

The Parish of Olveston with Aust PCC

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 29th April 2007, 7.15 p.m. in St. Mary's Church

There were 42 people present and 7 apologies were received (names recorded).

Rev. Philip Rowe welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Election of Clerk

Stephanie Fairhead was appointed clerk to the meeting.

Election of Churchwardens

Philip expressed grateful thanks to Jane Bain and Mike Wright for their work as Churchwardens in the past year and asked if they were prepared to stand again, they were and, therefore, were duly appointed.

It was reported that Jo Jenkins and Maria Livingstone were duly appointed for St. John's Aust at an earlier meeting.

Minutes of the APCM

1. Minutes

Of the meeting held 30th April 2006 had been circulated. It was **proposed by Avril Harley and seconded by Carmen Pitts** that the Minutes be signed as a true record. **All in Favour**

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Electoral Roll

A new Electoral Roll was being prepared. Judy Jones reported that currently 154 names were on the Roll compared to 173 on the old Roll and everyone was reminded that it was necessary to complete the form to join the new Roll.

Mike Wright expressed his thanks to Judy Jones and Roly Bain for their work on the new Electoral Roll

4. Election of Parochial Representatives

Sandy Shaw, Brian Arkell and Dorothy Stoppard were standing down and Mike Wright expressed his thanks for all their work during their time on the PCC.

The following nominations were **proposed by Sandy Shaw** and **seconded by Sue Farr**

Trevor Anderson (Treasurer), Lesley Clarke, Nora Schwitzer, Audrey Shepherd, Janet McBride and they were unanimously elected to the PCC.

Ex officio members:

Rev. Philip Rowe, Mike Wright and Jane Bain, Churchwardens, Rev. David Bone.

Other existing members:

Ann Lloyd, Les Slaytor, Sian Slade and Stephanie Fairhead were all prepared to continue to serve on the PCC.

The first meeting of the new year of the PCC would take place on 22nd May 2007.

5. Appointment of Sidespersons for St. Mary's

Lesley Clarke was happy to continue.

Readers

Lizzie Dobson and Lesley Clarke were welcomed to the list of readers.

Thanks were expressed to all the Readers, Sidespersons and Intercessors for their work.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of PCC Accounts

Trevor Watkins was happy to continue as Independent Examiner.

It was **proposed by Mike Wright** and **seconded by Janet McBride** that he be appointed. **All in favour**

7. PCC Reports Booklet

David Bone was congratulated on once again producing the booklet of annual reports and thanks were expressed to him and the PCC Secretary for their work in collecting and collating the various reports.

i) Lay Chairman's Report

Mike Wright reported that there was great enthusiasm for the 'Going for Growth' strategy within the PCC and the Church had been very active in pursuing the theme, including the Breakfast Club featuring in a DVD which had been produced to promote 'Going for Growth.' The DVD was shown at the end of the Meeting.

It was pleasing to report that David Bone had become ordained during the year and Janet McBride had been Licensed as a Lay Reader. Congratulations and good wishes for the future were extended to both of them.

More people had attended Church in 2006 than in 2005. The diversity of services and better communication had probably been responsible for the increase. Thanks were expressed to Roly Bain for his work on improving communications.

The PCC Chairman reported that there was a great sense of enthusiasm within the PCC to pursue their work on behalf of the Church and he thanked them all for their contribution during the year, particular thanks were expressed to Brian Arkell, the retiring Treasurer for all of his hard work.

ii) Aust

David Bone reported that Aust continued to be well supported and he made particular mention of the 'Music in the Church' group who had several special events planned. Both the Music in the Church group and the Evangelical group contribute greatly to St. John's.

iii) Treasurer

Brian reported that the accounts, which had been circulated, were in good order. He pointed out one small error on page 3 where interest of £1.99 had been omitted.

The retiring Treasurer reported to the meeting that he had written to the Diocese to inform them that, based on the current income and expenditure for St. Mary's, it would not be possible to meet the increased Parish Share for 2007 in full. He pointed out that the Share had been met in full for the past four years and extended grateful thanks to everyone, but particularly, Joyce Prothero, Roland Harley, Trevor Watkins and June Robbins, for their contributions in so many ways. Brian also thanked PCC Chairman, Mike Wright for his help and support during his four years as Treasurer.

It was reported that a response was happening to the letter which had been sent out asking everyone to complete the Electoral Roll form and also to consider their giving. The year to come will pose a challenge but he was confident that everyone would do their best.

iv) Standing Committee

There had been no meeting of the Standing Committee during the year

v) Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Secretary, Roland Harley, reported that there was little to add to his circulated report, but he did request that everyone inform him of receipt of the letter which had been sent out.

vi) Buildings Group

The five yearly Architect's Inspection of the Church had been undertaken and there were no major problems to report other than some minor work to the roofs, gutters and downspouts and some stonework which requires a further inspection.

The new welcome and book storage area had been completed and the churchyard team appreciated their new storage area.

Progress continued to be made with the work to make the Church more fitting for purpose. Last year permission, in principle, had been given to move forward with the

scheme approved by the PCC and consultations have been undertaken with the CCC, SPAB, English Heritage and South Gloucester Conservation, and suggestions made by these bodies have been followed up.

The modified scheme was displayed in the Church and the detail was explained to the meeting, the improvements would include a toilet for the disabled, a crèche, a larger kitchen and another smaller toilet. The reopening of the South West door was strongly supported as was the inclusion of a ramp for improved access. Everyone was invited to take a look at the plans at the end of the meeting.

Opinions were being sought from leading wood conservation experts on the panelling in the Chancel. It seems that the panelling is 19th century, put together from some older timber. It is thought that the best thing to do is to clean and wax the panelling which will be a major improvement. The view of the Conservationists is that it is perfectly sensible to use the panelling to form the new storage area.

With the authorisation by the PCC of expenditure of up to £3,000 development work is now being undertaken to proceed with an application to the Bristol Diocesan Chancellor for a Faculty for the project.

Substantial progress has been made but there is still a considerable way to go, there was great enthusiasm for the work, but the meeting was reminded that nothing would be accomplished quickly as there were many proposals to be submitted and agreements to be obtained.

One or two questions were put forward relating to the plans and the various points were clarified, it was stressed that discussions would continue with users on the detail of the plan.

An estimate of the cost of the work was given as £160,000 - £200,000 and the question was asked as to where the money would come from. The Chairman reported that £80,000 was already available and the remainder would require fund raising but he had faith that the funds would arrive.

Roly Bain urged the meeting not to be apprehensive about change.

vii) Worship/Prayer/Tuesday Home Group

There was nothing to add to the reports for the three groups which had been circulated in the booklet.

The Chairman thanked the leaders and participants of all the groups and pointed out that an important part of Going for Growth is the formation of smaller groups.

viii) Outreach/Outward Giving

There was nothing further to report to add other than Outreach was also an important part of the Going for Growth strategy in reaching out into the community to form partnerships with others.

ix) Social Group

Nothing to add to the circulated report. Thanks were expressed to Sian Slade and Pauline Wright for their work during the year and they were encouraged to continue!

x) Family and Youth

Jane Bain reported that it was a pity that the Youth Group had closed, but on the plus side the Breakfast Club was going very well.

A new Youth Worker was being sought prior to being put through training at CYM. The proposal is that the Youth Worker will work with Olveston, Almondsbury and Alveston, the idea being that from this base all the churches in Severnside will work together in youth ministry. The three Churches have given a commitment to finance the services of the Youth Worker and, once in place, other Churches will be asked if they would like to have some input.

xi) Child Protection

Sylvia Clements reported that there was a great deal of work taking place to put together some up to date guidelines on child protection.

The meeting was reminded that everyone is responsible for safeguarding children.

xii) Friends of St. Mary's

Thanks were expressed to the Friends for all their help and solid assistance to the Church. More members are being canvassed for the Draw.

The gift of the mower and a carpet soon to be supplied in the welcome area, were very much appreciated.

xiii) Director of Music

Congratulations were given to the Choir for their contribution in growth and partnership, this is a perfect example of what the 'Going for Growth' strategy is all about.

xiv) Bellringers

Once again it was reported that there is a shortage of ringers which is a great pity as the bells are particularly good. On 14th May there is to be a service to commemorate 100 years since the bells were re hung and it was hoped that everyone will attend.

xv) Handbells

The group has not met since Christmas due to illness but are due to recommence very soon.

xvi) Synod

It was reported that Sue Farr and Pat Thirkettle had attended the Deanery Synod meetings during the year.

xvii) Publicity

Roly Bain apologised for publicising the meeting as a 7.00 p.m. start, and had nothing further to add to the report.

Favourable comments were expressed regarding the Notice Boards - people now stop and read the posters, also the Banners for Christmas and Easter were very well received. New Banners will be appearing throughout the year. The storage of the Banners will be addressed.

xviii) Churchwardens

The Churchwardens reported on progress that had been made with Numbers, Commitment, Influence and Partnership, the elements of 'Going for Growth' and said that the work that everyone does is truly representative of 'Going for Growth.'

xix) Lay Minister

Janet McBride was congratulated on her Licensing and wished well for her future development.

xx) Vicar

In addition to his circulated report Philip added his gratitude and thanks for a good year which had everything to do with the members of the Church.

The Vicar then introduced the DVD which had been produced to outline the strategy of 'Going for Growth.'

8. Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed with The Grace at 8.45 p.m.