

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks held in the Undercroft of St Nicholas Church on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

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**Present:** The Rector and about 83 parishioners.

The Rector, Revd Angus MacLeay opened the meeting by advising all present that those on the Electoral Roll were entitled to vote at the meeting.

**1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016** had been duly on display at the back of Church and were unanimously approved and signed by the Rector. This was proposed by Christine Ervine and seconded by Margaret Killingray.

### **2. Electoral Roll**

There were now 697 members on the electoral roll which represented a slight increase from the previous year (680). The Rector thanked Lis Lidbetter, Electoral Roll Officer, for her meticulous hard work.

**3. Election of new Deanery Synod members:** The Rector expressed great thanks to Paul Batchelor and Paul Williams who were both standing down from membership of the Deanery Synod, after many years faithful service, leading to two vacancies. Nominations had been received for Peter Scott and Mark Walkington. As it was an election year Tony Jennings, David McIlroy and Jean Surrey were standing down and were willing to serve for a further 3 year period. Pursuant to there being 5 vacancies and 5 nominations there was no need for a vote and all five individuals were supported with an unanimous show of hands.

**4. Election of PCC Members:** The Rector thanked Tim Byles for his contribution to the PCC and noted that he was standing down at the end of his 3 year period. Sarah Mackenzie had expressed her willingness to serve on the PCC. Alice Beckett, Christine Brindley, Henry Warde and Stephen Wehrle had come to the end of their three years and were willing to stand again. As there were 5 vacancies there was no need for a vote and all five candidates were supported with a unanimous show of hands.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Rector thanked Ian Leigh and the finance team for their hard work and diligence.

### **6. Receipt and adoption of the Audited Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016**

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Chris Webb and seconded by Ian Nash and carried unanimously. The statutory Churchwarden's Report, Fabric and Furnishing Report and Deanery Synod Report could all be found in the meeting booklet while the Annual Review document and new Mission Links documents were available separately.

## **7. Appointment of auditors for 2017**

The re-appointment of Messrs Norman, Cox and Ashby was proposed by Roger Clarke and seconded by Justin Greig and carried unanimously.

## **8. Approval of Leadership and Congregational Pastoral Teams**

The teams were listed on page 5 of the meeting booklet and on the screen, noting the addition of Nic and Janet Pocknall to the 9.15 Congregational Pastoral Team and unanimously approved. It was a point of answered prayer that it was now possible to launch a team for the 6.30pm St Nicholas congregation. Each team was prayed for in turn.

### **Questions**

Sue Stimson, Operations Director gave a brief presentation of the new church website which would be launched within the following week. The new design and improved functionality were widely welcomed. Margaret Killingray suggested that a section on the history of the church and its main building be included.

Beryl Marcello enquired whether an updated Day by Day was planned. In response it was explained that there was a process in motion to provide both a secure password protected online version and a paper version later in the year.

Martin Laing asked whether a greater proportion of the Mission Fund budget ought to be spent on relief work. Ian Dobbie, Chair of the Mission Committee explained that support for relief work is not part of the Mission Committee's current remit although special collections were organised and / or commended to the congregation in severe humanitarian situations. It was noted that some church members' financial giving is independent of the Mission Fund. Marion Russell proposed having an allocated amount on standby for appeals and Chris Webb suggested that this proposal be investigated further by the Financial Strategy Group.

Lynne Marsh requested a roaming microphone for future meetings to enable all voices to be heard.

Paul Williams reminded the meeting that the original pledge for the TearFund Connected Church project was £10k p.a. and he was concerned whether this was being fulfilled. Jean Surrey, Mission Fund Treasurer explained that the Accounts did not represent the full picture of giving as some was sent direct by donors. Emma Watson who is the church's TearFund contact was aware of the full picture. Angus MacLeay felt that a potential Contact trip in summer 2018 would help to raise the profile of the work and associated financial need.

## **9. Chairman's Address**

Angus MacLeay thanked Wendy Billington who had recently stepped down as Pastoral Assistant and Claire Mason who would be moving to St Matthew's in Cambridge in the summer. He also expressed appreciation to Tony Jennings and Peter Scott who had been leading the church's side on the negotiations for the successful completion of the new Exit Road. The main outstanding issue was the resolution of access between the footpath and Rectory Lane.

The Rector reminded those present that great wisdom, love and courage were needed to hold on to the Word of life and to actively contend for it. He highlighted Barnabas as one of the unsung heroes of the New Testament and urged everybody to be modelling their service on him across all congregations.

**Song**      “Oh church, arise and put your armour on”

Before leading the meeting in prayer with Chris Webb, Ian Nash, Church Warden expressed deep gratitude on behalf of all congregations for the hard work and dedication of the entire staff team.

**Closing Prayer and the Grace**