

Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St. John the Evangelist

Lacey Green, Loosely Row and Speen

Sunday 23 April 2017

Opening prayers were led by Rev. Canon Tony Bundock.

Parishioners' Meeting

1. A total of 28 parishioners were present. Apologies were received from Shirley Billsborough, Mike Eden and Doreen Lett.
2. There was no matter arising from the minutes of meeting held on the 17th of April 2016 that were approved by Pat Rushmere. Proposed by Margaret Gray and seconded by Graham King.
3. Nominations and elections of churchwardens for the coming year: Nominations were received and approved for Pat Rushmere (proposed by John Gabbitas and seconded by Mark Roberts) and Dick Field (proposed by Marian Rudd and seconded by Cheron Mole). Thanks were given to Dick and Pat for their work over the last year and before.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes from the APCM held on 17th April 2016 were approved by Pat Rushmere. Proposed by Rosemary Mortham and seconded by Caroline Gulliver.
2. The Vicar's report was given by Rev. Canon Tony Bundock. Pat and Rev Tony Bundock are happy here and about half way through their time. They hope for an extension if Rev Tony is fit and well. With regards to St. John's church, we are very happy on many fronts. There are fewer children than in the past but there are many competing activities on Sunday mornings. More leaders have been found and outreach to the schools is happening.
3. The Annual Reports were presented by Rev Tony. Thanks were given to all contributors to the reports.
 - a. We are deeply blessed with the quality of music at the church. We would love to have more children take part. Great appreciation was given by Cheron Mole, who leads our music, to Rosemary Mortham for her support for the choir. These

sentiments were echoed by the people present, Rev. Tony and the churchwardens .

- b. Thanks were given to Mark Roberts, who is the head server. All service is given with great faithfulness and dignity.
4. The Electoral Roll for 2015 was 81, a reduction of 2 due to the deaths of Brian Lunn and Molly Ward. Margaret Gray was re-appointed as Electoral Roll Officer.
 5. The Annual Accounts were presented by Caroline Gulliver.
 - a. For the past 3 years, the church has covered our expenses but last year we were £2000 short. The receipts and expenses are summarised in the report. The major expense is the Parish Share which will continue to rise. The major income is giving. Fundraising fell short because an event was cancelled due to lack of support. This demonstrates that it is important to support fundraising events. We do give and the report shows where we have given. The importance of regular giving was emphasised because our cashflow must be sufficient to pay our monthly Parish Share (£3000).
 - b. Parish Share is calculated a complicated formula based on our Electoral Roll, income, the fact that we have Tony (half a clergy) and other considerations. A budget is worked out for the Area and shared out. We can appeal but there hasn't been much challenge because it is a generally fair system. We did make a successful appeal a few years ago because Caroline Gulliver found that the formula had been used incorrectly. The Church commission doesn't pay the salary and other costs for the clergy this now comes from the Parish Share.
 - c. The other budgets (restoration and organ funds) are healthy but a large project would change that.
 - d. The Outlook is that we need to keep a balanced budget and cover our deficit last week. The budget for fundraising this year is £6000. We need to achieve this to break even. Events have been scheduled the main ones are the Summer Fete and the Christmas Fayre. The events to date have raised the target income.
 - e. Hugh Thomas-Davies asked about charitable giving, there is a substantial drop since last year; however, this is a fundamental part of Christianity. We had budgeted to give more but if we haven't got it, we can't give it. We have tried to run some fundraising events for other causes eg, Lent Lunches (Mercy Ships, Christian Aid and Rennie Grove). We always pay our Parish Share in full and some of that money also goes to charitable causes. The intention is always to donate what we can. If we balance our budget we can also give. With regards to regular giving, there was a finance letter recently that has got a good response and this is a very important part of our financial well-being. Until we put out this request, finances had not been reviewed in line with personal income for some time.

- f. Jill White raised that the Baptist chapel in Speen are rebuilding their church hall having raised the money. They don't pay Parish share but they do pay for their own vicar, housing and costs.
 - g. The full set of accounts examined by an Independent examiner are available in the porch.
6. Election of PCC members. There 3 nominations for vacancies to be filled by Cathy Tyrrell, Ann Eden and Roger Wilkes, all proposed and seconded beforehand– All approved by the meeting.
 7. Election of Deanery Synod members; no election was required. There is 1 vacancy for deanery synod but no nominations
 8. Election of Sidespersons; All current sidespersons (Margaret Gray, Pat Rushmere, Doreen Lett, John Radford, David Lawrence, Caroline Gulliver, Rebecca London and Dick Field) to remain in place, proposed by Mark Roberts and seconded by Marian Rudd.
 9. The current independent examiner, David Bedford, was approved. Proposed by Dick Field and seconded by Margaret Gray
 10. AOB
Organ Fund, John Gabbitas wanted to update the church since he set this up. The Green organ is a historic organ and the pedal would need to be replaced to restore it to original condition. This would need to be done to get lottery funding for its repair. It needs many repairs but is working and makes a wonderful sound. The decision was made years ago to keep it in its current condition because it is a great aid to services. If it was restored to its original condition it would not be adequate because it was designed to be a parlour organ. There are other grants that might be available and could do it in stages.
Cheron Mole feels it would be the wrong thing to do to use a modern type of organ, and that we could run specific fundraisers to restore the organ. It was agreed that a plan would be brought to the PCC for the repairs.
 11. Thanks were given to Rev. Tony, Caroline Gulliver and Cathy Tyrrell for the work that they do.

Parochial Church Council Meeting

1. Election of officers for 2017:
 - a. Lay Vice-Chairman: Pat Rushmere; proposed Roger Wilkes, seconded Cathy Tyrrell,
 - b. Treasurer: Caroline Gulliver; proposed Pat Rushmere, seconded Margaret Gray,
 - c. Secretary: Cathy Tyrrell; proposed Pat Rushmere, seconded Caroline Gulliver.

All appointments were approved unanimously.

Jennifer from Bledlow is retiring so there is a vacancy. Rev. David Williams has asked the PCC for our view on her replacement. We support unanimously a like for like replacement.

2. Date of first meetings: Standing Committee 9 May 2017, Full PCC 6 June 2017.

Rev. Tony closed the meeting in prayer.