

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of Annual Parish Church Meeting 23rd April 2023

Opening Prayer:

Reverend Aaron Kennedy welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers.

1 **Present:** 42 parishioners

Apologies: Jenny Liston, Ken Dale, Allan Boddy, Martin Hird, Stephen Hey, Beryl Hey, Eric Cairns, Alison Cairns, Eileen Barr, Liz Walker, Tom Raper

2 **Annual Parishioners Meeting**

3 **Election of Churchwardens to serve 2023 – 2024**

3.1 Churchwarden nominations:

Kevin Keefe Proposed by Zoe Smith; seconded by Barry Milner

Tom Raper Proposed by Tony Pike; seconded by Colin Hopkinson

The meeting voted unanimously to accept the nominations

Aaron and Kevin gave a vote of thanks to Barry who was not standing again for warden.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

4 **Minutes of previous meetings**

4.1 Minutes of APCM meeting 24th April 2022. These were accepted following a proposal by Pam Beck, seconded by Bruce Richards and unanimously agreed.

4.2 Matters Arising – none.

5 **Electoral Roll 2023**

Barry Milner reported that the number on the 2022 Roll had been 155. Three members had moved out of the Parish and sadly four people had died. Fifteen new applications had been received. The number on the Electoral Roll is therefore 163

6 **Annual Report**

The narrative report and the financial statement had been available on the church website and copies were available at the meeting. The financial statement had been externally examined and agreed by the PCC.

Aaron thanked everyone who contributed to the life and service of the church community:

Thanks to Kevin, Barry and Jackie for their stewardship of the parish during the interregnum; to Zoe and Kevin for their work on the Parish Brochure (which first attracted Aaron to Otley); to Jackie for her coordination of the house groups; to the house group leaders; to Pam Beck and the Open the Book team and all those who maintain links with schools; to those who organise the Activate service; to everyone involved in the Christmas Tree festival; to everyone involved in Christingle; to those who lead Baby and Little Rascals; to the Friday Café Team; to the Welcome and Hospitality Team; to Pam for her work with the choir and everyone involved in church music; to those involved in Open House; to Stephen Hey for producing the weekly Notice Sheet and the monthly magazine 'In Touch'; to Dave Cherry and the Sustainability Group; to Val Tait for her leadership of the Newall Ladies Fellowship and to her and her team for the church flowers; to all those involved in cleaning the church.

Financial Statement for 2022

Tony Pike commented on the church financial position.

He thanked Rosemary for the preparation of the narrative section of the Annual Report. Income had returned to similar levels of 3 years ago. Giving was increasing and other income has started to recover.

However, the Parish Share had increased from £87,000 to £96,000 (+10%) and the energy crisis had meant our energy costs had risen from £5,000 to a projected £30,000. An appeal for assistance with these extra costs had led to a generous additional income of £30,000.

Energy costs have started to reduce and we will hopefully be able to renegotiate at lower prices for next year.

Some of the Hindle Fund had been used to provide resources for the Sunday Club.

Money from the Gill Fund had been used to provide translation equipment for Ukrainian children attending All Saints School.

Maintenance costs had been met from general funds and £5,000 had been added to the Fabric Fund.

The PCC had approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements and these had also been approved by the Independent Examiner.

The meeting thanked Tony for his stewardship of the Parish finances.

7. Property Report

A written report had been submitted by Kevin and Barry and circulated before the meeting. There were no questions arising from the report.

8. Safeguarding Report.

This was available on line.

Aaron thanked Jenny Liston for all her work and expertise on this important part of church life. Many volunteers had undergone training during the year.

Most church groups had completed risk assessments for their activities.

We were working to provide a safe culture for all.

9. Deanery Synod

Norman had circulated a report of Deanery Synod meetings prior to the meeting.

Jill McKee was standing down as Deanery Synod representative, Norman Barr was continuing. Aaron thanked Jill for her time on Synod.

Barry Milner had been nominated by Tony Pike, seconded by Norman Barr and was duly elected as another representative.

10. PCC Elections

Rosemary Ellen is standing down as PCC Secretary. Aaron thanked her for her 6 years of service in the role. A new Secretary will be appointed at the first meeting of the new PCC.

Nominations for the PCC, correctly nominated and seconded, had been received from the following candidates:

Maggie Lolashvili

Amie Smith

Eric Cairns

Rosemary Ellen

Allan Boddy

Glynis Milner

As there were less candidates than vacancies on the PCC all the above were elected.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Services had examined the 2022 accounts and Tony recommended that we continue to use them.

This was proposed by John Simkins, seconded by Kevin Keefe and passed unanimously.

12, Vicar's Report

What has God been up to in Otley Parish Church?

We have a strong sense of community and welcome with a low bar of entry, a good range of people, we welcome all.

However, there is more for us to do, would we welcome people who do not fit our social norms? Jesus attracted all the wrong people!

The parish brochure spoke of discipleship – this can be a costly business if we want a life of service.

We are an active community tending towards every member ministry, the challenge is that all must play a part, not just leaders.

The brochure stated that children's work was a priority. We are progressing this, through Seven Up (thanks to Kate, Geoff and Abi) and Sunday Club. We have also signed an agreement to appoint a youth worker.

Another key area is community outreach. We have Open House, the Foodbank and external community events but we are keen to extend.

Evangelism is a biblical imperative, it can be embarrassing but is easy if we believe in a good, wonderful God.

The key issues are:

1. Who is not here?
2. How do we grow?
3. What ministry are we called to?

Any Other Business

Amie Smith asked what was the mechanism for bringing any ideas for improvement?

Any ideas can be discussed with any member of the PCC for further consideration and action.

John Simkin emphasised links with Churches Together as it enters a time of renewal, Aaron agreed this was a priority.

Aaron closed the meeting with prayer

First meeting of new PCC: Monday, 15th May 2023

