

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Ministry Centre, Christ Church Aughton on Sunday 28th April 2024.

Vestry Meeting.

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

The sole function of the vestry meeting is the election of the two Church Wardens. The Vicar explained that John Critchley and Patricia Slater had undertaken an additional year as wardens due to the pandemic and had now completed their time in office. The two deputy wardens, Dennis Koogjie and Carole Rankin were the only nominations and were duly appointed by a show of hands. The Vicar thanked Trisha and John for their hard work over the last four years.

Vestry Meeting Closed

Annual Parish Church Meeting

Chair: Revd. Graham Rutter, Associate Minister
PCC Secretary: Jonathan Burke.

The Annual Report had been circulated electronically and through the provision of booklets. The reports also available through the web site and it was particularly nice to be able to welcome and thank Adele Eccleston, visiting from Canada as she together with Nigel Sharpe had both put a huge amount of work into the creation and maintenance of the website which has seen a significant increase in usage. The report reflects the wide range of activities undertaken within the parish but the emphasis continues to be mission and growth.

The Electoral Roll

The roll stands at 254, resident in the parish, non resident, male, female There has been no significant change since last year the actual numbers do not reflect the 'turnover' of people on the roll but although some people have left others have joined so overall the figure is about the same. The age distribution, the majority being post war 'baby boomers' is a little worrying in that in the future there may be increased difficulty in finding volunteers for the many tasks at present being undertaken. But, significantly Christ Church continues to have more younger people than many other churches. It should also be remembered that not everybody who is involved in the life of the church chooses to apply to go on the roll.

Finance Report

Mark Patterson talked the meeting through some slides that summarised the financial situation and the accounts approved by the PCC the previous Monday are available on-line. Basically, the day to day income is not meeting the day to day expenses plus the maintenance work that is essential to keep the buildings, Church, Ministry Centre and 25 Peet Avenue (The Curates House). Savings have been made and investment in energy conservation is being pursued. However, although there has been some increase in giving since Mark and Jane addressed the congregations a month ago, the increases in utilities, parish share and loan interest continues to hit hard. An agreement has been reached with the diocese to reduce the Parish Share for six months, although the deficit will have to be made good in the future. This will hopefully provide time to install Infra red heating in church which should cut the gas and electricity charges dramatically and repay the investment. Mark thanked all those who help him in the work of keeping the finances in good order. The Independent Examiner, Paul Collins, was reappointed for a further year following an unanimous vote.

Nominations for Deputy Church Wardens

John Critchley
David Sharples
To be confirmed by PCC

Election of PCC member

Following the resignation of Louise Kelly there was a vacancy for one member of the PCC. Laurence Abernethy was proposed by Carole Rankin and seconded Geoff Fallows and duly elected.

Sides-persons are to be appointed at the first meeting of the new PCC.

General Reports : As published. There was no report for the debt advice service which was established due to the efforts of the late Rikki Abernethy, the loss of whom is deeply felt.

The Vicar thanked Bill Evans for the tremendous amount of work he had put into the production of the 28 page booklet containing all the reports.

Vicars Report.

The Vicar stressed the importance of CCA being very much a 7 day a week operation, working with its partners such as the school, Pontville and the many other organisations with which it is in contact. The prayer for mission and growth is at the centre of a philosophy of reaching out or searching for the 'lost'. This is evidenced by the 'Hope Explored course, Alpha, the Embracing Hope service. The Ministry Centre is of critical importance to the work and mission of the Church which reaches many, but the ultimate aim is to welcome the many we reach into the family of the worshipping Church.

We have a number of members who are currently praying for guidance in terms of what they / we can do to increase the growth in numbers at CCA. A lot of work is being done through LYCiG (Leading Your Church in Growth) to prepare for the future. The PCC decided not to opt for the Fit for mission initiative and instead has commenced a programme of increased engagement with the other churches within the 'Cluster'. Just as CCA is not alone but part of a cluster neither is the Vicar but ably supported by Rev Graham Rutter, Rev. Janet Roberts and Jonathan Lock (Reader). Not forgetting Rev. Jackie Davies (who could?). Jackie is leaving at the completion of her curacy to take up her new post as Vicar of St. John's Ainsdale but before doing so she is marrying Jay, so it is a time of huge change for her and her future husband. Many thanks to Jackie whom we have all seen blossom during the time she has been with us at CCA and we wish her and Jay all the best for their future happiness and mission.

Thanks also go to the Wardens, John Critchley and Trica Slater both of whom did an extra year due to the hiatus of Covid. Tricia is standing down, John is taking a pace backward and has agreed to take on the role of Deputy Warden for a while and will help with the induction of the new Deputy Warden, Dave Sharples. It is hoped another Deputy will be forthcoming later in the year.

The question of finances is ever present but cannot be allowed to be a controlling influence. We are a large and growing Church and, to some extent, the financial difficulties we face are the price we pay for that growth. However, we are by no means unique in the difficulties we face and we can be grateful that we are still tithing 10% of our income to charity, something which has had to stop in many other places.

Children & young peoples work is an immense privilege and thanks is due all those who undertake it.

The meeting ended with a Lectio 365 prayer asking God to sow his inspired word into a tired world.

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Attending	Apologies	Attending	Apologies	Attending	Apologies
Rev. Jackie Davies	Jonathan Ray	Jane Archbold	Doreen Horrocks	John Raynor	Deb Raynor
Charlotte Chappell	Joan Livesley	Andy Williams	Laurence May	Becky Smount	Helen Fallows
Allan Jones	Lorna King	Adele Eccleston	Sydney May	Paul Amount	Carolyn Barker
Mike Jones	Neil Harrison	Patricia Slater		Dave Sharples	Ann Lock
Dennis Koogje	Thomas Harrison	Gillian Simpson		Angela Mellor	Kath Elliot
Mary Burke		Stephen Marsh		Fred Woodcock	
Joan Massie		Sheila Stewart		Bill Casey	
Jen Ray		Rev. Janet Roberts		Millie Casey	
Bridget Wainwright		Peter Stewart		Gavin Barker	
Laurence Abernethy		Gary Smith		Geoff Fallows	
Audrey Laird		Karen Winchester		Mark Patterson	
Graham Stewart		Robina Smith		Sara Wadsworth	
Eddie Marshman		Jan Cashen		Liz Chalk	
Gail Leverton-Usher		Sue Leigh		Pete Chalk	
Jessica Harrison		Barbara Clayton		Jonathan Lock	
Annette Harrison		Brenda Greenwood		Eunice Woof	
Lesley Roper		Lesley Birchall		John Critchley	
Jonathan Burke		David Armes		Irene Chritchley	
Rev. S. O'Donoghue		Lynn Armes		Carole Rankin	
Rev. Graham Rutter		Tony Leigh		Eileen Arnold	
				Jean James	
				Barbara Davies	
				Dorothy Whiteside	
				David Cobbold	
				Eileen Hughes	
				Cian O'Donoghue	
				Mary Roughly	
				Jane Lake	
Attending	Apologies				
21	6	20	3	28	5
20	3				
28	5				
69	14	Totals			
					A26/2