

Christ Church Aughton Vestry and Annual Parish Meeting

	Ministry Centre - Sunday 27th April 2025	
	Vestry Meeting.	
	Chair: Rev. Janet Roberts	
	Secretary: Jonathan Burke	
	The sole function of the vestry meeting is the selection of the two Church Wardens. The tradition at CCA is that Wardens serve three years and deputy Wardens do likewise. Dennis Koogje and Carole Rankin had been appointed in 2024 and had just completed their first year in office. David Sharples had been co-opted a little later in 2024 as deputy Warden and had thus also completed his first year. John Critchley had kindly agreed to undertake further year as a deputy warden, having already completed an additional year as Warden due to Covid 19. Janet explained how important it was to have four people to operate the rota and that nobody had volunteered. However, as John had undertaken so many years it was considered bad practice to ask him to undertake a further period and Janet asked all present to consider if this might be something they were being called to do.	
	_____ Vestry Meeting Closed _____	
	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	
	Chair: Rev. Janet Roberts	
	Secretary: Jonathan Burke	
	<b>Apologies:</b> Mr & Mrs. J. Critchley, Dr. J. Lock, H. Livesley, Roy Bayfield, Fred Woodcock, Sheila Stewart <b>Present:</b> Geoff Fallows, Josh Fallows, Helen Fallows, Pete & Liz Chalk, Gary & Robina Smith, Jonathan Ray, Jen' Ray, Mary Burke, David Owens, Eileen Evans, Jessica Harrison, Annette Harrison, Lisa Matthews, Chris Matthews, Sara Wadsworth-Patterson, Mark Patterson, Bill Evans, Linda Elersedy, Tookie Chessher, Steve Ashort Pauline Ashort, Edie & Nell Marshman, Audrey Laird, Hilda Jennings, Gill Simpson, Joseph Johnson, Lesley Birchall, Cynthia McDonald, Brenda Greenwood, Ann Roberts, Sydney May, Sue Leigh, Tony Leigh, David Cobbold, David Sharples, Laurence Abernethy, Angela Mellor, Lesley Roper, Stephen Marsh, Charlotte Chappell, Eunice Woof, Dennis Koogje, Bill Casey, Jane Archbold, Joan Massie, Milly Casey, John Shaw, Joan Shaw. Carole Rankin	
	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2024, having been previously circulated, were proposed and seconded as a correct record by Bill Evans And Geoff Fallows. <b>All agreed.</b> Signed by JR.	
	There were no matters arising.	
	<b>Presentation of Annual report &amp; Accounts.</b> Janet spoke briefly about the content of the Annual report. Hard copies were available and had been available previously. No matters arising.	
	<b>Annual accounts.</b> Janet explained that the examination (audit) of accounts had not been completed [so there will have to be a special meeting to present and agree them] However, Mark presented slides to summarise the present situation. Fundamentally, although the parish might look to be in a reasonable position much of its income is in 'restricted funds' which means it cannot be used for anything other than the purpose for which it was donated. The day to day income and expenditure continues to be very fraught with a general overspend of £1,500 a month. Although the Parish Share has been reduced, which will make things a little easier in the future, in the past year it has been necessary to reduce payment on a temporary basis and the deficit created is being paid back but that will not solve the underlying problem. The reduction in costs due to the Infra red heating and the solar panels on the ministry centre will also help but these benefits are offset by increased N.I and minimum wage increases. The Cafe is making a great contribution to funds and the letting of the hall has brought in additional income but Caretakers have had to be employed to facilitate the additional opening. The unexpected replacement of the gas boilers was a significant cost at £22,236.	
	<b>Electoral Roll Report.</b> 2025 is a renewal year, this happens every six years and is intended to ensure that the roll is not inflated by the names of people who for whatever reason, are no longer worshipping in a particular parish. However, it should be remembered that some worshippers make a deliberate choice not to apply to go on the roll and the only benefit from so doing is that it provides eligibility for voting at this meeting.	
	Last year we had 254 on roll. The new roll stands at 194. Janet has done a lot of work comparing the two rolls and in terms of the difference has identified the following:-	
	At least 9 have died	
	4 are now in nursing homes or too frail to attend	

11 are known to be worshipping elsewhere.	
Of the 30 or so remaining:-	
Some will be young people who went on to the register at 16 but who are now at university or who have moved away.	
Some will have gone on the register because they wanted to get married at Christ Church but who we have not seen since - very often they are people with connections with the area but are living elsewhere.	
However, ours, like many parishes, has long had a predominantly elderly congregation and we have probably had a number of people leaving to move closer to family in other parts of the country. The period of the previous roll covered the traumatic event of the Covid 19 outbreak which saw a significant national drop in numbers returning to church afterwards, something which probably influenced our figures. Obviously any drop in numbers is disappointing but we have newcomers and and although it will be interesting to see how others have faired I suggest we have a lot to be thankful for.	
However, for those who like collecting statistics we have	
Resident        130	
Non Resident    64	
Total            194	
Male             71	
Female          123	
Total            194	
We had one application that was received too late for inclusion.	
<b>Election of Parochial Church Council Members</b>	
Candidates for PCC        Nominated by                Seconded by	
John Raynor                Paul Livesley                 Helen Livesley	
Helen Livesley             Peter Stewart                 John Critchley	
Gary Smith                 Geoff Fallows                 Peter Stewart	
Jane Archbold             Paul Livesley                 Stephen Marsh	
Christopher G Matthews   David Armes                 Jane Archbold	
Brian Spanswick         Lyne Armes                    Irene Critchley	
There were enough vacancies for all nominations to be appointed without election and Janet thanked all those standing down on completing their period of office.	
<b>Election of Deanery Synod representative(s):</b> David Cobbold having completed his term stood down. Bill Casey, who had been co-opted as a representative earlier in the year was nominated by Jane Archbold and seconded by Carole Rankin being the only candidate was appointed to replace him. (Bill has been secretary of the Deanery Synod for some years but has to be appointed to the CCA PCC in order to represent it)	
<b>Election of sides persons:</b> The list of sides persons was tabled and all were duly elected. Lynn Armes, Lesley Birchall, Jonathan Burke, Irene Critchley, Orissa Fogden, Gillian Hewitt, Jean James, Joe Johnson, Allan Jones, David Knowles, Sue Leigh, Linda Marshall, Stephen Marsh, Eddie Marshman, Nell Marshman, Liz Mawdsley, David Owens, Debbie Reece, Dennis Riley, Trish Slater, Robina Smith, Gary Smith, Brian Spanswick, Graham Stewart, Pauline Taylor, Liz White, Fred Woodcock.	
<b>Any questions or topics for the PCC for discussion by the PCC for the forthcoming year.</b> Eddie Marshman asked that something be done about the tower clock which is not working at the moment.	
<b>Closing remarks:</b> Janet thanked all those who have been working for the Church, having already made the point in her sermon that nobody is insignificant or unimportant, we all have our part to play whether it be high or low profile. However, we still need an assistant treasurer and another deputy warden. with that the meeting was closed.	