

Parish of Winchcombe

Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 19th of April 2015, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: (PCC Members and officers) Alan Thomas (Chairman), Stewart Aylward & Tim Hall (churchwardens), Margaret Bearne (Secretary), Nigel Bearne, Sara Collins, Tom Hancock, Julia Hook, Tigs Hopkinson, Margaret Jarvis, David King, James Pickersgill, Martin Soltau, Sue Williams, together with 56 others on the electoral roll.

1. **Welcome and Prayers:** Alan Thomas welcomed those present and James Pickersgill opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Pat & Philip Barton, Mary Brettell, Rosemary Hancock, Penny Kain, Roseanne McEwan, Clare Pritchard, Jennifer Soltau & Elaine & Malcolm Webb.

3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Minutes of the AMP held on 27 April 2014

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and were displayed on the church website.

The minutes were approved and signed.

There were no matters arising.

b) Election of two Churchwardens

The meeting was asked to elect the churchwardens for the coming year. There were two nominations received, that of Tim Hall, proposed by Penny Kain, seconded by Margaret Jarvis and Stewart Aylward, proposed by Nigel Bearne and seconded by Alan Thomas. The vote was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Tim Hall who has been coping as the only Churchwarden for the past two years.

4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Minutes of the APCM held on 27th April 2014

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and were displayed on the church website.

The minutes were approved and signed.

b) There were no matters arising.

c) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled

Alan Thomas explained that the Winchcombe Team Ministry was officially suspended in February and that Winchcombe is now a Parish of 4 churches, St Peter's, Winchcombe, Christ Church, Gretton, St Michael's, Stanley Pontlarge and St Mary's, Sudeley Manor. This means that rather than a Rector the next minister will be a Priest-in-Charge.

A group of 5 PCC Members has been working intensely over the last 4 weeks putting together 'The Parish Profile' which is displayed on our website and provides information for candidates interested in applying for the job. Stewart Aylward was thanked for designing and implementing our new website. The advertisement for our Priest-in-Charge has appeared twice in the Church Times and there is a selection of suitable candidates on 15th May, interviews taking place on 3rd June.

i. Treasurer's Report

Sue Williams is retiring as treasurer after many years and was presented with gifts from the PCC with grateful thanks for all her hard work over many years. The accounts tabled

were put together by Sue; she reported that funds have decreased on her watch but much of that was spent on Teacher's House which last year was valued at about £270,000.

Stewart Aylward gave a slide presentation on the state of our finances explaining that the major part of our finances came from Planned Giving and the tax reclaimed from the Government and that unlike in the distant past when the Church Commissioners subsidised churches this was no longer the case. A small amount is fund-raised with events like the book sales, Summer Fete, etc. and though welcome makes up just a small part of what is required to run the Parish.

Alan Thomas said that the PCC is concerned about finances; in the past when we had plenty of money we were able to subsidise other churches in the wider Team to the sum of £20,000 annually. However it was felt that we could no longer afford to do that and Alan Thomas negotiated with the Archdeacon/Deanery to reduce our Parish Share, by £20,000 from £82,000 to £62,000, initially for one year but it can be reconsidered by the PCC. The Parish Share covers clergy pay, pensions & Diocesan Support, etc. This has brought our accounts back into the black. However this does mean that early next year we will need to have a Planned Giving Campaign.

ii. Churchwarden's Fabric Report

Tim Hall said that there was not a lot to report at present. The work on the organ is scheduled for the Summer and that faculties are being prepared for the permanent removal of the west-end pews and the repair and increase in height of the Cotswold Stone Wall on the North side of the Church bordering Abbey House Garden, the latter to be paid for by the Sorenson family who live there.

d) Elections

- i. **Election of 4 PCC Representatives:** There were 4 nominations for 4 vacancies; the following were elected unopposed:

Rob Davies,
Roger Eckley,
Lynne Horton,
Arthur Ruddock.

The following members, Courtland Clarkson, who resigned, and Margaret Bearne, Penny Kain and Michelle Walls, who came to the end of their 3-year term of office, were thanked for their services to the PCC.

- ii. **Secretary & Treasurer:** Although the Secretary and Treasurer appointments are made by the PCC at their first meeting in May, Margaret Bearne has agreed to continue as PCC Secretary and Roger Eckley has agreed to take over from Sue Williams as Treasurer.

- e) **Appointment of independent Examiner:** BL Connolly ACCA of Calderwood House, 7 Montpellier Parade, Cheltenham was appointed.

5) OTHER BUSINESS

a) Forthcoming Events

May 16th, Saturday – Jo Stevinson spoke about 'Exploring prayer' at the House of the Open Door.

June 5th Friday – Friend's of St Peter's coach trip to Worcester Cathedral.

June 20/21st Saturday/Sunday – Julia Hook highlighted the Flower Festival in Christ Church, Gretton.

June 21st Sunday – Friend's of St Peter's event, Open Gardens.

June 28th Sunday – Margaret Bearne spoke of the Summer Fete to be held in Abbey House Gardens at 12.30 following the morning Service.

July 3rd Friday – Fiona Brown highlighted the Choir Concert taking place this year.

October 16th Friday - Friend's of St Peter's Talk; Dame Janet Trotter, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, will talk about her first year in the role.

b) Notices & News

- Tom Hancock spoke about the urgent need for more church watchers as he is losing people due to ill health, moving away, etc. He explained that, in 1979 when £90,000 was needed to replace/repair the roof, English Heritage gave us £50K on condition that the church was kept open for 8 hours each day. Posters have been distributed around the Town but so far no results.
- John Sutcliffe has written a leaflet on behalf of the Charitable Giving Group explaining which charities the Church has made donations to and what they do. This leaflet can be found at the back of Church.
- Michael Hand is again taking part in Ride & Stride, on September 12th; please support by sponsoring him.
- Kathryn Pickersgill was thanked for reinvigorating the Toddler Service on a fortnightly basis.
- Messy Church has identified 18 new families who, at the moment, are on the periphery of the church and need encouragement.

c) Questions

Fiona Brown asked what provision there would be for the youth now Tigs has resigned. She said that many of them were in year 11 at school and Tigs had been giving them moral support. James Pickersgill said that Youth support is in hand; Jules Redgers has been brought back from retirement and will be helping along side Pooky Shaw.

d) Closing Prayer

A vote of Thanks was recorded to James, Julia and the retired clergy.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1 pm with the Grace.

Margaret Bearne
PCC Secretary
May 2015

Approved:

Date: