

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks held in the Undercroft of St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 17th April 2018

Present: The Rector and about 100 parishioners.

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

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 27th April 2017 had been duly on display at the back of Church and were unanimously approved and signed by the Rector. This was proposed by Anthony Finney and seconded by Marion Russell.

2. Electoral Roll

There were now 712 members on the electoral roll which represented a slight increase from the previous year (697). The Rector thanked Lis Lidbetter, Electoral Roll Officer, for her meticulous hard work.

3. Election of PCC Members: Following his election as a Warden at the earlier Annual Joint meeting of Parishioners Justin Greig had automatically vacated his position on the PCC (being Warden conveys an automatic place on the PCC). John Collett, Haydn Cooper and Ben Stone had come to the end of their three years' service. Duly completed nomination forms had been received for John Collett, Adelbert Jennings, Ben Stone and Chris Webb. As there were 4 vacancies there was no need for a formal vote and all four candidates were supported with a unanimous show of hands.

4. Election of a new Deanery Synod member: The Rector expressed great thanks to Jean Surrey who was standing down after many years faithful service from membership of the Deanery Synod and as Mission Treasurer. This led to a vacancy. A duly completed nomination had been received for Haydn Cooper. Although there was no need for a formal vote his election was supported with a unanimous show of hands.

Pause for prayer

5. Treasurer's Report

The Rector thanked Ian Leigh and the finance team for their hard work and diligence. [Sue Stimson confirmed that the accounts had been available for inspection at the back of church and that the audit had been completed].

6. Receipt and adoption of the Audited Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Collett, seconded by Nigel Gavin and carried unanimously. The statutory Churchwarden's Report, Fabric and Furnishing Report and Deanery Synod Report could all be found in the meeting booklet.

7. Appointment of auditors for 2018

The re-appointment of Messrs Norman, Cox and Ashby was proposed by Michael Neave, seconded by Heather Taylor and carried unanimously.

8. Annual Safeguarding Update

Gavin McGrath had produced the first annual report on Safeguarding in the parish which was printed on page 10 of the booklet.

9. Approval of Leadership and Congregational Pastoral Teams

The teams were listed on page 4 of the meeting booklet and on the screen and unanimously endorsed in turn with a time of prayer for each congregation.

Questions

Following a recent post meeting update advising that the PCC were staying abreast of developments concerning the current direction of the Church of England John Humphreys asked whether the Rector felt that there was sufficient awareness of the relevant issues amongst the wider church membership and whether membership of the Church Society ought to be encouraged. In response the Rector confirmed that joining the Church Society may be appropriate for some and that other helpful resources were also available, e.g. www.anglicanmainstream.org. He also informed the Meeting that Reform and the Fellowship of Word and Spirit were in the process of merging with the Church Society to avoid duplication of effort and to provide a stronger united body.

In response to a comment from Margaret Killingray about opportunities to have fellowship with brothers and sisters from other congregations the Rector outlined the plan for the forthcoming Together service on 20 May including fellowship over breakfast and lunch. He also cited twice yearly joint prayer meetings as another opportunity to come together.

Darren Wall requested an update on the recruitment of an Assistant Minister for Grace Church and 4 O'Clock Church. There was a pause for prayer as 4 candidates had been shortlisted and were due to be interviewed the following morning. There was a further question about whether finances should be reserved for potential fabric projects and the Rector confirmed that whilst financial prudence was important the Gospel must be prioritised and that the recruitment represented an important investment in the Gospel.

Jamie Read enquired whether there was progress in respect of a further church plant. The Rector responded that there was no formal progress and that one potential opening had been closed. Nonetheless a key recommendation from the Plant Working Group had been the appointment of an Assistant Minister which was progressing.

Alan Edwards asked whether there was consideration for expanding outreach work on the High Street and the Rector advised the meeting that a specific street evangelism training day was scheduled for 23 June. He also urged those present to take every opportunity to increase the profile of the Gospel and to make connections within the town.

A snapshot of church life

Rev Dr Gavin McGrath had compiled a series of images and video clips to give a flavour of church life in the previous 12 months and it was warmly received by all present.

10. Chairman's Address

The Rector urged the congregation to look in 3 directions:

1. *Look back* with gratitude, in particular mentioning believers who had gone to glory in the previous year and service of those who were stepping down.
2. *Look around* with gratitude to events and all those serving the body during the week and on Sundays.
3. *Look forwards* as encapsulated in the Vision statement so that everything at St Nicholas would aid the three aims of "Explore God's word, Equip God's people and Explain God's gospel" with the need to focus on Christ himself rather than particular tasks being of utmost importance.

Song "O Church arise"

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.

The Meeting closed with the Grace.