

**Parish of Cumnor
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 25th April 2019**

Present (31): Jonathan Widdess (Chairman)
Brian Carroll, Jean Carroll, Joy Dawe, Geoff Dawe, Brian Dent, Margery Dent, Colin Entwistle, Jean Entwistle, Howard Emmens, Kathy Emmens, Angela Evans, Chris Evans, Roland Fuggle, Sue Fuggle, Jez Ferguson, Neil Grady, Jan Harris, Eve Lockett, Vivien Payne, Hilary Prior, John Rees, Chris Scruby, Margaret Scruby, Sally Spicer, Dianne Taylor, Malcolm Taylor, Hazel Tyson, Esme Wyatt, Jane Vlitos. Sarah Evans (Parish Administrator).

Apologies: (7) Liz Davies, Andrew Dyer, Jane Impey, Jackie Laar Roger Long, Angela Sheppard, and Tony Wyatt.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE CHOICE OF
CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Welcome and apologies

The vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Worship

Jonathan Widdess read Psalm 1 and commented on the seasons of the spirit and the life of the parish. He emphasized the importance of making preparations during winter. Only God changes the seasons and then new life will surge through it.

3. Choice of Church wardens for 2019-2020

Jean Carroll (Nominated: Dianne Taylor, Seconded: Malcolm Taylor) and Roland Fuggle (Nominated: Neil Grady , Seconded: Chris Evans) were declared as Churchwardens.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 16th April 2018

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Vivien Payne, seconded by Jean Carrol and accepted as an accurate record without any objections or abstentions.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Reception of new electoral roll

- Congregational giving (plus gift aid) provided the largest contribution to unrestricted funds. Fees for weddings and funerals had also made a major contribution and Malcolm thanks all those who had worked so hard on fund-raising events with special thanks to Esme Wyatt.
- Expenditure in 4 areas had exceeded budget- Buildings, Children & Families, Admin and Audit (new bookkeeper) and clergy services.
- Malcolm explained that expense exceeded income for unrestricted funds during 2018 which was further exacerbated by a fraud loss of £20,000. Although the case for repayment by NatWest was still under consideration by the Ombudsman, it seems unlikely that this will happen.

The large sums of money passing through the accounts as a result of the SMIG project resulted in a requirement for a higher level of scrutiny by the accountants. Although the accountants, Critchleys, had initially expressed some concern about the deficits in some areas, upon examination of first quarter information from 2019, including a significant bequest, they were satisfied and signed off the accounts.

Malcolm then opened the floor to questions. There were none.

2019 Budget

- An overview of operating budget expenses showed a significant increase in clergy costs. The balancing of the budget was based on an expected increase in giving + gift aid of 20%. Malcolm showed first quarter data indicating an encouraging increase in giving + gift aid.

Malcolm then opened the floor to questions

Q1. Why have the operating expenses for Clergy and Mission increased?

A. This was due to the expenses associated with the appointment of a Curate from June.

Q2. How is the cost of the AV system to be paid for?

A. A legacy.

6.1 Annual inspected accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018

Approval Proposed Malcolm Taylor, Seconded: Brian Dent

6.2 Proposed budget for 2019

Approval Proposed Malcolm Taylor, Seconded: Brian Dent

6.3 Appointment of an examiner for accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019

Approval : Proposed Malcolm Taylor, Seconded Chris Scruby

7. Reports of parish activities.

The Vicar directed the meeting to the APCM report and invited questions. There were none.

8. Presentation of Terrier and Inventory.

Jean Carroll reported that a silver gilt chalice had apparently gone missing. This had been reported to the Insurers and was actively being investigated. Otherwise all items were accounted for.

9. 'Growing Younger' Our plan for growth

The Vicar presented the plan attached, identifying the barriers to church growth and the characteristics of a growing church.

-In developing this vision the intention is to strengthen the prayer life of the Parish (Weekend of Prayer May18/19) and offer a Prayer Course (Thursdays in June and July with Tim Pottle).

- Greater emphasis on young children and families based on the Big Story Sunday and Family Outreach events. Which has implications for staffing and the Pioneer Youth Worker post will disappear.

- However it is important to support the existing congregation. The Vicar proposed an experimental change at St. Michael's on the first sunday of each month with a more traditional service at 9.30.

- The proposals were not a 'quick-fix' and the vicar emphasised the importance of prayer, experimentation and willingness to learn from mistakes. With God's blessing the gaps would be closed and the Church 'grow younger'. The congregation were invited to see how they could get involved.

Questions were invited. This presentation had clearly raised concerns that older people in the congregation were being neglected in this vision. In response the Vicar mentioned the possibility of setting up an Alpha group for seniors.

10. Any other Business. No items

11. Commissioning of new PCC.

Members of the PCC were asked to stand for commissioning and prayer.

The meeting closed by saying the Grace at 10.10.

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