

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM)  
 and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)  
 held at St Peter's Church, Oundle, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7.00 pm**

Chairman: Revd Stephen Webster  
 Parishioners present: 35  
 Apologies Given: 34

Secretary: Justine Turton  
 Clergy present: 3

**Present:** David Adeney, Sue Christmas, Adrian Christmas, Lorna Coutts, Cynthia Dimmock, Rod Dowd, Mark Elkington, Liz Ford, Wendy Forster, Ian Goldsmith, John Grubb, Len Johnson, Sarah Lee, Janet McMurdo, Gill Morrison, Barry Morrison, Julia Newman, Robin Newman, Esther Ormston, Thomas Ormston, Susan Rodger, Brian Rodger, John Round, Judy Rusher, Jeremy Rusher, Althea Strebrakawska, Emily Taylor, Kath Tonks, Justine Turton, Ann Varley, David Varley, Pat Weatherington, Ben Wilson, Sheila Wills, David Wills,

**Apologies:** Anne Adeney, Jonno Ball, Ian Baker, Louisa Baker, Barbara Cousins, Rod Cousins, Tracey Cunningham, Audrey Davies, Brian Davies, Richard Dimmock, Margaret Dowd, Maureen Gent, Catherine Goldsmith, Erica Grubb, Frances Hawken, Peter Hawken, Jonathan Lee, Alan McMurdo, Elizabeth Megahey, Jane Morgan, Jonathan Morgan, Pauline Newman, Geoff Newman, Carol Orton, John Orton, Kate Pathak, Alan Rayden, Eleanor Rayden, June Round, Joyce Tompkins, John Tompkins, Bobbie Turton, Helen Vowles, Jake Vowles

Stephen Webster gave a welcome, reading and prayer.

**Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM)**

**AVM 16.01 Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting held on 23rd April 2015 were accepted as a true record.

**AVM 16.02 Election of Churchwardens**

Churchwardens were elected as follows:-

| <b>Candidate</b> | <b>Proposed</b> | <b>Seconded</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Julia Newman     | Sue Thomas      | Jonathan Lee    |
| Emily Taylor     | Cynthia Dimmock | Richard Dimmock |

Thanks were given to Julia Newman and Emily Taylor for all their hard work and dedication.

Stephen Webster closed the meeting.

Date:  
 (Rev Stephen Webster)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### APCM 16.01

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 were signed as a true record.

### APCM 16.02                      Annual Report

Stephen Webster (SJW) introduced the new style Annual Report and after showing a short film entitled 'Life at St Peter's', took the meeting through the report and opened the meeting up to questions.

#### a. Services

**Comments made:** No report from Together@10:30. No indication as to why the change was made. Numbers for services not given, would it be encouraging to do so?

**Questions:** When will a review of the new service pattern be made?

**Answer:** Between now and July 2016

SJW agreed that lack of mention of Together @ 10:30 an omission, as was lack of report on the 10:30 service – our biggest morning service prior to the September changes. The new style annual report was a good new innovation, and would be improved for next year. We'd learn from what was omitted.

He agreed that it would have been encouraging to put congregation numbers in the report. Total numbers attending 09:45 and 11:15 are significantly higher than those attending the previous 10:30 service. As an example the Sunday after Easter (a Baptism service in 2015 but not 2016) had 168 adults in 2016 compared with 133 in 2015. This is not untypical. We'll be able to see the picture more clearly when we come to calculate our statistics for mission.

Of course ultimately it's only about numbers because each number is a person loved by God. At least as important is that each person is growing in their faith. Recently Stephen had received a comment from a newcomer that they felt that old service at 10:30am was too big and they couldn't meet people so were discouraged to come but having tried The 9:45 could connect more easily with other members of the congregation.

SJW informed the meeting that Youth Church numbers were encouraging in the younger groups as they have increased with the new families joining The 9:45 service. The older group numbers have stayed the same and there are challenges with the 11-14 age group.

The mid-week service were seeing an increase in attendance and the new Celtic Prayer service on Friday morning now has between 10 – 16 members regularly attending.

#### b. Pastoral

**Comments made:** Staggered that so many things were going on at St Peter's and it was good that the report was written by individuals.

No questions or concerns were raised.

#### c. Youth

SJW asked Ben Wilson (BW), Youth Intern to give a verbal report on his time at St Peter's. BW gave a brief overview of his work with West Porch Café (WPC), Christian Union at Prince William School, Discipleship

Nurture group at Oundle Baptist Church, No 1. He also talked about his time at various Christian Conferences - Letton Hall and Spring Harvest. He is also looking forward to Soul Survivor in the summer. BW attends lectures every fortnight at Ridley Hall, Cambridge which have sessions covering many areas including Theology, Pastoral Care and Biblical Studies.

During his talk, BW mentioned that many who attend WPC would be going onto college this autumn, which could see a change in the attendance at WPC. This raised the following:

**Question:** How do we continue to support the people who are going to college?

**Ben responded:** About 10 people will be moving on, half of which attend church regularly already and it is hoped that they will continue to do so. For those that don't, opportunities have been given them to attend various activities and social media helps keep in touch with everyone.

**Question:** Are you enjoying your course?

**Answer:** Yes, loving it. Very passionate about Youth Worship

**Question:** Are you learning anything?

**Answer:** Yes, every day!

**Comments made:**

- 1) There is currently a challenge holding on the teams supporting Youth activities. A request for prayers was made for all the teams to find their way and to help them to continue to grow and build in the future.
- 2) It is important to keep the chatter going on social media to keep encouraging **young people** and to show them that there is still a place for them.

SJW thanked BW for his verbal report and continued to give further details on Youth work at St Peter's, including Youth Worship and Bible Study Group and then opened the meeting up to any other questions.

**Question:** The XL Mentoring Scheme set up by Oundle Baptist Church (OBC) is going well, are there plans for a similar scheme to run by St Peter's?

**Answer:** Sarah Dinley introduced the scheme in Oundle when she was St Peter's youth worker. Ian Price from OBC has now picked this up. Most of the mentors are from OBC but it is definitely a joint church scheme with some of St Peter's congregation supporting it by becoming mentors. PWS is very open to the scheme but more volunteers are needed. Training is currently being undertaken and not all the mentors are church based.

**Comments made:**

The 11 – 14 Junior Church Group has seen its numbers diminished as the members either play in the band for The 9:45 or are at sports events and this issue just needs to be flagged.

**Response:**

This is a challenge that we need to address and will be. There are various factors. Positively: some in this age group are now singing or playing in the worship group at 09:45. Also Youth Worship is seen by many as the place where they connect best. And a number enjoy taking part in Chatterbox Plus and Letton Hall. The success of Youth Worship may have had a knock on effect. Less positively: there continue to be clashes with other activities such as sport. And many families find it very hard, with so much going on in their lives, to commit weekly worship. This means it can be difficult for the group, who are small in numbers anyway, to be confident about who'll be at Church on any given week and so build friendships.

d. **Faith and Discipleship Action Group**

No comments or questions were raised

**e. Oundle Primary School (OPS) Report**

SJW ask Janet McMurdo (JMCM) to give a short verbal report on the activities of OPS.

JMCM informed the meeting that currently OPS is housed on two different sites. In September, as the school system went from three tier to two tier the school inherited 120 Y6's from all over the cluster. This has been a difficult transition for this year group as many of the students felt that the 'God stuff only happened until Y4' and then they go on to the 'big school'. Alongside this difficult transition there has been a new curriculum to implement, first time the primary school have had to organise Key Stage 2 stats, extensive building works whilst the school continues to run over the two sites. The staff have tackled each change with professionalism and dedication and so the school continues to offer an excellent education to all its students. Recently the school went through its Section 48 "SIAMS" inspection and JMCM is pleased to announce that the school has retained its outstanding rating.

It has been hard work carrying the Christian ethos over to the middle school and it doesn't help that the primary school is now further away from the church. Milton Road site has been a church school for over 100 years and Cotterstock Road site was built as a community school. However, the SIAMS report shows that this hard work is having a positive effect

**Question:** Is there any change to the governance in the school?

**Answer:** When the transition occurred, the primary school retained its governing body. The Middle School was closed and so their governing body was wound up. The newly reconstituted Governing Body now has three foundation governors, three parent governors and a church governor. The church is currently well represented on the governing body, both by Foundation governors and parent governors.

**Question:** What is the current situation with the sale of the playing field?

**Answer:** NCC wish to sell an acre of the Cotterstock Road site however, ultimately it is Secretary of State who authorises the sale of playing field sites and she is currently not minded to dispose of any. There is also a group committed to fighting the cause.

**f. Resources Action Group and Finance**

Adrian Christmas (AC) asked the meeting if they had any questions on the report

**Question:** Is the West Tower project going ahead and do we have financial approval?

**Answer:** The West Tower project is part of the overall SPACE project which has currently delivered on the reordering of The Lady Chapel and the addition of disabled access via the porch area. The next part of the project is the repair of the Parvis roof above the porch area, which will bring the small room above to become usable again. This project is in its last stages of approval and work will start soon.

With regards to the west end of church, we are currently well on our way through the process and there will be a meeting in the near future to go through the final application. It may well be that support from members of the congregation would help and I will ask, if it is needed. This will show the DAC that the church is behind this major reordering. Finances are starting to come together and are currently made up of grants and reserve funds. We are currently £20,000 short however we may have the funds available to commence work as the balance may be underwritten. Once the approval has been granted we can then go for a detailed quotation but we would not sign any contract or start work until all the monies have come in or are underwritten.

Following on from this project is 'The Northern Project' which includes the Organ. A group **is** going to be formed to discuss the best way forward. A few current possibilities are:-

- 1) to move the current Organ to the west end and refurbish it,

- 2) to purchase a new organ
- 3) to have an electronic organ
- 4) or another idea...

Once the group have been able to discuss all the possibilities they will present a comprehensive objective view to the PCC. This will probably include a balance of value for money, what is good for the building / music worship etc. Until the organ has been moved / agreed the North Transept can't be started. We are currently looking at £750,000 for this re-ordering and the Capital Raising team **is** currently looking at ways to raise this money.

**Question:** Do the DAC know we are looking to re-order the North side?

**Answer:** Yes, it was included in the original SPACE project and there have been conversations about this project.

**Question:** What are the plans for the West End?

**Answer:** To make that area more usable by lowering the floor to create a larger usable space, to put in new toilets including one accessible toilet, to have better access to the balcony and to create a more usable crèche / meeting area.

SJW said that there was a huge amount of work being done behind the scenes to get all the projects off the ground and would like to offer our thanks to all involved for their continued efforts.

**APCM 16.03 Electoral Roll – Julia Newman**

Julia Newman presented the Electoral Roll report for the 19<sup>th</sup> Year! 2013's Electoral Roll had been a renewal, so 2015 had just needed topping and tailing. Of the regular members on the Roll 3 have died, 10 have moved out of area, and there are 37 new additions. Last year's total was 360, this year it is 384.

**APCM 16.04 Election of Deanery Synod**

Janet Roberts has stood down from Deanery Synod as she has left the area. Thanks were extended to her for her service on Deanery Synod, a PCC Member, as a Lay Pastoral Minister and as Deanery Secretary.

The following were elected for a one year post:

| Candidate     | Nominated     | Seconded     |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Daniel Grange | Brian Gratton | Emily Taylor |

**APCM 16.05 Election of PCC**

The following members indicated they did not wish to be re-elected: George Higgins, John Round.

Thanks were giving to George Higgins for he work on the PCC and for his hard work and dedication to the role of Verger.

Thanks were given to John Round for his many years of service on the PCC and for chairing the Finance Committee.

The following were elected onto the PCC for a three year post:

| Candidate      | Nominated         | Seconded     |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Mark Elkington | Julia Newman      | Ian Baker    |
| Ian Goldsmith  | Janet McMurdo     | Alan McMurdo |
| Alan McMurdo   | Tracey Cunningham | Val Wood     |
| Alan Rayden    | Justine Turton    | June Round   |

**APCM 16.06 Appoint Sidesmen – Diana Awdry**

The sidesmen were thanked for all their assistance. Diana Awdry, Kelsey Cole, Rob Dillarstone, Brian & Margaret Gratton, Sally Langham, David & Joan Macey, David & Ann Varley were all elected Sidesmen. A request was made for more Sidesmen to come onto the rota.

**APCM 16.7 Any other business**

There was no other business

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm with prayer.**

Date:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Rev Stephen Webster)

DRAFT

**Special Meeting of the Parochial Church Council  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016, immediately following the APCM**

1. **Apologies:** as Vestry Meeting minutes.
2. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 were signed as a true record.
3. **Election of officers:** the following were elected:-

| Position               | Elected                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lay Vice-Chair         | Janet McMurdo               |
| Secretary              | Justine Turton              |
| Assistant Secretary    | Alan Rayden/Cynthia Dimmock |
| Treasurer              | Wendy Forster               |
| Assistant Treasurer    | David Varley                |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Julia Newman                |

4. **Election of Standing Committee:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Clergy                          | Stephen Webster, Jema Ball and Lynda Davies |
| Churchwardens                   | Julia Newman & Emily Taylor                 |
| Lay Chair                       | Janet McMurdo                               |
| Representative of the PCC       | Gill Morrison                               |
| Chair of Resources Action Group | Adrian Christmas                            |
| Chair of Outreach Action Group  | Jemma Ball                                  |
| Chair of Faith Action Group     | Stephen Webster                             |

5. **Any other business**  
 A welcome was extended to all new members of the PCC.

Date:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Rev Stephen Webster)