budget for 2019

A couple of things that have changed this year - the PCC has agreed that in 2019 we should increase our Parish Share for inflation. Staff will receive a 2.5% inflationary pay rise (with a £5k impact on General Fund).

To balance the General Fund budget this will require an **increase in giving of £14k** compared to 2018. We will continue to make the church family aware of our financial needs, and closely monitor our income and expenditure to ensure our financial position is balanced and sustainable.

Some good news and bad news – the good news was that each month so far this year more people have been joining than leaving, however the pattern has tended to be that often people arriving are younger and may have less resources than those leaving, therefore we are not hitting our target at the moment.

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

Questions regarding the Church Finances have been received from Sam Creavin and Francis Parkinson before the meeting both of which have been covered by the Finance presentation.

A further question has come in from Lisa Sankey: Last year we had the privilege as a church family of offering compassionate housing to an Iranian asylum seeker in Linden Gate. Can we please know how this has worked out – for him, but also for us financially - and whether it will be an ongoing commitment?

Mark did a calculation and the total cost to us in 2018 was £6k. It is worth noting that although Ario's case took longer than we expected when we took him in, he now has been given leave to remain and we hope he will be able to stay on at Linden Gate in a rent paying capacity which should be in place very soon. He is also volunteering for us on a daily basis in the coffee shop.

Questions for Paul:

One was received in advance from Rosemarie Hall: Please can we be advised why the organ is no longer being played regularly on Sunday at the 10am gathering? Since Adrian sadly left us, what arrangements have been made.

Paul answered by saying that we have been extremely blessed to have had, until recently, three organists. Adrian and Gay have now made the sensible decision to worship in Clevedon (where they live) on a Sunday morning so that means we now have two. It has just been a question of life and availability due to family circumstances but it is certainly our intention to keep the organ a vital and vibrant part.

Paul asked the gathering to stand whilst we remember those members of the church family who have gone home to be with Jesus in this last year. Before Paul read out the names the gathering prayed

remembering those who were killed, those with lifelong injuries and those who will live with the grief of what happened in Sri Lanka one week ago.

Paul then read the names in order of their passing.

Jill Garfitt (April)

Andy Bugler (September)

Frances Gower (September)

Denise Raytor (November)

Doreen Wood (February)

Joyce Stephenson (March)

6. Paul's Talk.

Paul opened in prayer.

INTRODUCTION:

The passages Matthew 6 and 16 were not read out due to the gathering overrunning but will be sent out later in the week, but the two key phrases that will be used as overviews are these:

Jesus saying to his disciples:

- 1) I will build my church
- 2) And you seek first the kingdom

It has long been said that the Local church is the hope of the world ...

God is constantly reforming the church, reawakening it, making it fit for purpose

So it's important to set our story within that of the world-wide church

Key shift is focus - From itself i.e. the church / to an increase of focus on the Kingdom

This releases a whole new way of thinking:

- Kingdom focus leads to a contrast between where the energy was brought in to sustain the life of the church / Now energy is focussed outward
- A shift in attitude – from what suits me / to the needs of others beyond our walls
- No longer a place of retreat / now a people of rescue
- Work of the church was just about saving souls / now also called to shape culture – called to be salt and light in the world.
- Church was mainly about programmes / now it's about being a place to host his presence
- Trained to be self-reliant / Spirit reliant
- Here I am Lord, send her / Here I am Lord - not specific to certain individuals but all of us
- Staff do everything / an army equipped for service
- You (consumer) / Us – ownership – it is our family, our church
- Pretence / Authenticity
- Closed / Open (Churches no longer acting as competitors but of blessing and release)
- Risk adverse / now risk taking
- Settling for the possible / we talk about the impossible
- Wanting control / people willing to release

- Judged success on internal “numbers” / measure success on our impact on the Kingdom
- Events we attend / life done together
- Church that was static / church that is dynamic
- Church in wilderness or exile / called into the promised land to rebuild the city

OUR VISION

So at our Annual Meeting last year, we launched our vision (hard copies available / or via website)

We asked the questions Why, How and What?

WHY are we here?

We believe the Church exists to change the world – one person, one city, one nation at a time.

HOW will we do this?

3 Key Words:

- **Connect** (meeting God / Finding Family)
- **Grow** (Restoring Identity/ releasing purpose)
- **Influence** (Empowering people / Transforming Culture)

We are on a journey (from meeting God to Transforming Culture) and if we evaluate ourselves and our ministries by these words it means that our faith cannot become inward looking because it is always on a journey outwards towards others.

WHAT is our part?

- a **HEART** for the individual
- a **HEART** for the city
- a **HEART** for the nations

The more we revisit this as a leadership, the more we recognise that these are in fact values ...

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2018 / 2019 into 2020

- 1. Small Communities**
- 2. Leadership Development**
- 3. Wholeness**

NEIL: Our Small Communities – *our vision is to see small communities as the heartbeat of Christ Church.*

During 2018 we:

- Launched several new small communities
- Transitioned Tuesday Community from a central weekly event into a midsize community with small communities attached.
- Saw four Tuesday Community small communities multiply.
- Invested in our small community leaders through monthly training and resourcing evenings
- Something about mid-size?

Stories from our Small Communities:

- 'We are beginning to social together outside of the actual small community meeting time'
- 'We have had new members join us over the last year that have found a sense of family'
- 'Julia Loveless visited and helped us worship together which is now a key part of our meetings – sets the atmosphere and helps us meet with God'
- 'Members of the group have been empowered to step out in faith in business ventures'
- 'Teaching material has been useful to help us enable others to lead within our group'
- 'New members that are on a journey of understanding the Christian Faith have been amazed by the welcome and have experienced hospitality and food in homes other than their family home'
- 'Small community is a place they feel safe'
- 'One member of the group who "heard" the truth of Ephesians for the first time and the significant impact this is having on their lives'
- 'Many already volunteering in the community and coming to understand that this is not separate from their faith walk but a part of releasing purpose'
- 'Small community has become a place to share the challenges and frailties of life however big or small they are'

Leadership Development – *we recognise that good leadership is the key to healthy communities.*

During 2018 we:

- Invested in our small community leaders through monthly training and resourcing evenings.
- Developed one-to-one mentoring and leadership development, particularly amongst young adults.
- Raised up more leaders for our gatherings.
- Saw ten new people enter Small Community leadership

PAUL: Wholeness – *we are committed to creating the optimum environment in which God can grow us.*

In 2018 we:

- Continued with the 'Year of Growth' teaching series, which was resourced through notes, introductory and recap videos and resources for small communities.
- Ended the 'Year of Growth' in July with a 'harvest festival' full of stories and testimonies from the year and two baptisms.
- Agreed to focus on wholeness as the major theme for the 10 and the 5 for 2018-2019

PAUL: Prayer – *we recognised the need to reinvigorate our corporate prayer*

In 2018 we:

- Started termly half-nights of prayer – with two during the year with around 30 people attending each.
- Relaunched a first Monday monthly prayer gathering.
- Started a new Thursday morning prayer gathering with a 'heart for the city' focus. This is alongside our Saturday morning 'heart for the nations' prayer gathering.
- Tried different ways of introducing corporate prayer into our Sunday gatherings.

A HEART FOR THE CITY

Desire to bless the Community and our city – we welcomed the invitation from our Mayor Marvin Rees alongside many other churches to get more involved in issues such as social justice and where there are needs in the city. And we have also welcomed an invitation from the central diocesan leadership to explore becoming a Resourcing Church.

We're beginning to think (as a church leadership) that this may be one of the reasons that we have not been able to appointment an Associate Vicar and are having some creative dialogue with the centre of our diocese on how that particular post may be used for church planting and resourcing new life across the city.

Key Areas in our Heart for the City:

1) Link with Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston

Just before Christmas we commissioned two couples to leave Christ Church to support the work of Andy and Emma Murray in Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston.

The gathering watched 2 videos : Ginny & Patrick O'Connor & Rachel Marriot talking about what God has been doing and what we can pray for.

Ben & Kerry Nias with their two children Lizzy & James have also recently heard the same call to go to join Andy & Emma Murray. They asked the gathering to pray for the move, for God to use them and for them to build deep relationships.

2) Family Life

We already do a great deal –

- Pre-school ... recently awarded the Bristol Standard for Health for their work on Emotional Health and Wellbeing – this is the area in which Pre-school was awarded 'Outstanding' by OFSTED.
- 2018 we hosted a Light Party with 200+ children and their parents helped by 40 volunteers
- Welcomed an average of 55 families (which means around 70 to 80 young children) to Toddlers each Thursday.
- Launched Monday morning Toddlers at The Spire with between 8 and 15 families with young children attending for craft, story time and singing round the piano.
- Expanded Christmas Experience with more schools and over 300 Year 3 school children attending.
- Welcomed over 200 Year 6 school children to 'walk through' the holy week and the Easter story at Easter Experience.
- Ran a weekly children's choir for the local community with up to 40 children attending regularly.
- Ran the Marriage Course
- Provided marriage prep and mentoring
- Got involved in the Relationship Academy

New things:

Ruthy Lillington (our Children's Minister) Jan Tyrell and Emelye Chanot have sensed God's call for us as a church to begin to address some of the critical mental health issues in local schools. We are going to do this by partnering with the national charity Transforming Lives for Good (TLG). Emelye has offered 15hrs a week to us to begin building on from the relationships with schools from the work that Jane Gillis has started and that we have through the Christmas and Easter experiences.

CHANGE

In response to all this, things are changing

Leadership

- Neil & Natalie will gather a new team to oversee the 10
- Chris Whitwell will gather a new team to oversee the 5
- Sophie Brown is now heading up sung worship at the 10
- Julia Loveless is now heading up sung worship at the 5
- Ruthy's role needs to change as she responds to the deep family needs of our culture – PCC will be looking at funding extra support for her
- Mike McAllister will be joining us as our Spire Coffee Shop Manager
- Rhean Fox is our new Pastor for Older People

Building Project

RENEW:CHRISTCHURCH – Phase 1 = Spire

RENEW:CHRISTCHURCH – Phase 2 = Crypt

There's been a long delay with various planning consultations, esp. with Bristol City Council Planning & Conservation Team. We're at the stage where they are happy for us to make a formal application, but we still need to make *robust justification for the works*

The Renew Team

The PCC has set up a Renew Client Team to guide it through the project which reports to the PCC. The team is Chaired by Mike Innes and currently includes:

- Simon Hygate
- Paul Langham
- Mark Parsons
- Paddy Sykes
- Jan Tyrrell

We expect the team to grow as further skills are required.

The team is supported by a professional team of architects and surveyors.

What happens next?

- A formal application will be submitted for planning permission in early May. This can be a long process but we hope to have a decision by August.
- At the same time, the scheme will be further refined and a Faculty Application will be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- Over the next few months we will be developing a fundraising strategy to start the process of raising the necessary money. Our surveyors estimate that the project should be deliverable within £2 million. We already have £666,662 in designated funds.
- Subject to planning permissions and fundraising, we hope to start building work in January 2020.

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