

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM)
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
held at St Peter's Church, Oundle, Thursday 24th April 2014, 7.30 pm**

Chairman: Revd Stephen Webster
Parishioners present: 41

Secretary: Cynthia Dimmock
Clergy present: 2

Apologies: Gill Morrison, John & June Round, David & Joan Macey, Jackie Bland, Alan & Eleanor Rayden, Robin Newman, Sarah Dinley, Dot Coatham, Shirley Burchell, Sheila Wills, Ann Adeney, Frances Hawken, Jonathan & Jane Morgan, Louisa Baker, Jonathan Lee, Tracey Cunningham.

Stephen Webster gave a welcome, reading and prayer.

Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM)

AVM 14.01 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting held on 17th April 2013 were accepted as a true record.

AVM 14.02 Election of Churchwardens

Churchwardens were elected as follows:-

Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Hywel Rees-Jones	Tracey Cunningham	Janet McMurdo
Rachel Johnson	Julia Newman	Robin Newman

Stephen Webster closed the meeting.

Date:
(Rev Stephen Webster)

Signed _____

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
Thursday 24th April 2014**

APCM 14.01

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday April 17th 2013 were signed as a true record.

APCM 14.02 Reports

a) Churchwardens report

Hywel Rees-Jones gave the report from which the following questions and observations arose:

Brian Gratton questioned the potential loss of heat when the new south doors are open for considerable periods during service time. The suggestion is to have only one door open at a time. Stephen Webster acknowledged that the Building Group are currently looking at this issue. Hywel Rees Jones reported that an air curtain is not possible coming down and to install an air curtain coming up from the floor is prohibitively expensive. The current conclusion is to try the doors as is for a year, switch the doors off in a cold period during service time and review further.

b) The Associate Vicar's report was given verbally by Stephen Webster

Thanks were given as a community and as an APCM to Richard and Jackie Ormston for their contribution to the life of the Benefice over the last 13 years. Richard was appreciated and loved broadly in the town and deanery and leaves a church thriving and committed to growth. A formal mark of appreciation of his ministry was requested to be minuted.

Stephen Webster expressed his excitement at staying on as Vicar of Oundle and for the prospects ahead, acknowledging that Jesus is alive and well and changing lives in Oundle today. Stephen gave various moving examples of experiences with individuals sincerely seeking to know more about Christianity. One person came to communion to request a blessing; they came to the rail and said "please could you come and tell me how to become a Christian"? Another story was shared of a young girl from West Porch Cafe who a year ago said, "I hate Christians and I hate church". This was the beginning of a conversation and by November this young girl had become a Christian and done Alpha. Stephen asked of them "what changed?" They replied, "Whenever I come on a Wednesday there's no selfishness here". Also somebody had explained to her about Jesus, why he died. A number of that group have made a commitment. There are examples of all ages experiencing change.

Stephen referenced John 10, re the good shepherd. He urged those present to join with Jesus work to care about the flock, bind up the broken. The other challenge Stephen identified, was regarding the 'sheep not of this fold, bring them also'. Will we join Jesus in what he wants to do, bring people not yet of this fold into it?

Referencing last year's survey he reflected that over 60% of survey respondents were over 60. This group help St Peter's to be what it is and we need to thank and celebrate the story but also ask the question, "who will be on the PCC, serving, doing coffee etc in 10 or 20 years?" "What succession do we have?"

The 18-24 age group had 0% of respondents, and the numbers were tiny in the 20s and 30s. This brings exciting challenges to reach out to all ages in our town. Search out the lost, seek out the broken and bring them to Jesus.

It was acknowledged that there is a challenge arising out of how we integrate young people from West Porch Cafe age group into church life. TBL is a possible connection but other areas are not attractive to them so far. Thanks were extended to Esther Connolly for her work with TBL and to Sarah Dinley for her excellent work with the young people...

A question arose concerning our current relationship with OCYA and the role OCYA plays. Stephen explained that OCYA oversees the local youth work, encouraging Sarah and Josh in joint events such as the Mad Movie marathon this w/end, the Rave in the Nave in 2013, also the annual Chattabox holiday camp. OCYA is a coordinating body that helps us work together.

It was suggested that in order to encourage youth more perhaps there should be a youth PCC. This was felt to be a good idea, or at least to have a greater spread of age on the current PCC. Schools now have youth councils, which may be a model to look at. We must look at how we value our young people and demonstrate that.

A question arose regarding development of a possible 2nd morning service on a Sunday? Stephen reported that the PCC had agreed a group would be set up to look at this. Progress had been stalled by the interview process, but can now move forward. There was some general reflection about how we meet the breadth of opinion regarding service content; how do we celebrate our diversity in a single service? What do we do to connect with the age groups we are missing at St Peter's, whilst valuing those who worship in a different way?

c) Finance Report

The draft finance report for the year ending December 2013 was introduced by the Treasurer, Kath Tonks. Bully Davey, the Accountants, had not signed off yet but had indicated no changes will be made. Figures were presented as per projected presentation and associated paperwork distributed to those gathered.

Hywel Rees-Jones gave a sincere vote of thanks to Kath as this is her last APCM and she has done a great deal of work for the church during her time as Treasurer.

Kath Tonks thanked those who have helped her in the role – David Varley on banking, gift aid, stewardship processing. Diana Awry also helps with banking and Fiona Palethorpe processing cheques and payments. Peter Hawken assists reclaiming VAT etc and John Round for his support on the finance team.

Stephen Webster reported on the plan to advertise for Kath's replacement. John Round and Kath are drawing up a job spec so when volunteers come forward there is a clear picture of the job expectations.

d) Action Group Reports

A correction to the Faith report was requested – Lynda started at St Peter's on 30th June rather than Sept last year.

Reports, as printed with the addition of a verbal report by Janet McMurdo regarding Oundle Primary School (OPS)

Looking back at last year's APCM notes it showed that OPS was proceeding to become an academy and because of its links with the middle school the plan to support them to become one too. This has not happened since that report. Issues at the middle school re finances has meant academy status is not possible. This process has revealed further issues so now OPS are working closely with OKCMS which had been in an Ofsted category but is now no longer, since a recent HMI visit. An additional change has been regarding

moving from a 3 tier to two tier system. NCC took a view and carried out a consultation. Despite 14 presentations from the community asking for Oundle to remain as it is at 3 tier, Northants County Council has decided to go towards 2 tier. This may mean OPS on Milton Road may have to move to be able to accommodate all the year groups. The move would likely be to the OKCMS site if it were remodelled. For the school to be a part of the town and church as it has in the past, transport would then be needed. OPS continues to be a great school, with pro active parents and staff. Janet thanked the St Peter's community who act as Governors, reading buddies etc.

Questions arising from Action Group Reports

i) More information was requested regarding the proposed building project. Hywel Rees Jones reported that plans had been shown to the PCC again, and they were keen to move forward with what was presented. This involves consultation with the church body, the Oundle community, planning authorities etc, so all comments and suggestions can be made. Currently the plans solve all office, catering and storage space.

ii) A question was asked concerning plans for the organ. The current one would have to be removed with plans as they stand presently. A space in the balcony would allow for an organ. The idea would be to have a two phase fund raising process– for the building and for the organ. A temporary solution for music may be needed in the interim.

iii) A question was raised regarding the appointment of an Associate Vicar. The PCC have agreed that it is necessary to move swiftly forward on to the next stage of appointment. The question of what we need in that person needs to be asked. The survey highlighted the issue of young people/families and it would seem that focus on that will be key but the model to be used going forward definitely needs a full replacement of the role Stephen fulfilled as Associate.

iv) It was requested by Brian Gratton that a formal appreciation of the work Sarah Dinley is doing with the young people be recorded in the minutes.

14.03 Electoral Roll – Julia Newman

Last year's Electoral Roll had been a renewal, this year it just needed topping and tailing. Of the regular members on the Roll 7 have died, 7 have moved out of area, and there are 24 new additions. Last year's total was 364, this year it is 374.

14.04 Election of Deanery Synod

David Wills stood down and thanks were extended to him for his service.

The following were elected:

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Janet Roberts	Peter Coatham	David Wills
Jeremy Rusher	David Wills	John Round
Ann Varley	Ali Coutts	Kath Tonks
Gill Morrison	Julia Newman	Steve Cunningham
Peter Coatham	John Round	Margaret Smith
Peter Burchell		

14.05 Election of PCC

It was noted that all on Deanery Synod are ex officio on the PCC and do not need to be elected separately.

It was also noted that currently the PCC is very large in number. The constitution of the

PCC will be looked at and it will be decided how big we should be.

The following members stepped down:

Adrian Clews, Steve Cunningham and Sue Oakes. Thanks were extended to them for serving. David Wills also stepped down after a long history as a member of the PCC, also as Vice Chair. Formal thanks were extended to him for his significant work and input.

The following were elected onto the PCC:

Candidate	Nominated	Seconded
Alan McMurdo	Hywel Rees-Jones	Tracey Cunningham
Ian Baker	Mark Elkington	Hywel Rees-Jones
Emily Taylor	Janet McMurdo	Ian Goldsmith
David Macey	Joan Macey	David Varley
Joan Macey	Ann Varley	Jane Grange
Alan Rayden	David Wills	Ali Coutts
Sarah Dinley	Ali Coutts	Cynthia Dimmock

14.06 Appoint Sidesmen – Jeremy Rusher

Jeremy reported that there were four new groups who want to be included as Sidesmen – The Dinley, Fitch & Harrison families and Joan & David Macey. No one had requested to be removed from the rota.

14.07 Any other business

a) Jeremy R requested that if/when some high cleaning is being done in the church that some high bulbs be changed at the same time. It was reported that Matthew Dinley had offered to do high cleaning with some special equipment he is purchasing for his cleaning business. No specific date has been given yet.

b) Julia Newman reminded the meeting that once again the APCM had clashed with the Annual Town Meeting and in future we must contact the Town council to coordinate dates in order to avoid this again next year.

c) Catherine Goldsmith enquired after the sale of the Vicarage. How had it been decided on, what was the process? Hywel Rees-Jones explained that the Vicarage is owned by Peterborough Diocese who informed us they intended to sell it. They had informed the PCC who had a period by which this decision could be appealed against. The PCC had reviewed the situation and concluded they would not oppose the sale, therefore the Diocese are going ahead and will find a replacement vicarage.

There was some discussion amongst the meeting on the pros and cons of this decision and the Diocese process of communication on the matter within a small time-frame, during a time when we have been under pressure, busy and distracted with the vacancy. There was concern that the move away from the centre of town is not a good thing for St Peter's combined with the church school (OPS) also possibly moving further out in the future. It was agreed a separate meeting would be offered to members of the PCC to discuss the possible purchase of part of the Vicarage garden, something that had already been floated with the Diocese.

The meeting closed at 9 pm with prayer.

Date:

Signed _____
(Rev Stephen Webster)

**Special Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
 Thursday 24th April 2014, immediately following the APCM**

1. **Apologies:** as Vestry Meeting minutes.
2. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 17th April 2013 were signed as a true record.
3. **Election of officers:** the following were elected:-

Position	Elected
Lay Vice-Chair	Janet McMurdo
Secretary	Ali Coutts
Assistant Secretary	Alan Rayden/Cynthia Dimmock
Treasurer	Kath Tonks (until replacement appointed)
Assistant Treasurer	David Varley
Electoral Roll Officer	Julia Newman

4. Election of Standing Committee:

Clergy	Stephen Webster
Churchwardens	Rachel Johnson & Hywel Rees-Jones
Secretary	Ali Coutts
Treasurer	Kath Tonks
Representative of the PCC	John Round
Chairs of relevant Action Groups	When necessary

4. Any other business

i) The Vicarage – a discussion took place concerning the possible purchase of part of the Vicarage garden. A use for it would need to be identified and be given an unencumbered title. Concern was expressed that to let both the vicarage and garden go would be the loss of an asset and needs exploring even with the knowledge of the challenges that may arising with the Listed status. Ian Baker requested a discussion meeting be offered to any interested members of the PCC after the service on Sunday 27th April. It was agreed an email would be sent out by the Administrator.

Date:

Signed

 (Rev Stephen Webster)