

Christ Church, Eaton Annual Meetings, Sunday 30th April 2017, 11.15am in the Church
(I hope to finish by 12.30pm, but a majority vote could extend the meeting if members would like...)
A G E N D A

Opening Prayer and Welcome

A. The Meeting of the Parishioners

1. The election of the Church Wardens

B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting *(You must be on the electoral roll to attend this)*

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the Minutes of the A.P.C.M. held on Sunday 24th April 2016 *(PTO – please read)*
3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Discussion and Approval of Reports and Statements: -

4. Vicar's Report and PCC Secretary's Report *(all in annual report, please read)*
5. Report on the revised Electoral Roll *(Sarah Scott)*
6. Presentation and Approval of the Accounts for 2016 *(accounts to follow - David Archer)*
7. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish *(David Archer)*
8. Church Wardens' Report including the Fabric Report for the Church, Colman Road Parish Hall and the Cottage *(all in annual report, taken as read)*
9. Presentation of the Church's Terrier and Inventory *(Wardens)*
10. Thanks and Presentation of tokens of thanks
11. Diocesan and Deanery Synod reports *(both in annual report, please read)*
12. Elections and Appointments
 - a) Election of members to the Deanery Synod (2 vacancies - Ruth Vaughan retiring)
 - b) Election of members to the PCC (4 vacancies, Patrick Furniss, Jess Pitt, Richard Rivett, Ruth Vaughan retiring)
 - c) (Re) Election of members to the Group Council (potentially one vacancy)
 - d) Appointment of Sides people
 - e) Election of Independent Examiner
13. Update re. Organ project, including opening archtop, install CCTV, re-gilding façade pipes, celebrations.
14. Discussion and straw poll re consultation on mission, vision, worship and services?
15. Discussion and consultation on use of the WelCome Area and (re)moving more pews in South aisle.
16. Any Other Business *(Please inform the vicar **before the meeting** of any items)*
17. Closing Prayers and the Grace

**Minutes of the Annual Meetings of Christ Church Eaton,
in the church on Sunday 24th April 2016**

The meeting began with a prayer at 11:35am. Patrick Richmond (PR), Vicar, welcomed the 58 people present and introduced the meeting.

A. The Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Wardens: Patrick reminded those present that everyone on the electoral roll can vote as well as parish residents in this meeting. Jessica Pitt is stepping down as Church Warden, but is willing to help out until there is a replacement. David Scott will be stepping down in April 2017 but has been proposed as church warden for this year. There being no other nominations, he was declared elected unopposed, with unanimous acclaim.

B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

1. Apologies were received from: Julie Bolt, Margaret Cooper, Peter Gorringe, Lucy Grubb, Vivien Humber, Catherine Jeffries, Dee Scott, Sarah Scott, Peggy Steib, David Taylor.

2. Minutes of the 2015 Meeting: The Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 26th April 2015 were unanimously approved, with one correction to the spelling of Chris and Don Hobbs' name (no 'e').

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Patrick reported that provision of emergency lighting included as part of the WC and Kitchen Project voted on last year is being explored by MB as a separate item and will no longer be included in the work by Lusher.

4. Vicar's Report and PCC Secretary's Report:

Patrick proposed that the Vicar's Report and the Secretary's Report should be taken as read. He asked whether there were any questions. There were none. He thanked CG for her report and all her work as secretary.

5. Report on the Revised Electoral Roll:

The electoral roll stands at 158 for 2015-16 (152 in 2014-15). PR expressed thanks to Sarah Scott for revising and updating the electoral roll.

6. Presentation and Approval of Accounts for 2015:

The approved accounts were circulated and have been available in the church over the last week. Julian Pitt (retiring Treasurer) added the following:

- I've been asked to keep my presentation brief and so refer you to the accounts document for the detail of 2015's income and expenditure - the 2015 accounts were approved by the PCC on 11 April 2016.
- 2015 was another good year for Christ Church's finances. Two generous legacies - £121,000 from Jonathan Philips and £22,000 from Daphne Bass - meant that we could plan with confidence to build a new kitchen and disabled WC, and renovate our pipe organ. We completed our Church Windows project.
- Although we didn't cover our regular costs with regular income - spending around £6000 more than we received - I am confident that your PCC can address this - by being tighter on unnecessary costs and encouraging giving. That's the challenge for 2016.
- Allowing for commitments on building projects, our general fund ended the year where it started - at £30,000 - equal to our target reserves.

A few words on our income:

- Regular / planned giving decreased in 2015 - no doubt as our giving to kitchen and organ appeals increased and we lost friends from the congregation
- If you're a new friend who has recently joined Christ Church please support us with your regular giving.

- And to all of us – please try to move your giving from envelopes and collection bags to standing orders – it will enable us to recover an extra 25p for every pound you give – at no cost to you – please ask me if you need further information on this.

Looking at our costs:

- It costs around £340 a day to keep Christ Church going.
- That's equivalent to around £790 per person on the electoral role per year - or £15 per person per week
- We paid our Parish Share of £64,000 in full - we remain one of the diocese's top payers.
- Thank you for supporting Christ Church in 2015.

There were no questions. The accounts were **unanimously approved**.

Julian then made the following Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish:

- Thank you to everyone who makes a difference to our finances — by giving their money, their time or their resources to benefit us all.
- Thank you to everyone who takes our collections, counts and banks the money, manages our planned giving, and looks after our admin.
- Christ Church is a team effort.
- Fundraising - thank you to everyone who gave to our appeals - every gift was appreciated and mattered.
- It can feel like we're always being asked for our money - there's a Pipe Up brochure in front of you now - and fundraising fatigue can set in. We do still need donations - we're not there yet, but you'll be pleased to learn that the Fund raising Team will stop asking for your money at the end of December this year - when we transform into the Friends of Christ Church. We'll then raise money through events and applications to funding organisations - and my thanks to the team for having made such a great start on this already.
- So please help us to do that by supporting our events, telling us the events you'd like, and making sure we have your contact details so we can tell you what's on quickly and efficiently.
- Our next event is a Plant Sale and Garden Party on 14th May at Carrie's. Then there's a summer choir concert of favourite songs and in December a Christmas concert by the Cawston Brass Band - and plenty already planned for 2017.
- I said that in 2015 we spent more regular income than we received - but this isn't something to worry about - forget the money – let's focus on people - what they want and what they need: if people - old and new - feel happy, fulfilled and welcome here - then the money will follow. Who wouldn't invest their money in a place like that? So let's get enthusiastic, creative and active to use our new kitchen and organ to bring people to Christ and Christ Church - that's why we're building them isn't it? We surely have a faith worth sharing?
- And let's not take our existing church family brothers and sisters for granted. Every one of us is special - brilliant in God's eyes - so let's value, encourage and build up each other while we are here. I miss the people who left us last year - particularly Jane and John Brydon who kept faith with Christ Church for over 30 years.
- So let's live out our faith with action - 2016 is the year we need to ensure we make the most of our new kitchen and organ to grow the church, as church family, as a team, together. Thank you.

Applause and unanimous thanks to Julian for all his work as treasurer

8. Church Wardens' Report including the Fabric Report for the Church and Report on Colman Road Parish Hall:

All these reports are in the Annual Review. Mike Brookes also has a Fabric Report book. David Scott asked whether there were any questions. There were none. **Reports unanimously accepted.**

9. Presentation of the Church's Terrier and Inventory:

David Scott reported that the lists of all moveable furniture and fittings, pictures, plate, altar etc have been checked and are complete and correct. David has the terrier for anyone to see if wished.

10. Presentation of tokens of thanks: Patrick reported that the Magazine Team has new members and goes from strength to strength. He expressed thanks to all of them. He thanked to Graham Patrick who is now standing down from managing church collections and deliveries. He expressed thanks to Julian and Jess Pitt for all they have done for Christ Church as departing Treasurer and Church Warden and gifts were presented to them with unanimous acclaim.

11. Diocesan and Deanery Synod Reports:

Circulated before the meeting in the Annual Review and taken as read. There were no questions. Patrick thanked everyone who has served on Diocesan and Deanery Synods. Thanks to John Brydon who served on both.

12. Elections and Appointments:

a) Election of members to the Deanery Synod:

Vivien Humber and Ruth Vaughan joined deanery synod during the year and are willing to continue, with John Harrison. Thanks to them. Applause. **Elected unopposed.**

b) Election of members to the PCC: Christine Peachell has stepped down after five years, Julian Pitt after three years and Jane Saunders after two years; John Brydon stepped down in June 2015. Patrick expressed many thanks to all of them for all they have done for Christ Church. There are at least three spaces on the PCC. Denise Back was willing to stand again and was re-elected unopposed, having served three years so far. Tony Grubb and David Archer were willing to stand as PCC members, and David Archer is also willing to take on the role of treasurer. As there are spaces on the PCC they were elected unopposed to unanimous acclaim.

c) Group Council: Present members Pat Funnell and David Scott are willing to remain on Group Council and Jess Pitt is also willing to join. John Harrison stepped down with our thanks for all he has done.

d) Appointment of Sides People

The following people were willing to stand again: Rowena Atkinson, Simon Back, Mike Brookes, Anthony Colman, John Cooke, David Edmonds, Enid Erskine, Pat Funnell, John Harrison, Don Hobbs, Catherine Jeffries, Mark Jeffries, Peter Kinchen, Alistair MacDougal, Mary Muff, Michael Price, Robin Quine, Richard Rivett, Maureen Sarr, Norman Sidebottom, Jacky Sutcliffe, Mary Sword, Tony Sword and Gary Wheatley. They were all re-appointed to unanimous acclaim, as well as Andrea Middleton, who joined the team during the year.

e) Election of Independent Examiner:

John Gallop was unanimously re-elected as Independent Examiner.

13. Update on new kitchen, and disabled access WC: MB reported that c£28,000 had been raised towards this project so far, £5,000 from the Geoffrey Watling Trust, £2,000 from the All Churches Trust and £1,000 from the Paul Basson Trust and the rest from individual donations and fund raising events like the extremely successful Russian Orthodox choral concert. The fund raising team was thanked for all their hard work and success in raising these sums. Mike Brookes reported on carpentry work already done for the new fold-away kitchen and WC. The carcass is completed and the outer casing of joinery work in French oak is being completed in the workshop. Mike asked whether there were any questions. There were none. Thanks to Mike for all his hard work. **Applause.**

14. What should Christ Church's unique selling point be? Patrick initiated a discussion in advance of a poll on worship and services as part of a review of Christ Church's vision, mission and strategy in 2016. He made the point that Christ Church is essentially "middle of the road Anglican" in its general style of services. Our age profile shows a big gap in the middle. Thanks to Tots Teatime Church, Sunday School and Choir the worshipping community sees over 30 children during the year. We have few teenagers apart from choir members, however, and very few in their 20's and 30's, apart from the parents of small children and those wishing to marry here. A unique selling point is a commercial idea, a reason why people should buy what one is offering, rather than something else or nothing. Patrick asked the meeting what we think we are offering, and how we can reach out to younger people.

Pat Funnell said she thought this was the most important subject raised so far in the meeting.

Joyce Harrison suggested that Patrick should canvas views of children in schools he visits on what they might look for in a church.

Rachel Taylor commented that teenagers/young people are tribal and need separate arrangements. Her own children will come to Christ Church for Christmas and Easter services which tend however to be aimed at younger children. She has the impression that St Thomas's and Holy Trinity run special services for young people. Food is very important to young people and could be a component of events to draw them in.

Alistair Bolt commented that the services we run tend not to appeal to young people, and never have, but do appeal to older people. Perhaps we should be grateful to other churches for doing what we don't seem able to do, and not try to replicate what they do.

Sarah Verger made the point that we would have to do something different and wondered whether we would have the funds for this. Perhaps we shouldn't try to cater for them, it's trying to do too much.

Julian Pitt suggested that the current congregation should encourage their friends and other like minded people to come, in other words grow the congregation from the people already attending.

Elly Ross (lead junior chorister, student) said that she has friends who go to other churches, and she thinks CC might well lose something if we tried to be different to provide what they want.

Jacqui Sutcliffe commented that we shouldn't perhaps try to cater for teenagers here, which is not an ideal building, but perhaps should collaborate with another church or churches to do something for teenagers in a different venue. Mothers might appreciate coming into church with their younger children, however.

Bridget Archer wondered whether Scouts and Brownies and Cubs could renew their connection with church. She commented that services at Christ Church might make some people feel excluded. For example the way the Gloria is sung might seem difficult for some people if they weren't used to it.

Tony Grubb said that the church he came from in West London had a similar congregation, and was similarly traditionally Anglican, quite high, but with a large number of young families. We should encourage young families. They are not put off by conventional or even high church services. Say 10 families with young children would make a huge difference to the balance of the congregation.

Patrick thanked everyone for voicing their opinions which were much valued and provided a good basis for further discussion.

15. Discussion and vote on PCC proposals for £13,000 repair of bell turret, open top of arch in south aisle, restore organ for £75,000 (over £41,000 raised so far):

Patrick explained that we have been advised that opening up the top of the arch in the south aisle would greatly improve the sound of the organ. Although the Quinquennial Report stated that the North roof slates need replacing in the future, no water has come in during recent heavy rain, making this seem less urgent at present. David Scott reported that a grant application for work to the roof has been made, however. Mike Brookes reported that the Quinquennial Report recommended a survey of the bell tower, which has been done. Although it is stable it is eroded and it would be better to have work done sooner rather than later to prevent further deterioration, and also before going ahead with any work to the organ, because of possible damage to the organ caused by dust and debris during this work.

16. AOB: There was none.

17. Closing Prayers and the Grace

The meeting closed at 12:39pm.

Signed
Chair

Date

Patrick Richmond announced an Extraordinary Meeting of Parishioners, at the end of the 10am service. Vivien Humber was elected Church warden unopposed. There were 80 people present.

Signed
Chair

Date