

St Mary's Church, Purton
Minutes of the Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 29 April 2019

Present: Kathryn Bartlett, Jean Belt, John Belt, Peter Berry, Sue Berry, Barbara Compton, Marie Dempsey, Paul Dempsey, Godfrey Fowler, Sheila Fowler, Richard Harris, Frank Harvey, Madaleine Harvey, Sandra Horsnall, Robert Hetherington, Sheelagh Hetherington, Mike Housley, Julia Knowles, Gladys Legg, Roberta Legg, Viv Lawrence, David Martin, Liz Martin, Dave Nettleton, Bob Seals, Chris Seals, Libbie Sheppard, Howard Smith, Jane Smith, Mary Smith, Celia Tweedie-Smith, Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Val Walker, Rachele Wickens, Revd Judith Wells, Stephen Wells, Mary Wooding

Vestry Meeting

Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith opened the meeting with a prayer and reading of our verse for the year from Matthew 28 v 20 'Jesus said, "I am with you always to the very end of the age."' Ian explained that this promise was given within the commands to make disciples of all nations and to baptise. We must give thanks to God and trust in Him to be with us always.

1. **Apologies:** Brian Gill, Christine Gill, Gordon Hall, Rosie Harris, Richard McCarthy
2. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 30 April 2018:** proposed by Libbie Sheppard, seconded by Viv Lawrence. All in favour.
3. **Matters arising:** none.
4. **Election of Church Wardens:** Sandra Horsnall's period of office is to be extended for a further year for reasons of stability during this time of renewal. Nominated by Rosie Harris and seconded by Bob Seals. Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith explained that Paul Dempsey job shares with Jane Smith and is Deputy Warden. Jane Smith was nominated by Stephen Wells and seconded by Revd. Judith Wells.
Vestry meeting concluded at 7.11pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies:** Christine Gill, Brian Gill, Gordon Hall and Rosie Harris, Richard McCarthy
2. **Minutes of the APCM meeting held on 30 April 2018:** (see item 3). After discussion adoption of the minutes was proposed by Godfrey Fowler and seconded by Dave Nettleton and signed off.
3. **Matters Arising:** Sheelagh Hetherington pointed out that item 9 of the previous year's minutes was recorded incorrectly. The essence of her query had been omitted. The suggestion was that St Mary's should be tithing from their income. Discussion and explanation around restricted and unrestricted income, previous levels of balancing income and expenditure and giving took place. DN explained that this was a regular discussion point with the finance committee and many differing views exist. BS suggested that the timing of the stewardship initiative may be wrong as it is better to identify an area to give to than seek the support of the church as opposed to seeking support for unknown benefactors. ITS led by seeking a report/recommendation from the Finance Committee for PCC to consider and then also whether this should go to the membership for discussion.
Action Dave Nettleton (Finance Committee)
4. **New Electoral Roll:** ITS introduced the new roll, required every 6 years and that it stood at 68. Some people have moved away, and some are not attending church as regularly as previous. Electoral Forms were available at the meeting and also in church for those wishing to apply for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll.
5. **Nominations for PCC members:** Kathryn Bartlett proposed by Chris Seals, seconded by Madeleine Harvey; Paul Dempsey proposed by Val Walker, seconded by Claire Housley and Roberta Legg proposed by Libbie Sheppard, seconded by Nigel Scott. With no further nominations the proposed were declared elected members of the PCC.
6. **Vicar's Report:**
7. **Curate's Report:**
8. **The fabric, furniture and fittings: Churchwardens**
The various reports having been provided earlier contained matters on the life of the church. In response to 'Any Questions or Comments?' VW emphasised the need for more volunteers at Coffee & Chat.
9. **Accounts for the last calendar year:** RL talked the meeting through the various pages of the accounts before them, giving explanations in different areas to aid understanding. GF sought the level of spending on substitute clergy; DN gave some explanation on how Parish Share was being met and ITS advised on the level

of support given by the Diocese for the Vicarage, which was generous. RL thanked Paul Dempsey for his work on Gift Aid. Roberta Legg was given a round of applause for her work and dedication.

10. Adoption of balance sheet and accounts: This was proposed by JB and seconded by JS.

11. Appointment of auditor for current year's accounts: Michael Moore having served a total of 9 years in this role has stepped down. RL recommends a colleague who works in the accounts department of GWR, Christine Makings. Proposed by RL and seconded by VW.

12. Report of the Deanery Synod: Nothing added to the written report.

13. Written questions received prior to the meeting:

Review of how we are fulfilling our vision as a church and how that relates to the Word of God. ITS introduced the subject by stating that in the Church of England everything relates to the Word of God. Since Charles I, the 39 Articles and their statements declare us as a Bible believing church.

BS then gave a presentation highlighting his experience that people are often not confident in sharing Christ with others through fear of being questioned on the Bible and not having the knowledge to respond. BS proposed that for this reason the church family needed deeper teaching from the Bible in order to equip them to 'Know Christ and Make Him Known'. BS sought the agreement of the church to encourage the Ministry to teach us more. DN questioned whether this might lengthen services but stated that he had enjoyed deeper preaching in the past. LS warned against visitors or newcomers being frightened off. KB explained how the church's young people insist on depth of teaching in the Bible, they don't want it skimmed over. MD sought more teaching and proposed a trial at one of the services.

ITS proposed that in order to know Christ and make Him known, as a church family, we need, over time to receive more teaching and more depth and go through a book of the Bible. ITS explained how this was not for Messy Church due to their newness to teaching on Christ. We need to explore ways of doing this, having recently started a trial of digging deeper in a 30-minute sermon in a home. ITS suggested we go away and discuss this and include BS. LM pointed out that not many leave church straight after the service so an increase in time may not be an issue.

Action All

14. Elections (appointment of sidespersons): SH reported that the following were prepared to take on the duties of Sidespersons:

Jean Belt, John Creasey, Sheila Fowler, Brian Gill, Christine Gill, Jill Herbert, Robert Hetherington, Sheelagh Hetherington, Sandra Horsnall, Clare Housley, Mike Housley, Liz Martin, Hector McLean, Maureen Quincey, Norene Richardson, Bob Seals, Chris Seals, Libbie Sheppard, Howard Smith, Jane Smith, Diana Thombs, Val Walker, Stephen Wells.

SH proposed the list and HS seconded. SH encouraged all to smile on duty.

15. Renewal update since 1 Jan 2019 (DN): The Chancellor is now asking for a resume of what we are seeking and DN hopes this is, so he can attach his decisions alongside. Having sought another study of the proposed break through the wall to the new toilet the Chancellor has been provided with a report that states the wall is Victorian and insignificant. DN alluded to the need for parking if the church is to grow and how Purton House is willing to assist but are not in a position currently to give a long-term commitment. Financial commitment for a short term is not advisable so negotiations continue. LM proffered thanks to DN, PD, and GH for their hard work towards the faculty request and especially DN over many years.

There being no further business ITS closed the meeting at 8.30pm when the assembly repeated the Grace to one another.

CS 03/05/19