

THE PARISH OF CENTRAL EXETER

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on

Sunday 7th April 2019 at 11.45am at St Stephen's Church

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Chair: Keith Walton

Attendance: 2 clergy and 23 laypeople

1. Apologies

Sue Blow, Jessica Claridge, Celia Smith, Doreen Hatt, Isabel Burn, Bob Burn, Daphne Smith, Barbara Northey, Sharon Barnes, Beryl Whidden and Joy Watson

2. Minutes of the 2018 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th April 2018 were approved and signed by Keith Walton.

3. Election of Churchwardens for 2019/20

Sarah Branton stepped down as churchwarden and was thanked by Keith for all her service and accepted a gift from the parish.

Two churchwardens were re-elected for the coming year: Keith Walton and Betsy Allen

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies

As for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Minutes of the 2018 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th April 2018 were approved and signed by Keith Walton.

3. Annual Report and Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2018

Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statement were circulated to members of the parish prior to the APCM (see attached). The PCC meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2019 approved the Annual Report. Keith stated that the report and financial statement adhere to the format required by the Diocese and the Charity Commission.

Keith gave a vote of thanks to Sean for the huge amount of work that goes into keeping the parish's finances and compiling the Financial Statement.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement was approved.

4. Nomination of independent examiner for 2019

Simon Guy examined the accounts and signed the Independent Examiner's Certificate. The parish reappointed him as the independent examiner of the accounts for the coming year. He doesn't charge for his services but the parish makes a donation to Age UK.

5. Report on the fabric and furnishings of the churches (attached)

Keith gave thanks to Don for his care of the buildings. Keith read out the report as some people had been unable to open the document on certain devices.

St Pancras: It was noted that the spare bell rope is in safe keeping at Don's house. The drain has yet to be repaired but Don is to remind the builders of this commitment.

St Olaves's: The upgrade of the vestry with a tea bar is in the planning stage.

St Petrock's: Disappointment was expressed at the refusal of the parish's request to install solar panels on the roof. Keith has written to the Archdeacon (Christopher Futchter) to register the disappointment felt by the parish.

6. Approval of the Safeguarding Report (attached)

Keith mentioned that the parish website should be viewed regularly to check for updates on policies, news and events. Mary outlined the points mentioned in the report including the need to update the Safeguarding Policy in line with Diocesan changes. Sandie proposed that a DBS log be kept to ensure DBS checks are regularly renewed every 5 years. **Mary to create a DBS log.** Betsy confirmed that we have a risk assessment in place for Stay and Play sessions.

Sandie suggested we have a Safeguarding Risk Assessment and an awareness session for the parish in light of recent incidents where vulnerable adults have been involved. To be discussed at next PCC meeting (15th May 2019)

Bob acknowledged the support given to St Stephen's from Princesshay Security who regularly check the building and help when members have been dealing with difficult situations. Keith has sent a letter of thanks. A suggestion was made for everyone to add the Princesshay Security phone number to their mobile phones – the number which is on the servery wall.

Averil suggested that we check St Pancras is given security cover from the Guildhall Security team.

Helen wondered if our current Public Liability Insurance Policy covers accidents involving visitors to our churches. Keith believes that we are covered by existing Policies.

7. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Our Deanery Synod representatives are Jessica Claridge and Celia Smith who were thanked for their time given to attending meetings.

Sheila reported on the 3 meetings of 2018:

February: Theme of Prayer

June: Social Care theme about enabling people with dementia to be a part of church communities and the work of Age UK, Exeter.

October: Developments at Trinity School and church and Common Fund Assessment

8. Diocesan Synod Report (attached)

Sheila commented on this report. Themes were the Common Fund assessment, Good News stories and whole life discipleship.

9. Exeter City Centre Chaplaincy Report (attached)

Sandie reported on the 6th Year of ECCC. She noted that the chaplains have supported many people through transition and that emotions are still very vulnerable to the continuing uncertainty of jobs on the High Street. There is also a need for new volunteers.

10. Churches Together in Central Exeter Report (attached)

Sheila reported on the changes to the Good Friday Walk of Witness where Steve Santry from the Mint will preach. The Cathedral Nativity are looking for a new director to coordinate the event.

11. Report from Unlimited Church (attached)

Wow! Everyone impressed with the richness of activities Unlimited Church are undertaking with young people and with positive results. The lease of St Mary Arches was completed with plans for reordering the grade 1 listed building to be reactivated in 2019.

Keith is to write a letter to Unlimited Church thanking them for their report and to convey how delighted the parish is with their inspiring work.

Averil mentioned that the Street Pastors go out on the streets of Exeter regularly at weekends. Jim, our caretaker, also joins them. Jim informed us that McDonald's experiences a lot of trouble every Fri/Sat night. Saturday 15th June is the Street Pastors 10th anniversary and there is an afternoon service in the cathedral.

12. Election of Representatives for the PCC

Keith gave huge thanks to both John Dobson and Michael Hall for their years of service on the PCC as they have taken the decision to retire. Michael was thanked for his involvement in the fabric of the buildings especially St Olave's and John was thanked for being a pillar of strength, asking questions and his photographic skills. Cards and gifts were given to John and Michael in appreciation.

Don and Richard agreed to be re-elected to the PCC and were welcomed back for another 3 year term.

Viv Asher and Jill Grainger were both elected to join the PCC and were welcomed.

Sheila reported that Viv Asher is to take on the role of trustee on St Petrock's Day Centre Trust to replace Michael Hall who retired, having served since 2000.

13. Role of the stewards

Keith outlined the roles and responsibilities of churchwardens: responsible for the fabric of the church buildings, smooth running of services and with automatic inclusion on the PCC among others. Recently, the churchwardens and their partners have acted as stewards in the setting up of services but now there is a need to recruit other people to share and assist in this area. A steward's role includes preparing the church for worship by putting out chairs, organising hymn books, welcoming people etc. Other roles also need support include flower arranging, readers, intercessors, Greeters etc. Training in any of these areas can be arranged.

Keith will write to parish to ask for volunteers before drawing up rotas.

Thanks were extended to the musicians in the parish – Caroline, Bee, Imogen, Jim and Peter.

14. Election of sides people

All re-elected.

15. Adoption of the Electoral Roll

The new Electoral Roll for 2019 is 38. There are two new members – David Snell and Pat Purchase (attending St Pancras) with one person not renewing membership (worshipping elsewhere) and two deaths: Jim Sharman and Margaret Godsland. The Electoral roll was adopted.

16. Report of the Priest-in-charge (attached)

Sheila highlighted a few points from her report including the annual service held in St Mary Arches (August), charity exhibitions in St Petrock's, the annual Homelessness service in St Petrock's with a special service and blessing of Exeter Pride to be held later this year, also in St Petrock's. In addition, Stay and Play is becoming more established. Sheila suggested people may like to pop in on the now monthly Age UK Coffee Mornings which happen on the first Tuesday of each month. She mentioned the forthcoming Tea Party event being hosted by ECI (Exeter Community Initiatives) in St Stephen's in May and asked for volunteers to help with refreshments.

Sheila thanked the parish for their support and in turn Bob and Claire, on behalf of the parish, extended thanks to Sheila for all the work she does.

17. Chairs' Report (attached)

Keith presented his report making an analogy between Christianity and the Blockbusters Video store phenomenon. He talked of how they both rose from small beginnings to worldwide recognition and following but are now coping with demise and a struggle to find relevance in the modern world. How can our churches survive in our ever changing city centre? Keith finished by reiterating that the city centre is still attractive for many reasons and the parish's buildings are versatile and fit for purpose so the challenge is to encourage people to want to come to worship.

18. Any questions or comments

None

Minutes of the PCC meeting

1. Election of the officers for 2019-20

Keith Walton elected as chair for 2019-20 and Mary Keaney as secretary and Sean Swarbrick as treasurer.

2. Confirmation of date of next meeting

Wednesday 15th May at 7pm in St Petrock's

The meeting closed at 1.20pm