

Leamington Priors St Paul's – Annual Meeting 2017

Welcome and worship

Jonathan Jee (JJ) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led in prayer. There was then a time of worship and further prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting – Sunday 2nd April 2017

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 20th March 2016 were approved and signed as accurate.

Election of church wardens

Chris Barrett had stepped down as Church warden in October 2016 when they adopted their three children. Elly Crofton was thanked for her service, and Andrew Rolls thanked for standing in as acting church warden in the interim period.

Carolyn Davey was interviewed by JJ. She first came to St Paul's in 1975. She became a Christian about 3 years previously. She had been brought up in Anglican family but at age of 13 decided to leave church. At 17 she decided she was a Christian so went to the Christian Union at Coventry University. At first meeting, she heard the gospel for the first time. By the end of the year, she knew she had to make a decision. During the summer she prayed the prayer in Norman Warren's Journey into Life and accepted Jesus. She decided to come to St Paul's as Norman Warren was the vicar at the time. She met her husband Richard while at Bible College, and then they moved to Senegal in West Africa to church plant and do Bible translation. They translated the New Testament into Fulla, and lived there for 16 years. After moving back to the UK they continued to work for WEC, whose offices have recently moved to Coventry. Being a church warden is not a role she would have immediately considered, however she feels a great sense of settledness with the decision.

Martin Haywood has been in China so will not be able to be at the meeting. He has been really seeking God's calling and has sensed that being church warden is part of this.

Martin Haywood (proposed Dave Gorton, seconded James Lang) and Carolyn Davey (proposed Helen Perryman (HP), seconded Janet Johnston) were duly elected as church wardens.

Andrew Rolls (AR) led in prayer for the new church wardens

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 2nd April 2017**Approval of minutes**

Last year had been 'Oscars' style. JJ went through the highlights of the minutes of last year and commented that most of the things mentioned in them go on year on year but will not have particular mention this year.

The minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Meeting held on Sunday 20th March 2016 were approved and signed as accurate.

PCC report

JJ extended thanks to Naomi Gaade and Jan Pringle for the huge amount of work in preparing the colour report. The accounts also form part of the PCC report.

JJ thanked all the PCC members who are coming to the end of their 3 years of service on PCC. HP was thanked for her work as secretary for the last 4 years.

Ministry reports

Lizzy Woolf (LW) interviewed a couple of people about their ministries:

Hannah Jones spoke about the under 5s ministry. This includes Wrigglers (<2 years) and Movers (2-5 years) on Sunday morning, with Tiddlies Praise on Tuesday morning. Highlights had been:

- Wonderful team for Wrigglers, lots new to the church in last year. Story time and singing time each week have helped to make a routine
- Movers do sensory-based play related to the Bible story of the week – this involves lots of planning and preparation
- Tiddlies Praise is always growing, with 80-92 children over the last few weeks. Families feel welcomed and loved. We have recently partnered with NCT who will be running perinatal mental health sessions. Many families are using the storybooks from Tiddlies Praise at home even if they do not regularly come to church.

Tim Wagg spoke about MIRTH. This usually involves food, fun and fellowship. Highlights:

- Sticking to original aim to improve life of retired men.
- Very outward looking group with people from other churches as well as many members with no church connections.
- In a small way trying to help mental decline – dementia friends group, friendship group for one member of the group suffering from dementia.

LW thanked Gethin Jones who has recently stepped down from heading up worship ministry. She also extended thanks to all those who are carrying on in their various roles.

Electoral roll report

There are currently 430 people on the electoral roll. In total there are around 700 people (of all ages) in the church family who come at least monthly.

JJ interviewed Tom Rawlinson, who has joined us recently. He has been at St Pauls for just over 1 year and works for JLR. He felt welcomed and at home as soon as he came here. He was looking for community and people engaged in worshipping and doing things when deciding on a church to join. He is now involved in worship, PA, and serving at one-off events. He enjoyed getting stuck in straight away, and found it a good way to meet people and become part of the community. He has been in 2 different small groups which has really helped him to feel part of the church.

JJ also interviewed Julie Jackson. Julie first came on Good Friday 6 years ago. She had grown up as a Christian but moved away, her children went to St Pauls School and were interested in what was said about the Bible. Having grown up in a Catholic family, her parents divorced at 11, and she then felt unwelcome in Catholic community. Ceri was particularly welcoming, and Julie felt immediately part of the community here. She enjoyed coming and getting involved, initially just thinking that it was good for children before realising it was actually good for her too. Julie did the Beta course initially as she couldn't make Alpha, then she started helping children's ministry and found she was learning alongside the children. Her understanding of faith grew, and she began to pray and listen to God. Things made more and more sense. Her relationship with God has been growing through prayer. She then did Alpha before joining the confirmation course. She was confirmed 2 years ago in March. Her faith continues to grow, her career took a big stumble but she is now in a great job and has learnt to trust God. She is deputy chair of governors at St Paul's school. The recent SIAMS inspection was great, Hester was amazing, all about Christian ethos. The school achieved an Outstanding grade. She is still involved in children's groups and joined a small group 18 months ago. This has provided great support and helped her to feel part of the church family.

Prayer

All tables had large bag with chocolate bars and packets of sweets. Everyone took one item, which had the name of one of groups of church on it. Everyone prayed for the relevant group, then JJ closed in prayer.

Finances

Andrew Rolls reported on our finances. The income had been greater than expenditure over the year. AR presented the accounts with pie charts for expenditure and income. Expenditure included £82,000 parish share, £21,700 parish share giving away, £41,041 giving away, £182,814 staff salaries, £81,908 ministry costs, £76,664 facilities costs. AR thanked Mel and Mike for their hard work as well as the rest of the staff team.

Income was £396,623 from direct giving, £83,437 tax reclaimed, £37,697 other income – small amount investment income, repayments. AR thanked all who give.

The gift day for the Well raised £38,174, GO team + local giving was £43,041, Parish share giving away £21,700. Anne Hibbert thanked the church for the gift to the Well.

Resources at 31/12/2016 were £415,309 comprising operating reserves of £89,486 and building fund of £325,823.

JJ explained the background to the sale of 49 Wathen Road and that we were looking to find another property with the remaining funds, and in conversation with the local authority about making it available to a Syrian refugee family at a reduced rent.

All were in favour of adopting the finance report.

LDP Luckmans are the auditors, AR proposed that they continue, all in favour.

Prayer

We give away around 15% of our income each year, in roughly three equal shares, to mission partners further afield, mission partners locally, and ministry in the wider C of E. There were small bags on each table with cards with one local ministry and one ministry further afield. Each table prayed for blessing on these ministries. JJ closed in prayer.

Vicar's report

JJ thanked everyone who is involved in serving in any way within the church. Everything we do contributes to the work of God through the church. He encouraged everyone to read through the annual report and pray through it. JJ thanked the staff. Particularly since the redevelopment, a huge amount goes on through the week which takes up a lot of staff time. There is a fantastic HR team looking after the staff. JJ honoured Pam Snape for all the work she does in heading up this team.

JJ commented that this is God's church, so thanks to him for all he is doing. Church is a family and has highs and lows as in all families. We have wrestled with illness, death, prayers not being answered as we would want to, and wrestled with deep issues in our society.

This has been the first full year back in redeveloped building and the first full year since multiplying the morning service. JJ thanked the church for the way we have coped with all these changes. We have grown a little in numbers and depth. There is a sense that we are being prepared for a new phase, as if we have established a new base camp. What is next? There was a week of prayer in February to pray into Vision and Values document. It has been 11 years since vision statement was launched. Now that we can see this is beginning to happen, it may not be as inspiring as it was before.

JJ has read through all comments given after this week of prayer and found it a treasure trove of ideas. He has noticed that nothing was particularly missing from the original vision statement, apart from a greater emphasis on focussing worldwide, beyond Leamington. Through all the responses, there was one big theme with 2 parts:

- Making disciples. The focus has been on buildings for the last few years, and we now need to re-focus on discipleship, for all ages:
 - o Depth of discipleship, deeper in prayer, obedience
 - Small groups are vital part of this.
 - o Outreach

The nation is shifting further away from Christian moorings. People have stopped looking to come to the church; instead we need to go to them. We need to equip people to go out in mission. The standard is not how everyone else is doing, it is the Scriptures. We need to help each other.

JJ read from Mark 1:17, looking at the disciples fishing for people. He noted that they worked in fishing teams, not individuals. If we follow Jesus he will send us out to fish.

One particular prophetic word had stood out from the week of prayer:

A sense of God speaking, "you've spent some time now making nets, repairing nets, preparing nets. It's time to get back out fishing. At heart, you're fishermen. I've made you to fish. You work best with each other, together as a team, when you're fishing. When there's a big catch, you'll not be worrying about what each of the others is thinking, you'll be pulling in the catch with big smiles on your faces. Focus on Me and focus on fishing again. Your nets are ready."

Justin Welby has launched a season of prayer called Thy Kingdom Come between Ascension and Pentecost. We need to pray in order to look out more for those in need of the gospel.

JJ led in prayer.

PCC and Deanery Synod elections

PCC had 9 nominations for 9 vacancies

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Sarah Darren	Ali Darren	Jo Barrett
Katrina Bush	Liz Garrett	Andrew Bush
Charles Crow	Simon Davies	Dave Gorton
Rob Sciacaluga	Sam Davis	Peter Wallis
Simon Wallis	Peter Wallis	Katrina Bush
Peter Wallis	Simon Wallis	Ali Darren
Tim Traynar	Jonathan Randall	Helen Perryman
Anthony O'Brien	Charles Crow	Ruth Lockyer
Simon Brown	Katy Traynar	Toby Leek

Deanery Synod had 3 nominations for 6 vacancies

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Lewis Stephenson	Helen Perryman	Jonathan Randall
Andrew Rolls	Jonny Morgan	David Wilkinson
Roger Penney	Jonathan Randall	Lars Wicks

All were duly elected.

Tim Wagg led in prayer for the new PCC.

Close

The meeting closed in a time of sung worship and the grace at 8.10pm.