

**Minutes of Meeting of the Parishioners
and
Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting
Sunday 29 April 2018 at 11.00am in church hall**

11.00am Meeting of Parishioners, chaired by Derek Winterburn

		ACTIONS
1. Prayers	Derek began the meeting with prayers.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies had been received from: John Daly, Alan Cammidge, Jacky Cammidge, Martin Hinckley, Prill Hinckley, Julian Reindorp, Eila Severn, Darrell Webb and Linda Webb.	
3. Declarations of Interests	There were no declarations	
4. Minutes of the last meeting of 17 April 2016	Minutes agreed.	
5. Election of Churchwardens	There was one nomination from Gwynneth Lloyd. She was elected to office. The second vacancy remained unfilled.	

11.10am Annual Parochial Church Meeting, chaired by Derek Winterburn

1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies had been received from: John Daly, Alan Cammidge, Jacky Cammidge, Martin Hinckley, Prill Hinckley, Julian Reindorp, Eila Severn, Darrell Webb and Linda Webb.	
2. Minutes of the last meeting of 23 April 2017	Minutes agreed. Proposed: Laurence Sewell Seconded: Rita Malyon	
3. Matters arising from the minutes	None	
4. Notice of Any Other Business	None received	
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll	There were currently 167 members on the Electoral Roll. 100 were residents within the bounds of the parish and 67 were non-residents.	
6. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council	There were 12 elected members of the PCC; 3 people were at the end of their term – Dawn Miller, Josh Webb and Linda Webb. There was a fourth unfilled position. There were 5 vacancies in total owing to the death of Rodney Taylor. There were four nominees: Maria Beaumont, Dawn Miller (standing for a second consecutive term), Laurence Sewell and Dennis Wilmott. Derek asked if there were any more nominations from the floor. Mary Gray indicated that she would like to stand. This was agreed and all five were elected to become members of PCC.	
7. Election of members of the Welcome Team (formerly known as Sidespersons)	All current Welcomers were continuing in the role and there were six additional people willing to join the team to help provide cover at the <i>Together at Eleven</i> services. Janet Taylor requested that the meeting appoint these people for the following year: Wendy Baker, Clive Beaumont, Ria Beaumont, Alan Cammidge, Christopher Carson, Ann Collins, Emma Healing, David Hetling, Nicky Hetling, Susan Horner,	

	<p>David Lloyd, Gwynneth Lloyd, Rita Malyon, John Meredith-Smith, Moya Meredith-Smith, Anna Mhando, Andrew Mhando, Ann Peterken, Anne Rowett, Pip Rowett, Annalea Gratton, Penny Sewell, Martin Symons, Janet Taylor, Dennis Wilmot, Liz Wilmot and Jenny Wright.</p> <p>Proposed by: Pip Rowett Seconded by: Susan Horner</p>	
8. Annual Report and Accounts	<p>Nick Harris presented the his last report as Treasurer. He began by thanking Carol Bailey for her role as day-to-day finance officer and Mark Blackwell for his help preparing the accounts.</p> <p>In summary, 2017 had been a similar story to 2016, with us still running a deficit. However, a combination of cost-cutting and a significant increase in Planned Giving, had cut the deficit to £19,000. The investments had performed better, but this should not mask that we needed to pay our way rather than rely on Betty Stewart's bequest. In 2017 there had been a significant investment in the building. Following the installation of toilets there had been a need to increase storage (replacing the lost West Porch storeroom). Other work included additional electrical supply throughout the church, and covers for the radiators. There had also been major renovation work to the organ and clock tower.</p> <p>Derek replied to a question about Common Fund (CF). He said that St James's had frozen their CF payment in 2016 (for 2017) during the interregnum. This meant that the sum paid in 2017 and shown in the accounts was at the same level as it had been the year before.</p> <p>In 2017 they were asked to make a larger increase in CF for 2018. This had been agreed by the PCC and would be reflected in the 2018 accounts.</p> <p>Nick said that the fall in investment income was because some of the legacy money had now been spent and therefore the lump sum invested been reduced. The PCC would need to replace this with additional fundraising.</p> <p>Nick asked that the meeting accept the accounts.</p> <p>Proposed by: Laurence Sewell Seconded by: Don Barrett.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p> <p>Derek thanked Nick for his work as Treasurer and presented him with a gift on behalf of the parishioners.</p>	
9. Appointment of Auditors	<p>Nick Harris recommended that the current auditor, Martin Housden, be re-appointed.</p> <p>Proposed by: Nick Harris Seconded by: Clive Beaumont</p>	
10. Church-wardens' Report, including the Fabric of the Church	<p>Gwynneth Lloyd began by thanking everyone for their help and support during the year. It had given her a new perspective on the life of the church and had been very rewarding.</p> <p>She understood how difficult it had been for Nick Harris to juggle the job of warden with a very demanding job. She was grateful to him for continuing to do the finances for the past year. She had come to appreciate how members of the congregation contributed to keeping the church running</p>	

	<p>smoothly These included committees to manage the buildings, the Sunday school and activities with children, visiting the elderly and charitable giving. She said anyone who had read the reports would recognise just how much time people gave to the church.</p> <p>There were some volunteers who don't have to write a report, including Clare Ryan and Kirstie Girling, who provided refreshments every Sunday; Anne Rowett who was now keeping the vestry tidy; Jenny Breeden and Sue Adams who had taken over the laundering of altar linen from Gill Gostling; the Church Cleaning Team; Richard Melville, who managed the church sound desk as well as the Readers; and Pril Hinckley, who spent at least one day a week keeping the website up to date. Pril and Martin Hinckley also looked after the choir music and now there was no organist were managing choir rehearsals. Carol Bailey deserved special mention as she did our bookkeeping and made sure the bills were paid.</p> <p>New tasks lay ahead, included the need to set up a hall committee and a group to discuss future developments within the church.</p> <p>The quinquennial inspection took place in June 2017 but fortunately there weren't too many items which had to be addressed over the rest of last year. She referred to the Properties Team Report prepared by Bryan Basdell – one of our volunteers. There were several things to address in the coming year but none should be too expensive.</p> <p>The toilets in the church had now been completed and hopefully people were pleased with the new look to our clock and its tower. The organ repairs were almost finished. Another new look was the churchyard and garden at the West end of the church, and she thanked all the garden helpers.</p> <p>She said Health and Safety might seem a nuisance but it was all done for our safety and those of our visitors. Improvements were ongoing as there is still more for us to do.</p> <p>We had welcomed Karen as our Children and Families' Work Leader in December. Connections, was a new venture started by Coryn Robinson and a group of volunteers to help meet the needs of the elderly in our parish.</p> <p>She said everything she had said showed we had an enthusiastic congregation but there were always opportunities for others to help with these tasks and new ones. A vibrant church was one where everyone participated!</p> <p>Finally, we were lucky to have Nick Bagge running the office. He had helped her with many queries.</p> <p>She concluded by thanking Derek, Jacky and Julian for all their services and sermons over the year. She said the church looked forward to sharing and continuing their Christian journey with them in the coming year.</p>	
11. Consideration of Written Reports	<p>Derek said copies of all the church activities and committees had been on display for the past two Sundays and had been emailed to all those the church had addresses for. He gave people an opportunity to ask questions.</p>	

<p>12. Vicar's Report</p>	<p>Derek said most people at the meeting were already actively supporting the church, and Gwynneth had thanked many of them already for their involvement.</p> <p>He thanked Gwynneth, who had quickly got to grips with her role, for her hard work. He also thanked Jacky, Julian and Bryan, along with our outgoing organist Mark Blackwell, and Martin Hinckley (for taking on the role of choirmaster and liaising with visiting organists) and Prill Hinckley for ongoing work of the website.</p> <p>Karen had just started as Children and Families' Work Leader at the close of 2017, the year in review, but she had been busy launching an after-school club and in developing Shell Seekers. He then invited Clare Ryan to speak.</p> <p>Clare said she was leaving St James's at the beginning of June and moving to the West Midlands, though she would return for St James's Day. She said Kirstie would need volunteers to help her on Sundays.</p> <p>Derek then began a presentation about church numbers. There were 256 names on our database, 167 on the electoral roll, we averaged 100 on Sundays and there were 57 households in Planned Giving. This included nine new members and of the remainder, 32 had increased their giving, helping us to make our target. But we couldn't stand still, otherwise we would go backwards.</p> <p>Attendance had increased from 65-105 from March 17 to Oct 18. Of those, a small number were achieving 90% attendance, the majority came to church 50% of the time. To grow we needed to get some of those people to come more often.</p> <p>The 2018 Electoral Roll had 11 new names. 65 people were involved in running church every Sunday.</p> <p>Quoting Albert Einstein, Derek said: 'The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results'. In other words, if we wanted the church to grow we had to try something new. That something new was the <i>Together at Eleven</i> service. There was now a steady number of regular attendees.</p> <p>He gave examples of what else were we trying: additional social occasions, such as the wine tasting, establishing Life Groups, boosting circulation of the <i>Spire</i>, improvements to the website, launch of <i>Connections</i>, regular Stewardship campaigns, building work to improve both the hall and church, appointment of a Children & Families' Work Leader.</p> <p>Next would be recruiting an organist to grow and energise the choir and worshippers. More volunteers were needed to act as Shell Seekers' leaders, servers, and provide hospitality.</p> <p>Ultimately we had to ask ourselves what impact we were making? He said we had a long way to go before we could say we were making a difference.</p> <p>New for 2018 would be more prayer through meetings, plans to bolster pastoral care, extra fundraising events to replace charity money from the PCC, developing the Life Groups, splitting St James's Day into two days with a focus on the community on the Saturday and the church event on the Sunday. The PCC</p>	
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	<p>had approved plans for major improvements to the hall over the summer. Derek said he would be running a holiday club during the summer school break and was considering a youth club, perhaps in conjunction with other churches, for the older children.</p> <p>None of this was about 'building an empire' for himself, but working for the Kingdom of God.</p>	
14. Any Other Business	None	
15. Closing Prayer	The meeting ended with a prayer	

Derek Winterburn

Signed as a true account..... Date **4/7/18**

Revd Derek Winterburn
PCC Chair