



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary
held on 19 April 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Church**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
Chairman – Rev Canon Dr Barry Wilson**

1/16 OPENING PRAYER

Rev Stephen Snelling opened the meeting with prayer.

Marie McKavanagh gave a short recital on the new grand piano which had been delivered on the day

2/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 21 April 2015 were accepted as they had been, in accordance with last year's APCM decision, been displayed publicly for 4 weeks and, as no amendment had been proposed, had been approved as a true record at the July PCC meeting.

3/16 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Barry Wilson thanked the current Churchwardens, Nigel Winzer and Deborah Snelling, for their work. The two nominations of Steve Lockett and Pat Stalker were accepted and unanimously elected as Churchwardens for 2016-17.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4/16 ATTENDANCE

The attendance totalled 65 persons

5/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Paul & Gail Ramsey, Pauline Beeby, Marie Hamner, John & Jill Oakes, John & June Corbett, Shirley Johnson, Rose Harris and Helen Lockett.

6/16 MINUTES

In accordance with last year's APCM decision, Ref 15/15, the minutes of the APCM held on 21 April 2015 had been published within 6 weeks of the meeting by display on the notice board at the back of church. There had been 1 month for anyone to make written comments to the PCC secretary and in the absence of any changes the PCC had approved them at their July 2015 meeting. The minutes were therefore accepted.

7/16 ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

Keith E Johnson reported that this had been the 3rd of the 5 revisions and the the electoral roll numbers had continued to increase. 398 in 2013, 445 in 2014, 448 in 2015 and now with the addition of 20 members and necessary deletion of 7 the roll stood at 461. There is also one more known application in waiting. Keith expressed his thanks to Beth, the churchwardens and Barry for their assistance. The Chairman thanked Keith for his work in revising the roll and for his report.

8/16 RECTOR'S REPORT

Barry Wilson said that in future his enduring memory of 2015 would be the death of his colleague and friend Jenny O'Brien. He expressed great thanks to Rachael Griffiths to whom St Mary's was greatly indebted for all her hard work through and following the



difficult year. To progress the churches work we are to advertise for someone to work with Rachael in the children and youth work of the parish.

2015 also saw the arrival of Kaushal David as curate for him to learn about and also enrich our ministry. In preparation for his arrival there was a lot of work done to the church owned curate's house in Beatty Road. Thanks went to Nigel Winzer who had arranged and coordinated this mammoth project of work.

Thanks were also due to Tony Metcalfe for his 25 years of dedicated service as Director of Music and best wishes expressed for his retirement. It was however a delight to see the developments in the choir since the appointment of Alison Phillips as the new Director of Music.

Work has been evident in the year both out and inside the church. This is the result of much preparation, money raising and grant finding as well as the day to day management of the works. Barry expressed his hope that it will be agreed that it has been worth the effort.

There have been various spiritual developments over the year too with the introduction of the Rhythms of Grace initiative and the Jesus Shaped People (JSP) programme. Whilst the impacts are difficult to measure as some are personal and some corporate there have been significant and varied examples reported including Barry's wife Yvonne's volunteering with the refugee programme in Stoke on Trent, his own meeting with members of more diverse faiths and a new weekly prayer meeting supporting the activities and plans for the church. Thanks go to Paul Ramsey for his co-ordination of JSP.

A future programme will be a mission in the autumn with headline speakers and our ecumenical partners joining us. This year the focus will be on adults and then next year an initiative to focus on children.

The PCC voted £4,000 to assist the Deanery in a Mission Support initiative and we have also extended our own ministry team with the appointment of Vanessa Layfield as a pastoral worker.

Barry thanked all involved for the work done but particularly

- Nigel Winzer and Deborah Snelling who have supported me as Rector and managed enormous projects throughout the year alongside their normal churchwarden duties.
- Stephen Snelling for his work and friendship.
- Standing Committee for their work and preparation on PCC matters, managing approvals for various projects and acting as a sounding board
- PCC for their wisdom, patience, laughter and challenge as well as everything achieved

The year has been chaotic, full of problems but we have done amazing work.

For the future Barry expressed his desire for some time for prayer, to listen and reflect but that he was also particularly looking forward to the Flower Festival.

There is still £250,000 worth of pointing work to be done on the north side of the nave but this has not been designated as urgent. There is also a three quarters of a million pound project of paving and revitalization of the town centre for which we are working with the Nantwich Town Council and Cheshire East within the Nantwich Partnership scheme.



The internal organization of the church building requires further review in response to the concerns about lone working expressed by the visitor's stewards and shop volunteers and so the hospitality unit of the shop will probably be relocated into the church.

A lot to look forward to.

9/16 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Steve Lockett pointed out that the required financial statements had been available on the website for some time but provided a copy of the 2015 Annual Accounts for information. In summary Steve explained that the balance was greater than anticipated in the budget as there had been a VAT refund on previous gas bills, less payment than expected on the Children and Youth worker salaries and improved magazine accounts. This led to a £12,000 surplus with an additional £3,500 from good housekeeping.

Steve then explained the PCC budget for 2016.

Barry Wilson expressed thanks to both Steve Lockett and Bryan Coghlan (Restoration & Development Accounts) for their orderly keeping of the funds and accounts.

Proposal – That the APCM accepts all the 2015 Accounts. Accepted unanimously.

10/16 **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

Nigel Winzer referred to the adventure of the last 3 years of being churchwarden with Deborah Snelling and reflected on the achievements benefiting the church family. These included the initiation of annual maintenance and service contracts for the lightning protection system, portable appliances, heating boilers and roof alarm. These will also be established for the new lift and the necessary pumping station.

With thanks to the Preservation Trustees for funding the replacement of downspouts, all new cast versions are now in place. Other work includes the replacement of the old and costly lighting system in church with LED units, a new heating system in the bell tower, restoration of the misericords and canopies as well as the installation of reredos lighting, again with thanks to the Preservation Trustees. They also funded the new bell tower door and the cleaning of the north and both chancel doors.

The completion of the re-ordering project at the back of church, which has been my passion for 25 years, is the icing on the cake and I leave my duties on a "high".

Nigel offered his sincere gratitude to Rector Barry referring to the real pleasure, enjoyment and laughter shared at warden's meetings. Thanks also to Stephen for his listening and guidance. A special thank you to the congregation without whose support the job would have been impossible.

Final thanks to Deborah, co-warden and true friend. Thanks for your assistance and completing all the paperwork. An excellent partnership which has worked to the benefit of our great church.

Deborah Snelling explained that unusually there would be this second churchwarden's report but she wished to endorse all Nigel has said and that without Barry's relentless determination and enthusiasm the reordering project would not have reached its successful conclusion. From Barry's securing of the grants to Recclesia's team of workers including Jamie and Luke we have achieved the construction seen today, assisted by her supply of cakes and chocolate! The two toilets are completed and available to all and so we will continue to have grant funding for their running and maintenance.



Nigel and I would like to especially thank Margaret Wilson and her team for keeping the church as clean as possible during the works and all involved in spring cleaning and returning the kneelers and seat runners to the pews.

We have recently benefitted from a generous donation following a funeral which will fund a panic alarm system for our lone worker stewards and volunteers without whom we wouldn't be able to keep our lovely church open. We have a duty of care to protect them as best we can.

Another donation has funded the purchase of a further 40 chairs for use in church. Today, after 25 years planning and fund raising by Tony Metcalfe and the popular summer lunchtime concerts, the new grand piano has been delivered and as we heard at the start of the meeting is a wonderful addition to the church.

I shall miss the daily chats with Nigel but these are likely to continue as we plan to bring the shop into the church. We have become good friends worked as a team using our individual strengths and we wish Steve Lockett and Pat Stalker well in their duties as wardens.

11/16 **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Beth Roberts thanked all PCC members for their attendance and forbearance with a few meeting date changes through the year. Thanks particularly to Jon Griffiths as the one elected member leaving this year, Paul O'Brien who was co-opted back onto both PCC and Standing Committee and the two Churchwardens as they come towards the end of their duties. Beth referred to her report in the Annual Reports booklet for more detail of PCC accomplishments and recommended the various other reports which gave a picture of all the activities in the parish. Beth also reminded all PCC members of the short meeting to be held immediately after this one.

12/16 **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

As written in the Annual Reports booklet.

13/16 **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

As written in the Annual Reports booklet.

14/16 **ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

- a) **PCC Representatives** – Whilst there were 5 vacancies for 3 years and 1 for 2 years there were 5 accepted nominations so elections were unnecessary and the nominations accepted: Vanessa Layfield, Kath Leonard, Paul O'Brien, Nigel Winzer and Dot Woods.
- b) **Appointment of Sidesmen** – Deborah Snelling reported that 33 sidesmen had been nominated. All were on the Electoral Roll and were unanimously accepted. It was agreed that the Churchwardens should co-opt additional sidesmen as necessary.
- c) **Appointment of Independent Examiner** – John Sheridan proposed and accepted unanimously.

15/16 **ELECTED REPRESENTATION TO PCC**

Stephen Snelling presented the recommendation from PCC that the number of elected representatives be reduced to 12 (4 to be elected each year).

He explained that currently there are up to 24 PCC members at St Mary's including the 3 clergy (ex-officio), 2 elected churchwardens (ex-officio), 4 elected deanery synod representatives and up to 5 PCC representatives elected each year for 3 years. Following a discussion at the last PCC they have recommended a reduction of the annual elected representatives to 4, each year. This resolution, if passed, will be



effective from next year and will mean that the number of elected members of the PCC will reduce from 15 in 2016 to 12 in 2019. This was **proposed** by Nick Hutt and seconded by Jackie Ford **and was carried** with 42 for and 8 against.

16/16 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

- a) Jill Crawford asked what had happened to the muniment boards listing past Rectors and Churchwardens as there had been enquiries and that they proved to be of interest to many visitors. Barry responded explaining that they had been taken down as they needed refurbishment and then the re-ordering works had been proposed so a place is to be found for them in the next set of plans to be drawn up and that they would hopefully be made available again within the next 12 months.
- b) Jackie Ford expressed thanks to Barry and Stephen for their leadership in God's work in both spiritual matters and through the building project.
- c) Stephen Snelling responding by saying that working with Barry was a joy and adding his appreciation.

17/16 **CLOSING PRAYER**

Barry Wilson thanked everyone for attending and the teamwork of the church in God's mission to Nantwich. The meeting closed with prayer at 8:35 pm.

Chairman

Date