

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 30th April 2017

Apologies were received from Tom Farr, and from John and Marjorie Clifton.

Choosing of Churchwardens

Nominations were received for:

Mr Sean Kavanagh (Proposed by Sally Banks; Seconded by Nicki Bunce)

Mrs Margaret Murray (Proposed by Sally Banks; Seconded by Carole Meckiffe)

Both were unanimously elected to loud applause.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017

1. Minutes of Annual Meetings of 2016, which had been sent electronically with some copies in print available, were considered and accepted as a true and accurate record. Kathleen Wontner noted an error in the date, which has been corrected in the signed file copy.

2. Matters Arising - AOB item: the churchyard. We have continued to employ James to mow the lawn twice a month which is working well, but this alone isn't enough, and we need more help. Some tidying is done after 1st Sunday WUSU services, plus working parties on nominated dates. Julian has been doing some strimming, and would be happy to show others and have some company to do this during the week. Julian has a key so please let him know if you are free to come and do some gardening, and he will come and open up. Claire has had lots of very positive feedback on the churchyard, and it's important that this continues to look well maintained and cared for.

3. The Electoral Roll, revised April 2017, now contains 108 names.

4. Elections to the PCC (2 vacancies for 3 years)

Nominations were received (properly proposed and seconded) for:

Phil Treherne (Proposed by Susi Shears; Seconded by Nicki Bunce)

Adanna Tauschwitz (Proposed by Alan Elston; Seconded by Margaret Elston)

Since there were no other nominations they were declared elected.

Stepping down from PCC are Nicki Bunce, having served 6 years, and Nora Ashley-Barker, after 3 years.

Bill Manfield has completed 3 years and will remain on the PCC for another 3 years.

5. Appointment of Sidesmen (Welcoming Team).

Claire thanked the Welcome Team for their work in the past year. Visitors are given a very warm welcome, both by the welcome team, and by others chatting to them before and after the service.

The Welcoming Team were confirmed as Brian and Margaret Eddleston, Julian and Kathleen Wontner, Margaret Murray, Lisa Keers, and families Broughton, Bunce and Pickles.

6. Church Wardens Report 2016-2017

The report was presented by Margaret Murray. Kate Crabtree asked if we know how much the Ramp Project will cost. Claire replied that we expect it to be £25,000. Our fundraising to date has been fairly low key, but the total has already reached £7,000, which is very promising. There are lots of different grant funds that we can look at and apply for. Please continue to pray for the ramp and porch project, as we have had to overcome many hurdles so far, and we can't assume it will be smooth sailing from now on.

7. PCC Report to APCM 2017

The report was presented by Claire. There were no comments or questions.

8. Treasurer's Report to APCM 2017

The report was presented by Nicki Bunce. There were no comments or questions.

9. Deanery Synod Report

The report was presented by Sally Banks and Kay Tauschwitz. There were no questions or comments.

10. Appointment of Examiner

Roger Whiting is appointed as our Auditor of Accounts for the coming year. Proposer: Margaret Murray; Seconded by Sean Kavanagh.

Now that Nicki is stepping down from her role as Treasurer, there is no longer a conflict of interest with using Nicki's father in this role. Victoria Poole has happy to hand over this role, as she has moved away from Tongham.

11. Revd Claire Holt

Last year we launched our Mission Action Plan – ok a quick test! Can you remember what we hoped to achieve?

1. [To roll out a shared leadership plan to enable us to continue to grow](#)
2. [To review administration support](#)
3. [To review PCC meetings and subcommittees to resource vision and support new Mission Action plan for 2017](#)

We celebrated in February with Bucks Fizz that we had succeeded in all 3 targets! It has been fantastic to welcome Wendy to our admin team. And she has been gradually learning the different roles. She has been a help to Sally and as Sally reduces what she does to make way for her new job, Wendy is going to pick more up. We are hugely grateful to both of you! Also thank you to Sally for your role as PCC secretary and for the minutes from the Deanery Synod – they are always interesting and can be found in the folder at the back of church (although having said that I will need to check they are up to date!)

We have had a great PCC this year – really fun meetings (honestly!) and again I want to thank everyone for the contributions made. In particular, thank you to Sean and Margaret – for whom the PCC meetings are just the tip of the iceberg! They have been involved in events, faculty applications and grant applications – to great success. And I cannot thank them enough for the personal support they have given. I want to thank Nicki for being treasurer – she has ensured as a PCC we know where we are financially and has been working on ensuring we plan well for spending monthly and long term too. We have begun to build a team around this role, so hopefully Adanna will get the support she needs! And thank you to Nicki also as she steps down after her 6 year stint in PCC (you see you don't get signed up for life!) and to Norah who has completed 3 years.

We have trialled reducing the general PCC meetings and having more focused subcommittees. This has really helped in many ways, and we will continue to adjust the pattern in the coming year to further improve the pattern of meetings and make the best use of everyone's time.

At this point, I also want to thank Elaine for being our safeguarding officer all the time I have been here. I am so grateful for the time she has given and the checks she makes on a Sunday to ensure we are following good practice. Thank you, Julie, for being willing to step into this role.

Over this year, we have made a few other changes. We no longer have a cleaning team for the church, but have rightly included it in the regular cleaning that Alison Pickles does. It didn't seem right that the hall was cleaned thoroughly and the church wasn't. But, again, a big thank you to those who were on the cleaning team – it wasn't much fun being in the church vacuuming while everyone else was enjoying a coffee and a chat in the Old School!

We have also had some changes to our children's teams. Thank you to Lyn, Susi, Karen and Nicki... and to our current team. I have loved seeing the engagement and enthusiasm - of the children and then team!

And our final aim for last year was to develop a Shared Leadership Team. This has been a key development and one that has been several years in the formation. It has been fantastic to begin to see this in action – and with my recent reduction in hours it has shown the value of having a team as individual coordinators have picked up different areas and have been able to give them time and focus in a way I couldn't have done.

Our team is:

Jane – Discipleship

Helen – Children and Families

Dave – Youth

Rutton – Pastoral

Pete – Outreach

Together we have put together the plan for this coming year – discerning together what areas to focus on. In some ways, we have looked at the barrel model for discerning the next stage (ie. focusing on the lowest point each time, where we see the water flowing out), looking at where the weaknesses are and focusing on improving those areas with the aim of making the most impact. We have a vision day on 24th June to look at how we work moving forward.

So today I am launching the new not Mission Action Plan but renamed as **Church Development Plan**. (Postcards were distributed with the CDP, and are displayed on the Old School noticeboard.)

You can see that each coordinator has come up with 1 focus point for development. I have also pinned onto the board a more developed plan for those of you who like more detail. We want everything to be built on a foundation of prayer, as we seek to help young and old grow in faith and look to see where God is at work in the community and how we can join in!

And finally, another area we are going to be reviewing this year is communication. Nicki has stepped down as Treasurer but has agreed to look at all our communication. She will work hand in

hand with the Shared Leadership Team as they look at what information they want to share, with whom and the best methods to use.

So, lots going on as usual! In the midst of that, we haven't forgotten the ramp project which is so close to many of our hearts. We now have £7000 and are ready to get quotes and plan to have a fundraising weekend in July, alongside grant applications. Keep praying! This hasn't been straightforward – but as we mentioned in the service, we don't need to be afraid when things appear to go wrong... we just need to keep trusting in God. If this is his plan he will give us the resources we need and he will do it! Time to step out in faith, walk on water?! and trust in God as we wait to see what this coming year brings... thanking Him for the blessings and growth that have taken place this year – God is good!

12. Any Other Business

Jane proposed a word of thanks to Claire, praising her extraordinary leadership, which together with her mentoring skills, has enabled us to grow as a church and as individuals into new roles, and to step out and use the gifts that God has given us. Jane put into words the love and appreciation for Claire that is felt by us all.

Kathleen spoke about the need for everyone to be involved in outreach into the local community, in particular by supporting our events. This can be more of a challenge for those of us who don't actually live in the village, but overall, we're a wonderful local church and we show a great witness to the local people of Tongham. Claire responded that Pete, in his new role as Coordinator for Outreach, will be putting together a plan which will help us in this area.

Jane Milne thanked everyone for giving the new coffee scheme a fair go. The intention is to ease off the queue, and for all of us to take part in offering others a cup of tea or coffee, as part of our welcome to visitors and service to one another.

*First Draft these minutes issued 3rd May 2017
Revised following comments 17th May 2017
Sally Banks, PCC Secretary*