

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Ministry Centre, Christ Church Aughton on Sunday 7th May 2023

Chair: Revd. Sarah O'Donoghue, Vicar  
PCC Secretary: Jonathan Burke

### **Vestry Meeting**

The sole function of the vestry meeting is the election of the two Church Wardens. The Vicar explained that due to the pandemic precluding the opening of the church for almost a year both Wardens had agreed to undertake a further year in post. As there were only two nominations, both John Critchley and Patricia Slater were reappointed on a show of hands.

\_\_\_\_\_ Vestry Meeting closed \_\_\_\_\_

### **Annual Parish Church Meeting**

#### **Apologies for absence were received.**

The Vicar welcomed everybody to the meeting but expressed disappointment that numbers, approximately 33, were so low. However, she acknowledged that the meeting had been set a year ago, before the bank holiday had been authorised.

#### **Annual report.**

The Annual Report has been circulated both electronically and the provision of booklets, The report is to go on the web site, which in itself reflects the widening range of access CCA is embracing and the two way process in that the site has been redesigned by people from outside the parish who nevertheless feel part of it. The various reports were indicative of the widening range of activities being undertaken at CCA and was therefore longer than the previous report. Nevertheless it was inevitable that some things and people had been overlooked e.g David Cobbold - AV team and Karen Roberts appointed as Safeguarding Officer. There were no observations or reflections from parishioners.

#### **Electoral Roll**

The roll stands at 252. 190 resident in parish, 62 non resident. 92 male, 160 female. The ERO outlined the age distribution based on the voluntary information. Basically, CCA is by no means following national trends in that numbers are steady whereas nationally numbers are in decline and CCA has an above average proportion of younger members than most. The age distribution figures are displayed at the end of this report.

#### **Finance report.**

The finance report, due to be adopted by the PCC on Tuesday was circulated. Mark Patterson, Treasurer, was unfortunately unable to be present but the Vicar asked that any questions be passed to the secretary who would forward them to Mark who would be able to respond to any queries. Basically the financial position was positive and much better than the previous year when things were still recovering from the influence of the pandemic. The reserves, both designated (can only be spent on specific items, usually things they have been specifically given for, such as the Youth Work) and undesignated are much better. The PCC continues to find means of making the best use of contributions and, for example is looking at the possible benefits of paying off the loan on the Ministry Centre by mortgaging the Peet Avenue property (Curates residence). Energy conservation is a high priority with the replacement of the existing lights in the Ministry Centre with LEDs being examined. The policy of 50% of any (non specific) legacies going toward paying off the MC debt continues. The Vicar explained that it was felt that it was unreasonable to burden future generations with a large debt. The Vicar explained that with Mark having now retired he intended to devote a day a week to his role and, together with Jayne Archbold and Paul Collins, the accountant who examines the accounts it was anticipated that some in-depth work could be done on budgeting, which would benefit the parish longer term.

**Elections.****PCC**

There were no elections to the PCC as with three members retiring the overall number would be reduced to 15, which was deemed to be a more manageable size. John Shaw, Bill Casey, and Rodger Spence were thanked for their service to the PCC.

**Deanery Synod**

The vicar explained that the number of seats on DS had increased. David Cobbold had 2 years left to serve and four nominations had been received from members of the PCC to undertake the remainder. It was explained that 'Fit for Mission', which would require a major decision in the autumn made it particularly important that DS representatives were 'up to speed' with the issue and PCC members had been encouraged to read the material issued by the diocese and attend various meetings about it and were thus best placed to undertake the role. The following were duly elected by a show of hands.

John Critchley, Jonathan Lock, Peter Stewart & Jonathan Burke.

**Sides persons & Welcomers.**

The Vicar spoke about the critical role of sides persons and welcomers as the people who give newcomers the first impression of the 'Church', rather than the building, as a body collective role being to welcome and provide a hospitable atmosphere to newcomers, who might well be attending because of difficult circumstances. The list of sides persons was read out and prayed for.

**Vicars report**

Hospitality and the range of activities undertaken was the main theme of the Vicars summary, she was the 5th vicar in the 250 year history of CCA which showed how loyal to the parish previous incumbents had been and this had facilitated the growth of a growth mindset. The nature of the parish continues to evolve with the web site providing a much wider scope with a number of people who do not live in the parish enjoying the services via the internet. People are hungry for hope and peace and CCA continues to 'buck the trend' in growing in numbers, surely an answer to our 'going for growth' prayer.

**Fit for Mission (Ffm)**

The Vicar outlined the diocesan initiative which has been exercising the minds of the PCC members for some months. This is a major initiative driven by financial necessity and a desire to expand mission activities. This is seen as something that we have to engage with, not something to be anxious about but we need to be diligent in our consideration and pray for guidance. Many thanks to Jonathan Lock for summarising the 63 pages of the scoping document on to 2 sides of A4, a much appreciated and widely circulated piece of work!

**The Clergy Team.**

The Vicar thanked the members of the clergy team. Jackie, who has been immersed in the whole range of the role of vicar "I'm training her to be a vicar, not a curate" and has grown accordingly. Graham, who provides sterling support together with Janet Roberts (the roving rector) who was currently standing in at short notice for an injured colleague!

**Thanks.**

The Vicar concluded with thanks to everybody who volunteers in whatever capacity, it is all important and contributes to the welcome and character of the Church.

**Date of next meeting:** 28th April 2024

The meeting closed with prayer based on Lectio 365

Post	Candidate	Proposed	Seconded
Warden 1	John Critchley	John Appleton	Lesley Birchall
Warden 2	Patricia Slater	John Appleton	Milly Casey
Deanery Synod 1	Peter Stewart	Pauline Welsh	Jane Lake
Deanery Synod 2	Jonathan Lock	Orissa Fogden	Carole Rankin
Deanery Synod 3	Jonathan Burke	Orissa Fogden	Carole Rankin
Deanery Synod 4	David Cobbold	2nd Year	2nd Year
Deanery Synod 5	John Critchley	Jonathan Burke	Mary Burke

## Electoral roll age distribution

Decade of birth	Number	Percentage
1920	3	1%
1930	18	7%
1940	61	24%
1950	37	15%
1960	26	10%
1970	30	12%
1980	8	3%
1990	4	2%
2000	7	3%
Not stated	58	23%
	252	100%