

**Finchampstead & California Parish**  
The Church Centre, Manor House, Church Lane  
Finchampstead RG40 4LU  
Tel/Fax: 0118 973 0133

PLEASE REPLY TO: **Secretary Carolyn Fox**  
**19 Gorse Ride North**  
**Finchampstead**  
**Berkshire**  
**RG40 4ES**  
**Tel: 0118 973 2262**  
**carolynfox@aol.com**

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

held at the Church Centre on Monday 25 April 2016, after the Annual Vestry Meeting at 7.30pm.

**1. PRESENT**

45 parishioners, whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll, signed the Register of Attendance and 5 clergy were also present. The meeting was chaired by Rev Canon Julie Ramsbottom.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Janice Allen, Richard Arturi-Thomas, Angelina Arturi-Thomas, David Booth, Sarah Booth, Cecily Chislett, Janet Clements, Ian Clements, Maurice Driver, Chris Driver, Joan Duncan, Martin Hughes, Chris Ilsley, Ivy Kelly, Peter McBrien, Judy McLaren, Shirley Moore, Doreen Newton, Sarah Owen, Beth Peat, Marjorie Stalker, Carol Stocker, Keith Ray, Joan Ray, Pat Weeks, Bob Weeks.

Canon Julie explained that this was the second of two meetings, the other being the Vestry Meeting. At this Annual Parochial Church Meeting, only those on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote. Papers for the meeting were in the Information Pack circulated in advance of the meeting.

**3. FOR AGREEMENT OR ACCEPTANCE**

**1 Agreement to a change to the agenda**

Barbara Brice had asked to stand down from PCC; therefore the number to be elected was now 7. This change was accepted.

**2 Approval of Minutes of 2015 Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 21 April 2015**

There being no amendments, they were proposed by Hugh Dempster, seconded by Paul Arscott, agreed unanimously and duly signed by the chairman as a true record.

**3 Report and Financial Statement of the PCC for the 12 months to 31 December 2015**

Canon Julie invited questions of Debbie Watthey, treasurer, on the Financial Review and Accounts and of Carolyn Fox on the Report and Review of the PCC activities. There were no questions. Acceptance of the Annual Report and financial statements was proposed by Dave Moore, seconded by Thelma Campbell and agreed unanimously.

Canon Julie expressed thanks to Debbie and the 'treasury team' as well as the other members of the Finance & Stewardship Committee for their hard work during the year and in getting all the papers to the examiner. Debbie was particularly thanked for alerting the PCC to the overspend part way through the year, so that the matter could start to be addressed in the year. Robert Alder was thanked for his work on Regular Giving and Gift Aid and the clergy for their encouragement of giving from the pulpit. The meeting showed its appreciation with applause.

Special thanks were also given to Debbie, as she was stepping down from the role, for all that she had done for the parish as treasurer, for the clarity and challenge she has brought to the PCC over our financial affairs. Debbie was applauded warmly.

**4 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Parish Church**

Canon Julie thanked the Churchwardens for their work in being responsible for the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, for checking the inventory and for preparing the report. In answer to a question from Susan Meikle, the meeting was advised that NADFAS is compiling a report on the church, assisted by Olive Butchart. It was proposed (Kate Meads), seconded (Julia Arscott) and unanimously approved that the report be accepted.

Canon Julie thanked the Tuesday Working Party for their DIY work around the church and Manor House, the Gardening Club for their work in the Churchyard and the ad hoc working parties during the year; Ed Sampson added his thanks as the volunteer labour has saved the church a huge amount. He also thanked Canon Julie for her hard work in progressing the administrative work on the Churchyard Extension. Canon Julie thanked the cleaners, tidiers and flower arrangers at both churches; those who set up the School hall, Parish Centre and Church Centre for worship; in fact everyone who helps look after the buildings and possessions of the parish. The meeting responded with applause. Rev Mark-Aaron asked for help, over and above the annual spring clean, to look after the SMSJ Parish Centre and the bushes and area round it.

## **5 Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

Carolyn Fox was thanked for preparing the report and for producing a report of each Synod meeting for the PCC. The other Deanery Synod representatives were also thanked (Paul Arscott, Nicky Alder, Martin Hughes, Dave Moore, Richard Owen and Sharon White as our elected representatives to 31 May 2017). There were no comments or questions. It was proposed (Gill Myall), seconded (Sue Sampson) and unanimously approved that the Deanery Synod report be accepted.

## **6 Report on the Electoral Roll for this APCM**

Nicky Alder was thanked for her work as Electoral Roll Officer and for amending the Roll and preparing the report for this meeting and for each PCC meeting. Marjorie Stalker and Sharon White were also thanked for their assistance in updating the Roll with SMSJ names. The next completely new Roll will be in 2019. More names may be added after the APCM and Nicky advised she had some to be added. The present Roll has 476 members. Canon Julie advised that we were the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Electoral Roll in the Diocese. It was proposed (Sharon White), seconded (Susan Meikle) and unanimously approved that the revised Electoral Roll be accepted.

## **7 Report from the PCC Committees & Church Groups**

Canon Julie explained that the reports from the Committees and Church Groups who do the practical work of the PCC are once again displayed around the hall. She thanked everyone involved with the Committees and Groups for the important part they play in the life of our church community. She encouraged everyone to look at the displays which included photos and art-work. PCC members and group leaders will be happy to answer questions after the meeting.

### **4. FOR DECISION**

#### **1. Election of Five Representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years plus two to take the place of those standing down out of turn – Total 7**

Canon Julie brought the meeting's attention to the documents at the back of the Information Pack that set out the profile of a PCC member, the responsibilities of a Charity Trustee and the constitution of the PCC, together with a list of the present elected members of PCC. The five elected to 2016 had come to the end of their term and Barbara Brice and Louise Westphalen wished to stand down out of turn.

There were 6 nominations on the sheets which had been displayed for the required time. Susan Meikle offered herself as a candidate from the floor (proposed by Sharon White and seconded by Dave Moore.) Canon Julie therefore declared the 7 named people elected: namely, Sarah Booth, Sandy Godfrey, Martin Hembra, Susan Meikle, Bev Mitchell, Gill Myall and Pam Smith. By drawing papers from a bowl, it was decided by lot that Susan Meikle would fill the vacancy to APCM 2017 and Bev Mitchell would fill the vacancy to APCM 2018. The other five were elected to APCM 2019

Those remaining in place to 2017 were Maurice Driver, Cath Bowers, Julia Arscott and Thelma Campbell. Those remaining in place to 2018 were Kate Meads, Richard Peat, Ashlyn Webster and Louise Goldring.

Canon Julie thanked all those who had served on the PCC and Standing Committee and also those who had served the church on committees or in other capacities.

Canon Julie then asked the newly constituted PCC to meet briefly after the APCM to consider a co-option and to appoint a PCC Treasurer and Secretary. She also asked the PCC to agree by a show of hands that the remaining Standing Committee should remain in office until the next PCC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This was agreed.

#### **2. Appointment of Sidespeople**

Canon Julie read the list of current Sidespeople (appointed at last APCM and by the PCC during the year) and invited amendments to the list. She reminded them of the importance of their role as detailed in the Information Pack and, having invited additional volunteers, declared those on the list (see attachment 1) as appointed for the coming Church year. She thanked them all, including those who had stood down during the year.

#### **3. Appointment of an Auditor / Examiner**

Debbie Watthey, treasurer, explained that the level of income and assets meant that we needed an examiner and not an auditor. The examiner should be 'financially capable', a qualified accountant. The last Annual Parochial Church Meeting had appointed Keith McKenzie as examiner and he is willing to be appointed again. Debbie proposed the appointment, Cath Bowers seconded and his appointment was unanimously approved. Debbie was asked to convey our thanks to him.

### **5. FOR INFORMATION**

#### **a) Rector's Report on developments in the Parish**

Canon Julie handed round her report (see attachment 2). It refers to the developing Vision which will only catch fire when owned by the whole parish. The Vision was different from that of 2011 – 2015, more nebulous to quantify but recognises the value of each congregation, in different forms yet pulling together. The Ministry Team has three key areas of development and she paid tribute to her colleagues, the office staff and others without whom it would not be possible to aim for and achieve so much. The meeting added its applause.

Canon John then thanked Canon Julie for all her efforts. He reminded the meeting that we owed her a huge debt of gratitude in her many roles – Rector, Area Dean, the person bearing the brunt of various negotiations as well as now Honorary Canon. The meeting responded with huge applause.

## **b) Report on the church's Charitable Giving**

Julia Arscott, chair of our Mission, Charity and World Concern Committee, advised that there is a PCC commitment to give away 10% of the church's voluntary income (ie that not given for a specific purpose) to external charities working with vulnerable people in our world. In 2015, that amount was £16,377. We support 4 main charities, Churches In Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC), Church Mission Society (CMS), the Mityana Charity and Bible Society and they each were given £3600 at the end of 2015. In addition, £700 was given to Stepping Stones, a charity in Reading helping the homeless, and £700 to Mothers' Union Overseas for its literacy and other projects. £361 was given to the grant-giving Finchampstead & Barkham Relief In Sickness Fund and £216 via Compassion to continue the support for the education of Rashmi, a sponsorship originally started by Sunday Club. She advised that she and other members of her committee would now be giving more detail of the main charities.

Julia first spoke about CIRDIC, a charity started in Reading in 1990 to help the homeless and disadvantaged. They provide food and clothing and now can offer baths or showers, a safe postal address and place for telephone contact, as well as healthcare advice. Besides money we also support them through harvest food gifts. Those delivering the harvest produce are always impressed at the set-up there.

Pam Smith spoke about CMS, which we support through Kailean and Kim Khongsai in Southall where they are building bridges with the community via environmental projects and undergirded by prayer. She had photos of a visit made by some of our congregation. In association with A Rocha, they have cleared a site for the Wolf Fields Community projects, working with people of all faiths and none, and now grow fruit and vegetables, do schools work and organise visits. Work is now starting on Minet Country Park. This is tremendous work in the centre of London and they ask for our prayers, particularly for the following Sunday when they are planning an outdoor service with five local Anglican churches. A further visit to them is being planned. The meeting applauded.

Rev Hugh Wakeling spoke about the Mityana Charity and introduced his guest, Canon Michael, Archdeacon of Mityana and deputy chair of the charity in Uganda. He was greeted with applause. He thanked us for the gifts to Uganda. Rev Hugh advised that last year text books worth £1000 had been provided and also mattresses for prisoners at one of the prisons. This year, the fund provided a latrine for the clinic and a watertank. Help is being given to be self-sufficient and generate money for school fees via a pig farm and coffee farm. Rev Hugh had photos of Canon Michael's church which is being expanded as a building project. They need money for extras like windows. Three people are already booked to accompany Rev Hugh on his next visit in October and he invited others to consider it. The meeting applauded Rev Hugh and Canon Michael.

Canon John Edwards then spoke about the Bible Society. He read a passage from St Mark's gospel in Latin and reminded us how important it is to have the Scriptures in our own language. Many do not have. Bible Society works on translation and publishing at minimum cost, also on engagement and advocacy including in this country. Our support of Bible Society is helping get the message of Jesus to people who have not yet heard of him. The meeting applauded.

Julia Arscott then highlighted the other charities supported during the year. She thanked Pam Smith and Chris Driver for championing Christian Aid. £2575 had been collected in Christian Aid week and £422 was collected for mosquito nets. In Lent £156 was collected for PACT (Parents & Children Together); At harvest, several car loads of produce were taken to Wokingham Foodbank and £907 collected for Tree Aid; the Christingles and collecting boxes raised £1575 for Children's Society. All this totals another £6K on top of the £16,377. In addition money was raised for Traidcraft, 158 shoeboxes went to Samaritan's Purse and items were collected for Berkshire Women's Aid. Julia thanked all those who had donated or helped, including her committee. The meeting applauded.

Pam Smith then reminded that help would soon be needed for Christian Aid Week.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (questions about the parish and its activities)**

- a) Ed Sampson reported on the Churchyard Extension and advised that the Bishop was coming on 20 Sept to consecrate it. Canon Julie thanked him for his tireless efforts and those of his helpers. The meeting responded with applause.
- b) Paula Vickery asked about the church noticeboard at the crossroads, which was now less visible. Communications Committee are looking to address the matter.
- c) Rev Mark-Aaron, after his parachute jump for CMS which raised £2K, advised that he had 11 confirmed jumpers for a repeat on 16 July for our youthwork mission and ministry. He asked for support for them and also for Kate Meads who is also running the parish boundary for the same cause.

## **7. Conclusion**

There being no further business, Canon Julie reminded everyone to look at the displays and ask questions. She invited everyone to stay for the Wine & Cheese and closed the meeting with the Grace.

## **Approval**

### **Attachments:**

- 
- 1. List of Sidespeople agreed at 2016 APCM
  - 2. Rector's Report for 2016 APCM

**Attachment 1**      **List of Sidespeople – agreed at 2016 APCM**

**At St James'**

Nicky Alder  
Helen Anderson  
Anita Andrews  
Penny Arlon  
Adele Baker  
Ben Barrows  
Michelle Barrows  
Corinne Bellaby  
Melanie Chapman  
John Coombs  
Tim De Meyer  
Maurice Driver  
Carolyn Fox  
Denise Gray  
Rowena Green  
Fiona Judge  
Samantha Khan  
Sheila Lardner  
Miriam Laurent  
Jackie Lawrence  
Ian Makepeace  
Melinda Makepeace  
Merelina Martinez  
Kate Meads  
Leona Merolla  
Luciano Merolla  
Beverley Mitchell  
Gill Myall  
Joanne Myall  
Terence Narborough-Hall  
Sue Norman  
Richard Owen  
Norman Pearce  
Beth Peat  
Claire Prevost-Snell  
Keith Ray  
Emma Retter  
Ed Sampson  
Sue Sampson  
Sam Simmons  
Marjorie Stalker  
Lindsay Van den Burg  
Jacquie Vanstone  
Melissa Wallace  
Flemming Westphalen  
Louise Westphalen  
Felicity Workman

**At St Mary & St John's**

Sandy Godfrey  
Louise Goldring  
Martin Hughes  
Judy McLaren  
Shirley Moore  
Marion Parry  
Ashlyn Webster



**PARISH OF FINCHAMPSTEAD AND CALIFORNIA**

**RECTOR'S REPORT APCM 2016**

*Proclaiming Jesus in word and deed*



Much of the past year has been spent recasting our vision, to give focus to our growth in mission and discipleship as we plan for the next few years. The process was thorough: first the Ministry team attended the diocesan conference, aptly entitled, 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' (LYSIG); then we hosted a day conference in June for the PCC and other key leaders; and finally in the Autumn we sought to involve the wider parish with a targeted leaflet and giving drive, whereby we challenged everyone not only to connect with the vision but also to consider how all of us might live it out in our daily lives.

From initial discussions and the two conferences five values emerged as fundamental to our future growth:

- **To nurture and develop faith** (this was regarded as important as numerical growth)
- **To be outward-looking & focussed upon mission** (taking every opportunity to engage our local community & 'front-lines', and supporting projects at home and overseas)
- **To proclaim Jesus in all we say and do** (not just Sunday Christians - whole person discipleship seven days of the week)
- **To give the best possible welcome to all-comers**
- **To enable the diversity of our congregations whilst all looking & pulling in the same direction**

Following this the Ministry Team set about working upon three key areas identified as needing attention, namely providing better support to our Family Service congregations; Prayer; and Vocations. This is very much work in progress but significant first steps have been taken to address all three areas – more next year! Moreover the sixteen PCC sub-teams were challenged to identify Bible verses which summed up their mission, and to set targets for the next three years. These can be found on our web-site: [parish@finchampstead.co.uk](mailto:parish@finchampstead.co.uk).

Nonetheless, being aware that our vision will not bear fruit unless we *all* engage with it personally, in the Autumn we produced a number of pamphlets, book-marks and cards to encourage all 480+ adult members of our churches to be involved. These materials are all still available and I would encourage you to take them again today, especially the card 'Connecting with the Vision', with its three key questions

- Where are you in your faith?
- What are your gifts and talents? Are they put to best use?
- What moves you? What opportunities speak to you? Can we help?

**Your** part in enabling our vision is crucial to the fruit that it will bear, for we might be one of the largest congregations in the Diocese (actually the sixth largest) but we will only grow in numbers and discipleship if we all work together.

Moreover whilst planning for the future is important we all know that things happen in God's own time! Who then might have envisaged that our prayer to have a base in the new development at the Arborfield end of the parish might be met so quickly as when we were asked by Bishop Andrew in September to help St Eligius transfer from the care of the Bishop of the Forces to the parochial system? We began taking services at St Eligius in December, and are working closely with the congregation to secure their long-term future, not only by negotiating with the MoD about the church building itself, but also by working out with the diocese how the relationship between St Eligius and our parish will work best. It is a lengthy process and I'm working hard to ensure that all eventualities are covered.

Finally my thanks once again go to every member of our Ministry team for their loyalty, devotion and hard work in supporting our parish. But thanks are due also to our officers, and to so many key members of all our 'teams' without whom our parish would not be the wonderful place to work in and in which to minister that it is. We are privileged to serve here. Thank you.