

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 24 April 2017, after the Annual Vestry Meeting at 7.30pm.

1. PRESENT

43 parishioners, whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll, signed the Register of Attendance and 4 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, Corinne Bellaby, David Booth, Barbara Brice, Maurice Driver, Chris Driver, Louise Goldring, Martin Hughes, Chris Ilsley, Ivy Kelly, Judy McLaren, Shirley Moore, Doreen Newton, Mo Nottage, Sarah Owen, Richard Owen, Beth Peat, Karen Remington, Pat Row, Marjorie Stalker, Yvonne Stanley, Carol Stocker, Paula Vicary, Anne Wolton, Felicity Workman. 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 Approval of Minutes of 2016 Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 25 April 2016

There being no amendments, they were proposed by Gill Myall, seconded by Bev Mitchell, agreed unanimously and duly signed by the chairman as a true record.

2 Report and Financial Statement of the PCC for the 12 months to 31 December 2016

Canon Julie invited questions of Colum Devine, treasurer, on the Financial Review and Accounts and of Carolyn Fox on the Report and Review of the PCC activities. There were three questions:

- i) The situation regarding our parish link with Kimberley. Colum advised that in his first year as treasurer, he had not had opportunity to address this complicated situation. It was on his list for after the APCM. Pam Smith advised that someone from the Oxford Diocese was visiting Kimberley Diocese and hoped to give us more information.
- ii) What was covered by Investments costs? Colum advised this was property maintenance, insurances etc.
- iii) What was the St Eligius' Restricted Fund. Colum advised the Diocese had given £9K for legal and other costs. More may become available.

Acceptance of the Annual Report and financial statements was proposed by Robert Alder, seconded by Paul Arcscott and agreed unanimously.

Canon Julie expressed thanks to Colum 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. Robert Alder was thanked for his work on Regular Giving and Gift Aid and the clergy for their encouragement of giving. Also thanks to Carolyn for the Annual Report. The meeting showed its appreciation with applause.

Special thanks were also given to all those who had increased their giving and played their part in eliminating the deficit.

3 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. It was proposed (Sue Sampson), seconded (Susan Meikle) 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; she 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. Hugh Dempster thanked Ed for the lighting in the church tower.

Rita Le Var apologised for the absence of her husband Larry who was ill but, on their behalf, gave a short report on St Eligius' church. The status of the church was still in transition from Garrison Church to incorporation into the Diocesan system. Throughout 2016 ministry had been provided by Finchampstead & California parish on the authority of the Bishop of Reading. Canon Julie had signed a Tenancy at Will to take temporary responsibility for the building. In April 2016 a costed inventory was prepared and Rita thanked Maurice Driver and Peter McBrien for their assistance in arranging insurance via Ecclesiastical Insurers. There were problems with the organ from Borden which was now considered irreparable. Successful fundraising meant that a new organ could be purchased. REME Corps had generously provided oak notice boards. It was a big change and challenge to the congregation that the Army no longer paid all the bills. This was being taken on board. Rita and Larry looked forward to completion of the legal arrangements to settle the future of the church. The meeting responded with applause.

4 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). Elections to 31 May 2020 would take place later but particular thanks were expressed to Paul Arscott who was not seeking re-election for his many years' service to the PCC. There were no questions on the report. It was proposed (Nicky Alder), seconded (Paul Arscott) and unanimously approved that the Deanery Synod report be accepted.

5 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 already had five names to add. The present Roll has 474 members. It was proposed (Pam Smith), seconded (Sarah Booth) and unanimously approved that the revised Electoral Roll be accepted.

6 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 Seven Representatives to Deanery Synod to 31 May 2020

Canon Julie referred to all the information in the pack about Deanery Synod membership and the responsibility of being a Charity Trustee. There were seven nominations for the seven places so Canon Julie announced them elected as follows: Nicky Alder, Carolyn Fox, Martin Hughes, James Lawbuary, Richard Owen, Richard Peat and Sharon White. Canon Julie thanked them and also Paul Arscott and Dave Moore for past service.

2. Election of Five Representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years plus one to take the place Richard Peat, just elected to Deanery Synod – Total 6

Canon Julie referred 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 2017 had come to the end of their term and, of them, Julia Arscott and Cath Bowers did not wish to stand down for re-election.

There were 6 nominations on the sheets which had been displayed for the required time. Canon Julie therefore declared the 6 named people elected: namely, Robert Alder, Thelma Campbell, Colum Devine, Maurice Driver, Susan Meikle and Karen Remington. By drawing papers from a bowl, it was decided by lot that Susan Meikle would fill the vacancy to APCM 2018. The other five were elected to APCM 2020.

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. Particular thanks to Julia Arscott and Cath Bowers for their service.

Canon Julie then asked the newly constituted PCC to agree by a show of hands that the current Standing Committee should remain in office until the next PCC meeting on 15 May 2017. This was agreed.

3. 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 invited additional volunteers, especially for Family Services. She 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.

4. Appointment of an Auditor / Examiner

Colum Devine, treasurer, explained that the level of income and assets meant that we needed an examiner and not an auditor. The last Annual Parochial Church Meeting had appointed Keith McKenzie as examiner and he is willing to

be appointed again. Colum proposed the appointment, Bev Mitchell seconded and his appointment was unanimously approved. Colum was asked to convey our thanks to him.

5. FOR INFORMATION

Canon John and Rev Hannah gave a presentation entitled 'What we really want: after the feedback...': They updated on the way the Family Service survey of 18 months ago had been considered as well as the Parish survey. There were many positive comments on provision in services and opportunities for spiritual development but the Ministry Team were never complacent and continually looked at new ways to meet the needs of both adults and children. Some changes had been made but there were problems. Despite a high response asking for more teaching, actual take-up of for courses, Lent talks, small groups is very small for the size of the parish. The clergy want to teach but need commitment. Growing Living Faith committee plan some focus groups to delve further into the ideas raised in the surveys. They and the Ministry Team will continue to do their best to work with the ideas.

Canon Julie thanked Canon John and Rev Hannah for their presentation. The meeting responded with applause.

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

- a) Susan Meikle asked if there was a chaplaincy role at Bohunt (Secondary) School. Canon Julie replied she and Rev Hannah had tried and would continue. They hoped to take some assemblies.
- b) Canon John drew attention to the huge weight of responsibility Canon Julie had borne this year, as Rector, Area Dean, responsible for the integration of St Eligius and the legal extension of the St James' Churchyard. **He proposed a huge vote of thanks to Canon Julie.** The meeting responded with loud and sustained applause.

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 a prayer at 9pm.

Approval

Attachments:

- 1. List of Sidespeople agreed at 2017 APCM

Attachment 1 **List of Sidespeople – agreed at 2017 APCM**

At St James'

Nicky Alder
Helen Anderson
Anita Andrews
Penny Arlon
Adele Baker
Corinne Bellaby
Felicity Boreham
John Coombs
Tim De Meyer
Maurice Driver
Carolyn Fox
Denise Gray
Rowena Green
Samantha Khan
Sheila Lardner
Miriam Laurent
Jackie Lawrence
Ian Makepeace
Melinda Makepeace
Merelina Martinez
Kate Meads
Beverley Mitchell
Gill Myall
Joanne Myall
Terence Narborough-Hall
Sue Norman
Richard Owen
Norman Pearce
Beth Peat
Keith Ray
Emma Retter
Ed Sampson
Sue Sampson
Joy Scovell
Sam Simmons
Marjorie Stalker
Lindsay Van den Burg
Flemming Westphalen
Louise Westphalen
Felicity Workman

At St Mary & St John's

Sandy Godfrey
Louise Goldring
Martin Hughes
Chris Ilsley
Judy McLaren
Shirley Moore
Marion Parry
Ashlyn Webster
Sharon White