

Leamington Priors St Paul's – Annual Meeting 2016

Esther Peers opened with prayer and the meeting started with sung worship and the Lord's prayer

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting – Sunday 20th March 2016

Chaired by Rev Jonathan Jee

The minutes of the previous Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 22nd March 2015 were approved and signed as accurate.

Chris Barrett and Elly Crofton were applauded for their work as wardens in the last year.

Chris commented on how last year they had very little idea of what the role involved. They are able to see all the different aspects of the church life but there is a lot of responsibility. Chris is involved mainly with the fabric, the redevelopment has been a large part of this but there are lots of smaller jobs that are involved. Jan and Mel do an amazing job of keeping on top of the day to day maintenance of the church and keeping all the documentation in order. Jan and John Leftley are working on the repairs of the small tower. Chris thanked Jan and all the office staff for all the work they do behind the scenes. There was general applause.

Elly mentioned that the role in the last year has not been boring! With the change to two morning congregations, the redevelopment, the expansion of the children's team there has been a lot going on. She has enjoyed seeing the depth of ministry across the whole church. Elly thanked all the volunteers who give their time to serve within the church family. The ministry team – Kate Wallis, Hester Meacock, Hannah Jones, Wendy Harkness, Esther Peers and Mark Chesters were thanked. Lizzy Woolf and Jonathan Jee (who is now the oldest vicar St Paul's has had in 50 years) give so much of themselves daily for the church fellowship. Lizzy has worked tirelessly on many visible and invisible ministries, her prayfulness is greatly appreciated. We only see a fraction of what Jonathan does every day, his open and honest leadership is very costly and Elly urged him not to overdo it.

The congregation were encouraged to hold Jonathan and Lizzy in prayer as they continue their leadership.

Elly led in prayer for all the members of staff.

Nomination and election of church wardens. There being no other nominations, Elly Crofton (proposed by Carolyn Davey and seconded by Suzanne MacRae) and Chris Barrett (proposed by Andrew Rolls and seconded by Jonty King) were duly re-elected as church wardens for another year.

Lizzy Woolf led in prayer for the new church wardens.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 20th March 2016

Chaired by Rev Jonathan Jee

The minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Meeting held on Sunday 22nd March 2015 were approved and signed as accurate.

PCC report for the year 2015 (written)

Jonathan introduced the written colour report and thanked Naomi Gaade, Jan Pringle and Lizzy Woolf for all their work in producing it. The detailed annual accounts are available separately. The meeting was held as an 'Oscars-style' celebration with different people presenting an area of ministry and awarding one of the sections of that ministry with a prize.

Children's ministry (Hester Meacock)

5 highlights:

- Restructuring the way that the children's groups work
- The work at St Paul's school.
- The number of volunteers involved in the children's ministry (over 100)
- Seeing God at work in the Wonder Zone in the Groovers group.
- Seeing the growth of Tiddlies Praise in the new redeveloped space

The Pod parents were thanked for all the work they do in the Groovers group.

Events in the new building (Gethin Jones)

We have been really blessed with the redevelopment. Nominations for one-off events:

- Light party
- Community Christmas meal
- Carols by Candlelight
- Alpha Supper

The Community Christmas meal won the award, Elly Crofton received the award as it was her vision that brought about the event.

Prayer

On each table, there was an envelope giving each table a topic to pray for. After discussing the different topics on the tables, Esther led in prayer.

New song

Gethin introduced a new song which has been written by the St Paul's worship team starting with an idea brought by Steve Axcell. The band then played the song.

Residentials (Ruth Smith)

6 nominations:

- Youth Weekend Away at the Pioneer Centre organised by Kate Wallis
- Family Camping organised by Andrew & Katrina Bush
- Men and Kids Camping organised by Mark Peers and Simon Davies
- New Wine
- Student Weekend Away
- 20s and 30s weekend away organised by Sophia Wallis

Winner was 20s and 30s w/e. Sophia Wallis received the award, as it had been her vision.

Courses (Lizzy Woolf)

- Alpha course runs 3 times a year
- Marriage and marriage preparation courses.
- Restored Lives course for those recovering from divorce or separation
- Freedom in Christ course run twice in the last year
- Parenting for Faith course run for the first time recently
- Transforming Work course led by Catherine Worsnop and Ed Lowndes

Winner was Transforming Work. Catherine Worsnop received the award as the course was her vision

Finances (Andrew Rolls, Jonathan Jee)

Regular expenditure:

- Parish Share – our costs £77,800 (18%)
- Parish Share – giving away £22,500 (5%)
- Giving Away - £37,877 (9%) which is 10% of our previous year's income
- Staff Salaries - £161,845 (37%) – this is increasing over the years as our staff team costs
- Ministry Costs - £62,675 (15%)
- Facilities Costs - £71,184 (16%)

Regular income:

- 79% direct giving (£358,074)
- 15% Gift Aid (£69,490)
- 6% other income (£28,922) – fees, events

Andrew explained about the sale of 49 Wathen Road to ensure that we could fund Phase 2 of the redevelopment. The PCC are discussing options for using the remaining money from this sale. Redevelopment cost £565,000 with VAT of £117,000 on top of that, and Giving away 10% came to £52,000. Income came from personal gifts £432,000, Gift Aid £90,000, grants of £16,000 were received, and £77,000 VAT was reclaimed. £119,000 was therefore needed from the sale of 49 Wathen Road.

Andrew thanked Mel Tweed and Michael Lingard for their work.

The accounts were received by the annual meeting. Jonathan thanked Andrew for all his work.

Andrew commented on how the journey has been one of faith and it is amazing how the giving of the church has grown over the years.

10% money from the redevelopment

Jonathan Tidd spoke about FRRME who we have partnered with, thanks to the money given away from the redevelopment. Many Christians have been displaced from Iraq and Syria to Jordan. FRRME is working to support about 500 refugees in Jordan. We are supporting the medical and dentistry clinic in Jordan. The refugees are not allowed to work so a free clinic is very important. There are 125 appointments per month. We will be supplying £1,000 per month for 15 months.

Thrive Youth ministries is the other mission partner supported. Andy Castle spoke about the loss of children in churches between the ages of 10-11 and 14-18 – only 1 in 4 of children in church at the age of 4-11 is still likely to be involved in church by the age of 18. A video was shown to introduce the work of Thrive. There is a need for a Children's Ministry Specialist and thanks to the money given from St Paul's (£25,000), Fiona Stutton has been appointed to this role and will be starting at the beginning of May. Graeme Pringle led in prayer for these 2 ministries.

Vicar's Report

Jonathan Jee thanked all those who are involved in the various ministries and particularly all those who work behind the scenes, particularly the office team. Beth Penney was recognised for all the different aspects of the church life that she is involved with, and was given a special award.

Jonathan gave thanks to God for the way he is at work in so many different ways. The redevelopment has been amazing and was dedicated by Bishop Christopher at all 3 Sunday services. Jonathan has been very pleased by the way the church has coped with all the upheaval of the many changes in the last year.

Jonathan thanked the ministry leaders, both those on staff and those who are not, who have been gathered together into the Ministry Leadership Team. The first meeting in May looked at the question of how to cope during the redevelopment. The idea of having two separate morning congregations came from this. An assistant Children's minister was also recommended by this meeting to help with expanding the children's team, and the PCC had approved these.

The team is now working on the aspect of emotionally healthy spirituality. We need to be able to deal with the things that hold us back. Jonathan is hoping to preach into this subject later in the year. The church needs to grow deeper as we grow larger.

His daughter Rachel's wedding was a personal highlight last summer, with so many members of the church family being involved in many different ways. Jonathan wants to encourage all those who do not feel part of the church family at the moment to step in and get involved in aspects of church life – e.g. small groups – to make sure that there are people around who can support in good times and bad. As the church gets bigger, the role of the small groups becomes much more important.

Any organisation needs good leadership at every level. Currently the best resourced ministry is probably the children's ministry with 100 volunteers. Jonathan wants to encourage the church to pray for all our leaders. Bill Hybels has said that the church is the most leadership intense in society.

The electoral roll stands at 402 over 16s. There are around 680 regular members of all ages, including students. There have been several babies born into the church family over the last year (an average of over 1 per month). There are also many people on the road towards ordination.

Jonathan confessed that he has taken on a bit too much over the last year and recognises his need to develop the leadership to reduce the burden on himself. There will be some discussion over the summer about this. Jonathan is under discussion with the diocese about the possibility of having an additional associate vicar. The church needs to pray into this as to whether this is the right thing.

Jesus says 'I will build my church'. He can do it

- **I** – He is more committed to it than we are.
- **Will** – He has promised to do it. Globally the church is growing each year.
- **Build** – Building sites are messy and muddy and it can be the same with the church. Until Jesus returns, it is a work in progress.
- **My** – It is Jesus' church, not ours. He has not made any particular promise to St Paul's. We need to stay based on the Scriptures. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit has been a key part of many new ministries this year and is a really important part of everything
- **Church** – We are a gathering and part of the greatest community on earth.

Elections

There are 4 PCC vacancies with 4 nominees. All were duly elected.

- Rachel King proposed by Jonty King, seconded by Victoria Smith
- Judith Linnell proposed by Robin Killick, seconded by Ruth Smith
- Lisa Haywood proposed by Catherine Worsnop, seconded by Joy Caws
- Sam Meacock proposed by Martin Haywood, seconded by Beth Penney

Chris Barrett led in prayer for the PCC and Elly Crofton led in prayer for Jonathan.

The meeting closed with sung worship and the grace.