

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, CARTERTON

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 12.05pm on SUNDAY, 7 APRIL 2019

Attendance: Linda Arter, Ian Baker, Lyndsay Baker, Sandie Baylis, Janette Bessent, Rev Preb Stephen Bessent, Lynne S Bolter, Lynda Bostock, Stephen Bostock, Alison Brown, Alan Carter, Jean Carter, David Clark, Barbara Clark, Hannah Cloete, Tracy Crouch, David Edgar, Sue Edgar, Glenys Edwards, Glyn Edwards, Mary Grace Fanshawe, Carol Fothergill, Ray Goodson, Carol Hadgraft, Ian Harley, Sharon Harley, Stephen Hester, Allister Holt, Karen Holt, Rev Ian Howard, Maria-Therese Ingram, Victoria Jackson, Miriam Knight, Carole MacRae, Norman MacRae, Richard Matthews, Andrew Monkhouse, Kath Monkhouse, Luke Monkhouse, Margaret Morris, Roy Morris, Mariann Thompson, Michael Thompson, Doreen Trezise (chair), Jeanette Welsh, Liz Wood, Eileen Woodland, Linda Wooloff (notes)

Apologies: Michael Cox, Linda Cox, Hilda Parrott

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Doreen Trezise, Lay Chair of the PCC.

Introduction

Mrs Trezise was chairing the meeting during this time of inter-regnum. She opened the meeting by thanking, on behalf of the leadership team, all those who continue volunteer in various ways to maintain the building and support and enhance the life of the church.

Mrs Trezise presented the Annual Report for 2018 and invited people to view a copy which was displayed on the noticeboard and could be downloaded from our website. This contained all the reports on the various groups and activities which had taken place in 2018.

Finance Report (Richard Matthews and Ray Goodson on behalf of the Finance Team)

Mr Matthews and Mr Goodson took the meeting through the detail of the financial performance of the church in 2018.

2018 had been an exceptional year for the financial fortunes of our church. St John's had been the recipient of a substantial bequest from the Will of the late Robert Keen, a former resident of Carterton. This gift enabled the PCC as Trustees of the church to carry out some urgently required maintenance work on the structure of the building and, with an eye to the longer term, the PCC has been able to invest for future financial income. After taking professional advice, the PCC, as Trustees of the Church, decided to deposit a large proportion of the bequest in a CCLA Investment Fund, which provides a regular income dividend. CCLA (Church, Charity and Local Authorities Investment Fund) specifically caters for long-term investment planning for churches and charitable organisations. Research showed that CCLA is used satisfactorily by other parishes in the area. In September, we were pleased to receive a second tranche from the same legacy. This gift was also deposited in a CCLA Investment Fund; again, with the aim of earning a positive dividend for St John's. Our investment has so far produced a return of £5,695 (approx. 3-4%). Mr Morris asked whether any alternative investment companies had been considered. Mr Matthews advised that in-depth research had been carried out before making the final decision. Mr MacRae commented that CCLA was used by local authorities and considered to be a safe investment house with a good reputation.

The PCC also decided to assign £50,000 from the legacy to carrying out some of the urgently needed maintenance and repair work on the building: repainting the church exterior; an upgrade to the church's gas supply and repairs to the roof structure have already been carried out

Mr Matthews was pleased to report that regular voluntary giving had not decreased with news of the legacy, and had increased slightly over the year. He thanked the congregation for their giving. A sum of just over £9,000 had been reclaimed from HMRC courtesy of those who had signed up to Gift Aid their donations. Additional income had been generated from other activities such as fund-raising, hall hiring and fees of £20,426.

Mr Matthews mentioned that a new “direct debit” scheme for regular giving (the Parish Giving Scheme) which was endorsed and supported by the Church of England would be presented to the congregation on 12 May. This was currently being trialled by members of the PCC, and it was hoped it would prove to be an efficient and productive means of giving for all those who currently make contributions via standing order, and others who contribute on a regular basis.

The church had been able to pay its full parish share commitment to the Deanery in ten monthly increments. This had helped the Deanery meet its target and to claim an overall prompt payment discount from the Diocese. A proportion of this discount had been passed back to us. Mr MacRae asked whether it was possible to negotiate with the Deanery the amount of parish share. Mr Matthews advised that the formula for calculating each parish’s share contribution was complicated, but for several years St John’s been subsidised by other parishes in the Deanery. In view of the improved state of our accounts following the Keen legacy, this would very likely no longer be the case going forward.

Mr Goodson reported that regular expenditure had also increased, mostly due to normal inflationary reasons, and had been just under £120,000 for the year. The Finance Team continue to be vigilant in controlling costs where they can. Thanks to the income from the CCLA investment, the separate Fabric fund, which is held for fabric emergencies, had not been touched.

Mrs Trezise extended thanks to Richard Matthews as Treasurer, Ray Goodson who works so hard in dealing with all day-to-day accounting, Alan Carter for his regular banking duties, and Alison Ford for completing the gift aid submissions.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Mr Matthews thanked Mr Rory Baker-Johnson who had acted as Independent Examiner of the Annual Accounts for the past several years. Pressure of work meant that Mr Baker-Johnson would no longer be able to carry out this function. Mr Matthews had therefore made initial enquiries with a firm of local accounts (Shilton Accounting Services) to take over this role for next year. The meeting unanimously approved this course of action. *(Secretary’s note: Shilton Accounting Services have subsequently been appointed as Independent Examiner for 2019 Annual Accounts. They are admirably qualified to carry out this work as the accountant concerned is responsible for dealing with accounts for the Benefice of Shill Valley and therefore familiar with church accounting procedures.)*

Electoral Roll (Linda Wooloff)

A completely new Electoral Roll had been needed to be built this year. Following this process, there were now 76 people on the Roll. (This was a reduced number from the previous Roll of 83 people.) The Roll was now open again for anyone who wished to join it.

Fabric Report (Mike Cox)

Mr Cox had presented his apologies to the meeting and a paper copy of his Fabric Report was made available.

Election of Officers

Roy Morris would continue to represent St John’s as a Deanery Synod representative. He was joined by Alison Brown as our second representative. Both will serve until Deanery re-elections were due in 2020. Both will also attend PCC meetings as ex officio member. One further Deanery Synod representative vacancy remains.

Richard Matthews, Andrew Monkhouse and Linda Wooloff had completed their three-year term on the Council and had all been nominated to stand for re-election. A further vacancy had arisen following the appointment of Allister Holt as Churchwarden, who now becomes an ex officio member of the PCC. Doreen Trezise had been nominated for this position. This post was for a term of one year and would be available for re-election in 2020 for a term of three years.

All those nominated were duly elected.

Before closing the meeting, Mrs Trezise read out the foreword to the Annual Report written by Rev Bill Blakey who had been incumbent from January to November 2018. She again thanked Bill and Sue for their time of ministry at St John's, and re-iterated that we look forward to the appointment of a new Team Rector in the coming months.

Rev Ian Howard proposed a vote of thanks to Linda Wooloff for all the work she does in the background towards the administrative areas of our church life.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

A copy of the full Annual Report is available on the noticeboard and church website. Presentation slides used during the meeting are also available on the website.