

The Parish of Olveston with Aust PCC

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 26th April 2009, 7.15 p.m. in St. Mary's Church

There were 32 people present and 12 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 Church Wardens

It had been reported that Mike Wright would be standing down as Church Warden and Philip told the meeting that if it were the wish of the majority then Mike could continue for another term.

The meeting was in favour of Mike Wright continuing as Church Warden and, therefore, Dr. Mike Wright and Mrs. Sue Farr were duly elected as Church Wardens.

It was reported that, at an earlier meeting, Jo Jenkins and Janet Ford had been duly appointed for St. John's Aust.

Minutes of the APCM

1. Minutes

Of the meeting held 27th April 2008 had been circulated. It was **proposed by Pauline Wright and seconded by Pat Thirkettle** that the Minutes be signed as a true record.
All in Favour

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll as at 26th April 2009 stood at 169, the number of members is slowly returning to the 173 previously recorded.

Judy Jones reported that she would be standing down as Electoral Roll Secretary and Mike Wright expressed his thanks for all her hard work and commented that a volunteer would be sought.

4. PCC Representatives

Audrey Shepherd was standing down and thanks were expressed to her for three years of active membership. Bernard Amos was welcomed on to the PCC.

The first meeting of the new year would take place on 12th May.

5. Appointment of Sidespersons for St. Mary's

It was pointed out that help was always welcome from anyone who would like to serve as a Sidesperson, Reader or Intercessor and as many as possible are encouraged to participate.

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

The meeting declared all the Sidesmen appointed for another year.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of PCC Accounts

Trevor Watkins was happy to continue as Independent Examiner.

It was **proposed by Sue Farr** and **seconded by June Hahn** that he be appointed.
All in favour.

7. PCC Reports Booklet (See Attachment)

Reports had previously been circulated in the booklet. Thanks were expressed to Rev. David Bone and the PCC Secretary for collecting and collating the various reports and to all the contributors of the numerous reports indicating the vibrancy of the activities in the Parish.

i) Lay Chairman's Report

The Chairman commented on the previously circulated report and thanked the members of the PCC for their enthusiasm and support during the year.

The PCC had undertaken serious consideration and discussion on the resources of our Parish, both in people and buildings and, therefore, many and varied topics had been covered during the year.

Mike expressed his thanks for the contributions to leadership, to Lay Reader, Denis Jones, and Roly who had been appointed as Assistant Curate for 2 days per week and he confirmed that we would continue to support Ann Lloyd in her training as a Lay Minister and he thanked all the leadership team for their continuing contribution.

ii) Aust

David Bone said there was little to add to the published report other than Aust continued to be in vigorous shape with new services being added and other events being undertaken during the year, which had all gone well.

Thanks were expressed to all of the parishioners of Aust for the work which has been carried out to continue to make this a vibrant Church community.

iii) Churchwardens

Bishop Mike continued to encourage us on our mission to 'Go for Growth' in greater Commitment, Partnership, Influence and Numbers.

It was particularly good to note that numbers increased on 'normal' Sundays.

Thanks were expressed to each one of the large army who ensure that all the work needed to carry forward the Church's mission is facilitated and Mike particularly thanked his co-Church Warden, Sue Farr for all the work she had done during the year.

iv) Worship

Thanks were expressed to Roly Bain for taking over the Chairmanship of the Worship Committee.

It had been very good to note the diversity in worship. The fourth Sunday was to be taken on by Roly and would be in a slightly different format, usually Eucharistic.

There had been good attendances at all of the Festival Services through the year, with quite a few new faces. The celebration of Marriage had been excellent but poorly attended so would be deferred for a year.

A worship survey had been undertaken and about half of the congregation had responded. The results had shown a general sense of satisfaction with what is done at St. Mary's although we may not be attracting new members to the congregation.

The Alpha Course had been favourably commented upon as had the après Alpha Course which had added to the worship of those who had participated.

It was reported that it was good to see new groups forming – mid week groups; home groups and 'young mum' groups too.

v) Director of Music

Dr. David Shaw reported that it had been a very good year for music. The choir had gone from strength to strength with fresh talent joining and increasing numbers and now had 38 members.

It was reported that the choir had been asked to sing all three services in Gloucester Cathedral during a weekend in August.

David thanked the Choir for supporting music in the Church so admirably and faithfully.

vi) Bellringers

It was reported that there was a problem with numbers and a plea was made for anyone to contact Rosemary Ruddick if they knew of someone who may be interested in joining the bellringers.

Thank were expressed to the ringers for all their work, in particular ringing for festivals as well as regular services.

Finally, it was emphasised that if another ringer was to leave there would not be enough people to ring. Training would be given to anyone who wished to learn.

vii) Bells of St. Mary's

The handbell ringers had enjoyed a successful year and new members were always welcome The Handbells would be participating in the evening service on May 31st.

viii) Outreach

Sue said that the Coffee Shop and the Church Coffee Rota would like to strengthen the team and spread the load.

It was increasingly difficult to collect money 'on the doorstep' for charities and it would be necessary to consider how we can improve this, i.e. for Christian Aid, Save the Children etc.

An appeal was made for anyone able to assist to please speak to Sue

ix) Home Groups

Tuesday Night Group: Everyone is always welcome and it was reported that there may be a need to form another group as numbers were expanding.

Tuesday Morning Group: This was forming the basis for a very successful Lent group.

All denominations are welcome to the Home Groups and money had been raised for the Zimbabwe appeal.

x) Breakfast Club

Janet said she had little to add to the circulated report

There had been a steady growth in numbers and around 25 families were now involved on a regular basis with visitors joining from time to time.

Thanks were recorded to Helen and Steve Webb who were doing a huge amount of work to keep the club going so well.

xi) Child Protection

Philip reported that during the year it has been necessary to put in place a policy for Vulnerable Adults (necessary for home communions etc.) and that, to this end the Pastoral Assistants were now required to be vetted. He said he was extremely grateful to Sylvia Clements who had worked to ensure the delivery of the Child Protection policy.

xii) Buildings Group

There had been a drive to ensure the Church facilities would be what will be needed in the future and serious progress had been made on the drawings for the re-ordering, which were on display in the Church. Tenders were being sought from Contractors to commence work during the summer and it was confirmed that funds were available.

Various concerns were voiced relating to events planned in the Church during the forthcoming year and it was stressed that it had been made clear to contractors that the building would be required to be available for weddings, festivals and such events.

Mike Wright was commended by the meeting for continuing to be the driving force in the reordering of the Church

xiii) Appeal Committee/Publicity

It was reported that the Appeal was going very well with £54,000 of the £80,000 needed having been raised. The response had been wonderful.

The Appeal pack had been very well received, it was well designed and thanks were expressed to everyone involved. The Ball had sold out and a Silent Auction had been added.

Roly was thanked for raising the profile of St. Mary's with the excellent publicity.

xiv) Treasurer

Accounts had been circulated and Trevor Anderson clarified one or two items.

During 2008 the major fund raising events had brought in a large amount for the appeal and it had been a concern that money restricted to the Appeal could make a difference to the regular Church giving. In the event this had not happened and in fact regular giving had increased.

Expenditure had been £15,000 more than the previous year, mainly due to the increase in the Parish Share which required a payment of £1200 per week to the Diocese.

It was reported that overall the finances remained in good shape for the expenditure to come.

Trevor thanked everyone for their help and said things would be much more difficult without the help of those who collected and counted the money, and, particularly Roland Harley for all his work with Gift Aid.

Trevor was thanked for the clear presentation of the Accounts. The 2008 accounts, already formally accepted by PCC, were then adopted by the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

xv) Gift Aid

The advantages of Gift Aid were again explained and stressed as being very beneficial to the finances. Over £4,000 had been gained on the Appeal donations.

Roland suggested that giving by Standing Order was sometimes easier and the use of the envelopes in order that tax could be reclaimed was reiterated.

xvi) Outward Giving

Thanks were expressed to all who had donated to the Bishop's Zimbabwe appeal

xvii) Deanery Synod

Our Synod representative Pat Thirkettle had circulated details of the diocesan resources and she reported that there will be more changes with the new Diocesan strategy in 2010 developing Lay/Voluntary ministry.

xviii) Social

The social programme of the Church continued to thrive and be enjoyed by increasing numbers of people.

New events and more new faces were needed to be developed with new energy to make the events reality.

Help with social events was always most welcome and volunteers were always needed.

xix) Friends of St. Marys

Most grateful thanks were expressed to The Friends for all they do for the Church. It was reported that they will be contributing to the Appeal and this was much appreciated.

The Lottery would be publicised at the Fete with more details being provided, possibly in the form of a leaflet.

The milestone of £46,500 in regular payments to the Church had been passed during the year.

There being nothing to add to the circulated report thanks were expressed for all the hard work during the year.

xx) Lay Ministers

The team had now been strengthened with the addition of Denis Jones and was looking forward to Ann Lloyd taking on a leadership role.

A report on the activities for the year had been circulated and Janet thanked everyone for their support.

xxi) Vicar's Report

A summary of a detailed letter sent by Philip to everyone on the electoral roll had been circulated in the report booklet.

Everyone was encouraged to use their talents for which we were all most thankful.

8. Any Other Business

Thanks were offered to everyone who had offered hospitality to the visitors from Zimbabwe.

Once again thanks were given to all who had done so much during the year for the work of the Church.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.30 p.m.