

## Saint Mary's Church, Tamerton Foliot

### Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

The meeting opened with prayer at 7.34.p.m. Both meetings were chaired by Rev'd. Preb. D. Gill.

#### **Vestry Meeting:**

- 1. Present:** Mrs. E Baser, Mrs. S Brett, Mr. G and Mrs. P Brooks, Mrs. S Burnett, Mr. S and Mrs. A Cain, Mr. R Clark, Mr. D and Mrs. M Clarke, Mrs. M Dean, Mrs. P Eyres, Mr. P Fraser, Rev'd D Gill, Mrs. F Gill, Mr. J Green, Mrs. S Grier, Mrs. G Jarman, Mr. A King, Miss H McCready, Mrs. S McCready, Mrs. J Parker, Mr. C and Mrs. J Stockman, Mr. S Stoddard.
- 2. Apologies** were received from: Mrs. R Avis, Mr. P Bolam, Mr. M Case, Mrs. J Donovan, Mrs. J Green, Mrs. V Howell, Mrs. D King, Mr. J Parker, Mr. D and Mrs. R Silverwood, Mr. P Sloggett, Mrs. A Stoddard, Mrs. J Tooze, Mrs W Trend and Mrs. R Watkins. Rev'd Iain Robertson also sent his apologies.
- 3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** The Chair gave all some time to read the minutes of the previous Vestry meeting; it was proposed by Helen McCready and seconded by Peter Fraser that the minutes presented be accepted as a true record of the previous Vestry meeting. The proposal was accepted with a unanimous vote.
- 4. Election of two Church Wardens:**

Andrew King was proposed by Pat Brooks and seconded by Jacky Stockman. Susanne Burnett was proposed by Derek Clarke and seconded by Jill Tooze. There being no other proposals, Susanne Burnett and Andrew King were duly elected.

In closing the Vestry meeting, Rev. D. Gill thanked the two elected Church Wardens for their past sterling work and looked forward to another busy year. He then closed the Vestry meeting at 7.38.p.m.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting:**

Rev'd D Gill then opened the APCM meeting, for which apologies given and names present were the same as for the Vestry meeting.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** Noting that the APCM Booklets had been available for reading for the past week, Rev'd David allowed attendees a short time to read the Minutes of the previous meeting. John Green proposed and Jacky Stockman seconded that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Voting was unanimously in favour of the proposal.
- 2. Matters Arising:** Rev'd D Gill opened the floor for discussion of any matters arising. No matters were raised.
- 3. Electoral Roll Report:** Pat Brooks reported that the Electoral Roll (ER) now stood at 96, with 54 residents in the Parish and 42 non-residents. Pat Brooks also reported that the mandatory root and branch review of the ER would take place next year. She added that, after the APCM, there would be one deletion and 3 additions to the Roll. Rev'd David Gill thanked Pat Brooks for her work over the year and proposed that the APCM approve the new Roll. The APCM did so, unanimously.

**4. Election of Parochial Church Counsellors:** After a short introduction by the Chair, explaining the status and terms remaining for current PCC members, Rev'd D Gill outlined that there were, therefore, 5 vacancies on the PCC – three for 3 years and 2 for one year. For these positions, Val Howell had been nominated by Colin Stockman and seconded by Derek Clarke; Robert Clark had been nominated by Fenny Gill and seconded by Mair Clarke; Phil Sloggett had been nominated by Colin Stockman and seconded by Graham Brooks; all three would stand for three years. Stephen Cain had been nominated by John Green and seconded by Susanne Burnett; Anne Cain had been nominated by Susanne Burnett and seconded by John Green. Both were willing to stand for one year. There being no other nominees at the meeting, all nominees were unanimously elected. This provides a full complement of positions for the PCC and a good balance in terms of appointment across the PCC. Acceptance of the election result was proposed by Helen McCready and seconded by Graham Brooks and voted for unanimously.

The PCC composition is thus: Val Howell, Robert Clark and Phil Sloggett will serve for three years; Pat Brooks, Sara Grier, Colin Stockman and Jacky Stockman will serve for two more years; Jo Parker, Anne Cain and Stephen Cain will serve for one year. At the first meeting of the new PCC, roles of members will be decided.

**5. Appointment of Sidesmen:** The updated current list of sidespeople was reviewed. They are: Mrs. P Brooks, Mr. M Case, Mrs. M Clarke, Mr. B Davies, Mrs. S Grier, Mr. D Howe, Mrs. V Howell, Mr. D Jeffrey, Mr. C Stockman, Mrs. J Stockman, Mrs. A Stoddard and Mr. S Stoddard, Mrs. J Tooze. Rev'd David Gill asked for more volunteers. Sara Brett volunteered to act as sidesperson for the 10.00 a.m. service and Robert Clark volunteered to act as sidesman for evening services. It was proposed by the Chair that all listed be elected on bloc. Voting was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**6. Appointment of Safeguarding Officer:** The Chair stated that Sara Grier had been our safeguarding officer and was prepared to continue in this role. He therefore proposed her to do so. Derek Clarke proposed that Sara Grier should be re-elected; seconded by Anne Cain. The proposal was approved unanimously. **[PMN: Details of Safeguarding Officer nominated on Church website and posted in porch.]**

**7. Annual Report of Financial Affairs:** On prompting from the Chair, Mr. Stanley Stoddard presented his annual report, which he said had been on display in the church for the previous 8 weeks. There had been no queries and so he assumed that all were content. There was no dissent. Stan went on to provide an update on the accounts for the date of the APCM. He reported that he was awaiting a third quotation for the refurbishment of the Clock Faces. The two companies who had provided quotes to date both recommended complete removal of the clock faces, as neither had been completely overhauled since 1938. Initial inspection had **revealed a 2 foot gap around the dial of the West wall clock face. Both quotes received so far were** in the order of £12k. He went on to describe the second project under consideration in the PCC, namely the provision of an accessible toilet facility in church. He reported the need to obtain architectural plans to provide a feasible option before making a bid for finance from central funds or grants. He estimated final cost of the facility would be around £25k. In answer to a question from Pat Eyres, he confirmed the intent for the toilet to be fully accessible for all. John Green asked about the roof, which is currently leaking in places, although it appears impossible to find the source. Rev'd David Gill estimated the cost of total replacement would be at least £75k. Discussion then moved on to the state in which some users have left the Church Hall. Stan Stoddard proposed that the new PCC address this issue as a matter of urgency. He concluded his verbal report by thanking the Organ Refurbishment Group for their fundraising efforts, as well as Mair and Derek Clarke and Val Howell for their support as Graveyard Fund managers and Planned Giving Officer respectively. The APCM recorded its vote of thanks to all three, plus all fundraisers. The

Chair recorded the parish's thanks to Stan for his sterling work over many years as treasurer.

**8. Presentation of Audited Accounts:** As Stanley Stoddard had stated, the audited accounts had been on display on the Church Notice Board for eight weeks. There being no questions, Sandie McCready proposed and Jacky Stockman seconded that the audited accounts be accepted. They were, by a unanimous vote. Stan Stoddard committed to send the accounts to the Acting ArchDeacon. **[PMN: Accounts sent to Diocese and to Deanery Treasurer.]**

**9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner (2017 -2018):** Stanley Stoddard reported that Mr. Peter Kilpatrick was prepared to stand again as the Independent Examiner. It was unanimously agreed that he be reappointed, after proposal by the Chair.

**10. Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC:** The secretary had provided the PCC annual report. From it, he drew the APCM's attention to three main points. Firstly, he highlighted the PCC's efforts over the year to support Rev'd David's efforts at outreach. This had resulted in a leafleting campaign aimed at reaching all new housing developments within the parish as well as the older houses, spearheaded by Susanne Burnett. Over 50% of houses had been reached, with some positive results, although he noted the burden falling on a decreasing number of people, due to the aging profile of the congregation. He stressed the continuing need to enhance outreach. Secondly, he commended the fund raising efforts over the last two years and the need to continue, especially in light of the disappointing decision by Vodafone not to pursue the aerial installation in the Tower with its potential for steady income. He noted the projects already outlined by Stan Stoddard which would require funding in the next few years. Thirdly, he encouraged all to support Church and Community events over the next year, both as a means of fundraising but, more importantly, as a means of keeping St. Mary's relevant to the life of the community. He concluded by thanking the PCC members for their support. There were no questions from the floor. After proposal by the Chair, the PCC report was accepted with a unanimous vote.

**11. Churchwardens' Fabric Report:** Andy King presented this report. He highlighted the continuing and long-term problem with plasterwork in the Church walls and the danger that it posed to affecting the refurbishment of the organ over time. He thanked Stanley Stoddard for his unceasing efforts in maintenance, undertaken both by himself and by contractors whom he regularly organises. He highlighted the continuing need for volunteers to help manage the workload for ground works and cleaning, whilst thanking those who had helped over the last year. He also noted the loss of potential regular income from the Vodafone withdrawal, which will place greater emphasis on our own ability to raise funds for the projects needed to sustain our buildings and church life. In summing up, Rev'd David Gill thanked both Church Wardens for their support, whilst stressing their different but complementary skills.

**12. Vicar's Report:** Rev'd David Gill offered his written report and highlighted some of its conclusions. He opened by reflecting upon the mandatory statistics and stated that it showed the difficulties of focusing upon statistics alone as they told us that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 1000 service was suffering, although at the previous 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday there had been 30 adults and 8 children, even without the pull of a baptism. He advertised the "Together@ Ten" rebranding of this service and stressed the need to sustain a critical mass and the cyclical nature of support for various forms of service. He also reminded all of the need to support each congregation as well as raising awareness of the full gamut of church activity across all parishioners. He then stressed the need for all members to note when regulars "fall off" attendance and to raise awareness of particular issues so that action can be taken. He went on to remind all that the historic focus of church on Sunday is changing, as evidenced by the strength of the Youth Group (at 16 every Tuesday) as well as the regular numbers of young families attending Messy Church. Finally, he reminded all to give thanks for the fellowship of

the Church and commended the core membership of this parish, represented in the APCM. He noted that the call of discipleship is to serve and he saw evidence of this every Sunday in serving the community which must remain our focus as we are called by God to be servants of this parish for all God's children in this place. He thanked the congregations and closed by reiterating that it had been a curate's egg of a year.

**13. Deanery Synod Report:** One of our two Deanery Synod representatives, Pat Eyres, spoke to her report. Deanery Synod had met three times during the year and at least one of our two representatives had attended each one. Deanery Synod had focused on its Mission Theme all year. Rev'd David noted that Deanery Synod had been set a large task in the forthcoming year in developing the "Plymouth Bid" – applying to the Church Commissioners for £1.5M to undertake outreach in Plymouth to engage the outer estates, as statistics showed that engagement in church in Plymouth is the lowest in Britain at 0.1%. There will thus be three mission initiatives in Ernesettle, Whiteleigh and Ham. Pat Eyres also mentioned the development of the new church in Sherford, which is under a Bishop's Mission Order to combine three parishes and to place all under the City of Plymouth. Pat Eyres stated that both she and Janet Donovan were amenable to continuing in the role. Their report was unanimously accepted.

**14. Other Reports:** The Chair commended the other reports of Church activities, included in the APCM booklet to all attendees. On invitation, Jo Parker spoke to her reports on Messy, Open the Book and Oasis Youth Group. She invited all to take part in Messy Church and noted that Mary Dean liked and supported the Open the Book initiative, which took place every 4 – 6 weeks in term time. She sought more volunteers, stressing the rewarding nature of the talks. She also recorded the Youth Group was going well and expected the usual full complement of 30 – 35 children for Holiday Club in August. Sara Grier proposed a vote of thanks to Jo for her youth work, which was duly voted unanimously. Fenny Gill presented her report on the Choir, noting that the Choir had pulled its weight throughout the year especially in adapting willingly to many varied events. She noted the aspiration to continue joint work with the choir of Holy Spirit. Helen McCready proposed a vote of thanks to both Fenny Gill and John Green for their teaching, which the APCM voted for unanimously.

*All reports given were included in full in the bound Annual Report Document, which also included reports of other church groups. This document was available at the meeting and at the following Sunday services.*

**15. Any Other Business:** Rev'd David Gill opened the floor for anyone to raise Any Other Business. Mair Clarke reminded all that Steven and Catriona Bennett would be visiting St. Jude's on 12<sup>th</sup> April and invited all able to attend to show our support for their mission in Rwanda. The Chair voiced his support.

**16. Notices:** Rev'd David Gill reminded all of the following dates:

Thu 29 March	7.30.a.m.	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
	10.20 a.m.	Compline
Sun 1 April	8.00 a.m.	Communion
	10.00 a.m.	Communion
	6.30 p.m.	Evening worship and Celebration of Relationships
Mon 9 April	7 p.m.	First PCC meeting, Oasis Room
Thu 12 April		St. Jude's
Sat 14 April		"Noah" performance
Tue 1 May	7.30.p.m.	Archdeacon's visitation at St Bartholomew's Church

Other events will be discussed by the PCC and published.

**17. Closing prayers:** The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. with members standing and saying The Grace together.