

ALL SAINTS, BATH, WESTON
Church, Monday 1st April 2019

Present: Mark Searle (Rector) – Chair, with 55+ people. Mark began the meeting at 7:45pm with a time of worship and prayer.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Thanks were given to Pippa Page who stepped down as Church Warden. She was presented with a small gift and received a standing ovation in recognition of her work. Ben Wynne was re-elected as Church Warden. Those present agreed that the PCC can appoint a second Church Warden during the year, should someone step forward. There is now a team of people to help with opening/closing of the church for services to aid the Warden.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from 19 people.
2. **The minutes of the APCM** 25th April 2018 were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising** – none.
4. **Electoral Roll Officer's Report:** Jeremy Tinkler explained that he had built a new roll this year, as demanded every six years. A copy is available at the back of the church. The number on the roll now stands at 247, a drop of 80 from last year but consistent with the pattern displayed when a complete new roll is built. The general trend is an increase in numbers though 247 is the lowest number Jeremy has ever reported. It is possible that the new GDPR regulations have put people off. Several forms could not be processed as they were incomplete. Online form completion accounted for 33% of names. Jeremy reminded us that names can be added at any time.
Jeremy was thanked for his work and given a gift. He is looking for a successor.
5. **Receipt of the written reports:** The PCC Report, Financial Statement, Fabric-Buildings Report and Deanery Synod Report were available to read on the Church website prior to the meeting and some printed copies of the reports were available at the meeting and two Sundays before. Draft copies of the Trustees Report and Accounts were made available on the website prior to the meeting. Mark Searle invited questions. None were forthcoming.
6. **Finance Presentation:** The meeting recognised the work done by James Wheeler-Mezei (and Virag) with applause. Mark introduced the new Treasurer, Rob Gray, who explained that the final accounts were received on Friday with a clean report from the Independent Examiner (Stewardship). Rob used many cartoons to make his presentation, focussing on money in – showing an upward trend, money out – stayed relatively level over the last five years, and what's left - £131,500 total net income.
A ROCK Treasurer is needed to look after the funds, currently £245k, and attract grants/loans.
Questions about the balance without ROCK and communicating to the congregation were answered.
Mark asked those present if they would approve the Accounts as long as they were not materially different to the draft documents previously available. All agreed. PCC members will make the final approval. Rob was applauded.
7. **The appointment of tellers** proved unnecessary.
8. **Election of lay members of the Parochial Church Council:** Thanks were given to Helen Laidler, Duncan Nash, Andrew Baines, Robin Lewis and Geoff Evans who had served the church through a transitional time of inter-regnum and were standing down. Those present were given a gift of thanks.
Nominations for PCC members were received from Andrew Baines, Robin Lewis, Hannah Pearson, Sarah Gleave, Robert Groezinger and Sebastian Corripio-Dieppe. Members of the meeting indicated their support for these people to be elected with a shout. Seb is not yet on the Electoral Roll so will be co-opted at a later date.

9. **Appointment of Auditors:** Mark proposed that we use the organisation 'Stewardship' again next year. The majority of those present agreed by a show of hands.
10. **Life and Faith at All Saints Weston:** Several members shared their stories.
- Penny Faux spoke about Connect 3TL (Third Tuesday Lunch) connecting three people with the Alpha course and a spin off Home Group which meets three times a month, one meeting in a local Care Home.
- Mark told of a home group which had grown through individual members doing 1:1 Alpha courses with friends, who are now bringing their friends to the Home Group.
- Sarah Couchman gave thanks for all that has happened for the Life Project, now based in the Weston Library and running groups in the Weston Hub.
- Phil Day talked of the childrens choir put together for Christmas and the 'buzz' in the vestry. The Sunday childrens groups are places of honesty, sharing, security and safety where relationships can grow.
- Pip Wynne read an email from a new member of Toddler Rock. She described the event as the highlight of the week, a friendly place to meet other parents. Pip is encouraged that the group is growing - space is an issue.
- Jo Skinner told about 'Tom' who visits the Soup Run regularly. He has recently accepted the offer of a place in a house, having been homeless for many years due to mental health problems. Jo was delighted to receive hospitality from him, after having served him for so many years.
- Tom Peryer likened the ROCK Project to a circular maze – we **are** getting closer to the centre. The Team met before a third pre-planning enquiry and prayed for the planners, as people. The following meeting was the most responsive, and more positive than others.
- Seb Corripio-Dieppe moved back to the church family after years in Spain. He likes Rendezvous and seeing people that he knows in the village and the city.
- Don Hewit said that the Lord is doing more outside the church than inside. Don spoke about the Alpha course where 4 were baptised in the spirit. Also two people proclaimed that they had been healed, in response to prayer.
- Wes Poirot spoke honestly about his role with the youth. He has learnt that God equips the called (giving incredible volunteers), relationships are important, God is in charge. Rendezvous is growing in number (6 – 29) but also in depth.
- Clive Bennett urged us to pray for the youth in the community. He told of one boy who said he had stopped smoking cannabis. The team prayed that he would feel unwell if he took it again. It worked.
- We were reminded that it is vital that the church works across every age group, across the spectrum. Everyone plays their part in this family.
11. **Rectors Report:** Mark began by saying 'Thank you – this is a team effort'. He expressed gratitude to every member of the PCC, Ben Wynne and Pippa Page (Wardens), Rob Gray (Treasurer), Kathleen Paley (PCC Secretary) and the Staff Team, including new member Tali, Mark's P. A. Members of the meeting applauded. All members of All Saints applauded each other.
- Mark feels that he has spent 20 months preparing the ground. 2018 was a year of change. The Weston Hub is now up and running, a new database has been launched and is a continuing work in progress. In September three new websites were launched, with over 100k page requests per month, and Mark shared his vision of A Church on the Way. Mark sees Discipleship as the priority, as disciples will do mission. There are three parts to Discipleship:
- Presence of God – Exodus shows that we cannot be a people of God if God is not with us. We must be attentive to Him.
- Leadership – If we are to grow to be a bigger church we need to grow leaders.
- Co-mission – All the things we do should be in response to the Holy Spirit.

What does that mean practically?

Revised Welcome Systems.

Huddles – small meetings of leaders to learn from one another.

Opening the Church – see the building set to work for the Kingdom of God. To be trialled on Tuesdays.

Access – a different way of doing Alpha, fortnightly meetings rotating the topics Who is Jesus?, What has Jesus Done?, What are you going to do about it?

Pippa and Ben led the meeting in thanks to Mark and Meg, his wife, especially for all that Mark does beyond the job description of a Rector in the areas of IT, prayer and teaching.

There followed an opportunity to look at stalls placed around the church, manned by leaders of groups.

Members were encouraged to chat to each other and note down any questions.

Answers were given to questions about fun evenings, Christmas lights and Home Groups through the summer.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm with prayer.