

# Parish of Winchcombe

## Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe

Present: (PCC Members and officers) Revd John Paul Hoskins (Chairman), Stewart Aylward & Margaret Bearne (Churchwardens), Geof Adlington (Treasurer), Nigel Bearne, Sara Collins (Secretary), Penny Kain, Sue Pestell, Alan Thomas, together with approximately 70 others on the electoral roll.

1. **Welcome and Prayers:** John Paul welcomed those present and opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Steve Carter, Clare Pritchard, Sue Teggert, Kate Stebbings, Tom & Rosemary Hancock, Sue Fleck, Gwyneth Cocks, Jane Wain, Kate Stebbings, John & Rosemary Hayter, Rob & Rachel Merritt, Jess Armstrong, Leo Doyle, Gill Worthington, Jennifer & Martin Soltau, Sue, Emma & Katie Milton, Heather Meikle, Rob & Cathy Willcock, Elizabeth Strong & Mike Ferris.

### 3. ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

#### a) Minutes of the AMP held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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; Stewart Aylward is now stepping down. There were two nominations received, that of Margaret Bearne and Rob Stone. There were no other nominations from the floor. The vote was carried unanimously.

There being no other business the annual meeting of parishioners closed and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Sara Collins  
PCC Secretary  
April 2018

Approved:

Date:

#### 4. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

##### a) Minutes of the APCM held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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) Review of progress & achievements: JP Hoskins reviewed the year, summarising some of the themes covered in his report. There is a lot happening in the Parish at the moment, much of which is covered in the report.

JP started by thanking Stewart Aylward for his 3 and a half years as Churchwarden, and Rosemary for all her support. Stewart will oversee a couple of tasks to completion. JP presented a gift to Stewart as a thank you. JP noted that the two Churchwardens, Margaret Bearne and Rob Stone, are wardens for the whole Parish; there are deputy wardens at each of Christchurch, Gretton, Stanley Pontlarge and St Mary's, Sudeley. The idea is to make more of a team of wardens so that tasks can be shared out, making the Churchwarden role more manageable. JP thanked Rob Davies and Sue Pestell whose term of office on the PCC has come to an end. He also thanked Alan Thomas for his role as lay chair of the PCC, Geof Adlington for his work as Treasurer (including fees treasurer), Sara Collins for her role as secretary and Rachel Merritt for co-ordinating the work in the office. JP noted that we welcomed two new readers, Fliss Hall and Chris Haslam, during the last year. This adds to the Ministry offered by Nigel, Steve Carter (who does a lot of work at Gretton) and Cliff Cocks. Following Julia Hook and James Pickersgill's moves JP is currently the only stipendiary Minister in the Parish; he is hugely grateful for the retired Clergy and Rob Pestell for their Ministry.

JP reminded us that 240/250 primary school children from Winchcombe Abbey Primary School attend a service in Church every other week. During the alternate weeks they worship at school. This is unseen by most, but significant. Toddler time has grown over the last year, particularly for those who have recently been/are soon to be Baptised. Café Church is an exciting new development at Christchurch, Gretton, meeting the needs of the community. It has been held once so far and will help the Church to grow in Gretton.

Baptisms are on the increase, particularly for those families who have recently moved to Winchcombe. Weddings have increased slightly this year, and there have been lots of wedding blessings at Sudeley. JP expressed his gratitude to Sheila, and those who had the vision for the bereavement support group to assist those in difficult times.

Pioneer Children and Families Minister: The funding has been confirmed and the post will be advertised in the next couple of weeks, with a view to interviewing on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The need for this position resulted from the vision process eighteen months ago; we are now able to move ahead. JP asked that we hold the appointment process in our prayers as the right person is sought.

Director of Music: Fiona Brown is leaving St Peter's after 26 years. The post has been placed on the Diocesan website and there have been a couple of enquiries. It will be advertised in the Church Times and Church Music Quarterly with a view to recruiting in early July. JP asked that this process is also held in our prayers. He will be speaking to the choir in the next couple of weeks to gain their thoughts on the role in the future. Others are also welcome to come forward with their views.

Rachel Murray will be ordained as a Deacon on July 1st. JP has met with her recently and she is very excited about her new role as Curate. She is moving to Delavale Road in early June.

JP reminded us that we are part of a worldwide Church, and also part of the Deanery. The life of the Deanery is struggling a bit at the moment - there is currently no Secretary, no Treasurer or no Lay Chair. JP is supporting where he can and asked us to hold the Deanery in our prayers. The team ministry of John Newcombe, Julia Hook and JP usually meet once a week.

JP ended his report by telling us that he was asked during his interview what two things excited him most in his ministry. These two things are still relevant:

- He loves sitting with individuals and helping them explore their faith. However, he feels that he spends a lot of time on administration rather than on Priestly Ministry; he wants to spend more time being a Parish priest. He apologised that sometimes other things take over.
- JP is passionate about good liturgy and good worship; if we come to know God more as we worship together, it will feed everything else that we do. He has been experimenting - for example with when to stand/sit/kneel during Communion.

Finally, JP thanked everyone at the meeting – the Ministry of the Parish is a team effort; he is grateful for everything everyone does. There is a lot of change coming up, & this is an exciting moment to be a Parish Priest.

There were no questions relating to the report.

**d) Annual Report of the PCC as tabled** – Hard copies were available in the back of Church before the meeting.

- i. **Treasurer's Report on the Accounts:** Geof Adlington explained that although it looks as though there was a surplus against budget in 2017, this was not actually the case – the Pioneer Minister did not start so this led to lower costs. There was also a windfall of £14,000 due to written-off Teachers' House loans. We were therefore able to pay off some of the outstanding liability against Parish share. There were not as many weddings last year, but more are being planned this year resulting in higher parochial fees. The driveway work is still to be completed and paid for, and there is costly work to be done on the pinnacles, grotesques and Teacher's House (see fabric report). Planned giving is up by 20%; however, more is needed as we are forecasting a loss this year, and we should be paying more to the Deanery.
- ii. **Churchwardens' Fabric Report:** Stewart Aylward noted that he has thoroughly enjoyed his last few years as Church Warden, working with Tim Hall and then Margaret Bearne. He will miss the work and wishes Rob Stone luck in his new role.

Stewart then updated us on the recent quinquennial report (carried out every five years). One pinnacle is being repaired and those on the tower need checking. A cherry picker is required for this work and needs to come from the other side of London; after this work the driveway can be completed. Hopefully this will be done by the Church fete. Stewart thanked Alan Thomas for all his work on sorting out the new chairs and the area at the back of the Church. The angel wings at Christchurch, Gretton, have been repaired and regilded in readiness for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations this year. This was funded by the Gretton congregation. Stewart reported that Rob Stone is driving the process to replace the existing toilet in St Peter's with one that is wheelchair accessible; baby changing facilities will also be included. The new children's area is accessible so that everyone can see that the Church is child-friendly.

JP asked for questions regarding the Finance and Fabric Reports. Michael Hand asked about the income generated by the solar panels; Geof reported that it is approximately £3,500. Gas costs are about £3,000. The money spent on them has been recovered so they are now generating a profit.

**e) Questions and discussion on other reports as tabled.**

Sue Pestell asked the meeting to pray for junior Church and the young people in Church. They are a lovely group who want to learn and have so much to say, please pray for the opportunity for them to explore their faith. JPH noted that chill out, which had been run by Pookie and Bob Pragnell for the last few years, has now stopped – so there is not much going on for teenagers. This needs to be revisited and relaunched.

**f) General questions and discussion**

Rob Stone noted that several members of the congregation had been on a successful pilgrimage to the Holy Land after Easter. JP thanked Rob and Natalie Stone for organising this trip.

Jules informed the meeting that a member of the congregation had expressed their dislike of the robes worn by the choir, feeling they are old fashioned. JP explained that the wearing of robes probably dates back to the Victorian period. It indicates that the choir are taking on a role on behalf of the congregation. Therefore it is not a very old tradition, and there are probably a range of views regarding the robes. St Peter's is one of the few Churches to still have a robed choir. A quick hand count indicated that those attending the meeting preferred the robes. Anne Hand noted that, on the first Sunday of each month, the youngsters in the music group wear sweatshirts, not robes. Fiona Brown said that she recognises that things are changing and we may not need a "Fiona clone"; no robes may attract more people in to the choir.

Margaret Bearne reported that the number on the electoral role is up two on last year with a split of 256 residents to 29 non-residents.

JP noted that that the general data protection regulations are changing; this is an enormous process which is being driven by Rachel Merritt.

**5. Elections**

- a. **Election of PCC Representatives:** Simon Andrews' nomination has been received. A second nomination will be confirmed later. There are 3 vacancies so Simon was elected unopposed. Sue Pestell and Rob Davies, who came to the end of their 3-year term of office, were thanked for their services to the PCC.
- b. **Deanery Synod Representatives:** JP thanked Nigel Bearne, Tom Hancock and Alan Thomas for their roles as Deanery Synod representatives. There is one vacancy; JP asked if anyone was interested, but there were no offers.

**6. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The meeting agreed that Jennifer Soltau should continue as the independent examiner.

**7. Forthcoming Events:** on back of agenda.

Christchurch Gretton will be holding a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary service on June 3rd.

**8. Closing Prayer**

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

Sara Collins  
PCC Secretary  
April 2018

Approved:

Date: