



# The Church of the Holy Saviour Tynemouth Priory

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 11.30 in the Church

The Revd Steve Dixon, Priest, welcomed 47 attendees.

- 1 Opening Prayer – Revd Dixon led the meeting in prayer.
- 2 Appointment of clerk to the meeting – Stuart Crozier was appointed

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

Election of Churchwardens – Diane Bayley stood down after 5 years in post. She received gifts as a heartfelt thank you for her service to the church, including covering two interregnums. David Bilton was re-elected as Churchwarden, and Janice Tory was also elected, both unopposed.

## **Annual Parochial meeting**

- 3 **Apologies** were received from Julian Brown, Kathleen Farrer, Gerald and Jean Keeling, Wyn Portway and Gareth Ruddle.
- 4 **Minutes of the previous APM** - held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were proposed for acceptance by Karen Bilton and seconded by Raymond Taylor. With 5 abstentions, they were otherwise agreed as a true record.
- 5 No matters arising
- 6 **Report on changes of the electoral roll since last APM** – Stuart Crozier referred the meeting to last year's minutes when the numbers on the roll stood at 187 with 71 living outside of the parish. The six yearly full revision of the electoral roll had been carried out prior to this year's APM. The Electoral Roll thus stood at 139, with 39 living outside the parish. Stuart Crozier reminded the meeting that the Electoral Roll would now re-open after the APM.
- 7 **Vicar's report**

In the main Revd Dixon spoke to his report as set out in the Annual report. He reminded the meeting that he had only been in post for part of the reporting year. He was very taken by the warm reception he had received from Holy Saviour's and commended the spirituality that was clearly in evidence. He also referred the meeting to the various group reports in the Church's Annual report, noting that a lot of people were giving of their time and effort to support the wider community and the Church in various ways. He mentioned highlights being the reinvigoration and re-connection with King's Priory School and also the Centenary Commemoration of the Armistice in November. He remarked that an issue of there not being enough Orders of Service to meet the numbers who attended the Commemoration was in fact a good problem to have!

He touched upon the Church's finances, which have resumed their downward trend after a legacy in 2017. He voiced a note of concern that whilst the Church currently had reserves, using these regularly to meet operational expenditure and deficit would inevitably see them being exhausted. He thanked those who had recently increased

their planned giving. He pointed people to his letter concerning giving in the April 2019 Parish News and asked that people prayerfully consider their giving to the church.

In moving forward as a Church, he noted that Sunday Club was picking up again due to the very creditable efforts of Victoria and Gareth Ruddle. This needs more volunteers to help make it a regular and sustainable feature of Sunday worship. Pram Service was currently in abeyance following Val Freer's move away from the parish at Christmas, noting her excellent work. This would be looked at with a view as to new shape and leadership but, like Sunday Club, is dependant on volunteers to establish and maintain it as a regular monthly feature. He highlighted the PCC's fervent desire to engage with the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' programme, he himself having had previous experience of it as a trainer. This was the right direction for the Church to go in order to reinvigorate its Mission Action Plan for the next three years. He also referred to the words and phrases that had been posted up around the church that morning for the congregation to take a view on which might be subsumed into the Church's vision statement.

He concluded his report by acknowledging the real spiritual energy he detected at Holy Saviour's which will need to continue and be harnessed in order to commit the necessary time and energy to take the Church forward.

- 8 **Financial Statements for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018** – Karen Bilton took the meeting through the PCC Report and annual account by way of a very clear presentation. The annual financial statements were approved by the meeting. Her highlights were;
- An in year deficit of £16692. An adverse swing of some £35000 from 2017. The difference was due to a substantial legacy received in 2017 coupled with paper gains in 2017 on the Church's investments.
  - The good news was that operational expenditure had decreased by £10000 and the Church had met the parish share in full.
  - The not so good news was that in terms of operational income, the church had not made any charitable or mission giving, the numbers of weddings and funerals had decreased by 25% during 2017, and planned giving had not kept up with inflation.
  - Expenses will need to be trimmed as best they can, and ultimately the responsibility for income is the Church's as a whole.

Chris Benneworth voiced his appreciation on the way Karen Bilton has presented the finances in a very clear and understandable manner. Revd Dixon also offered his thanks to the Treasurer for her considerable efforts in maintaining orderly accounts for the church.

- 9 **Report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church** – Diane Bayley made the following report;

*The Exterior of the Church* – remains in good repair and the gardens continue to be lovingly cared for by our extremely dedicated team of volunteers whose hard work is very much appreciated. The roof of the boiler room needed attention following the area being used as a sleeping place by a homeless person. Rightway Roofing dealt with this and the protective screen on the stained glass window there also needed to be repaired. We shall await the tree pruning works to be carried out together with permission from the Council. Another contractor had to be sought as no headway was made with the first company contacted. Permission from the Council may hopefully take some 6 to 8 weeks.

*The Parish Hall – continues to be well used and is generally in good repair. The PCC is aware of weight problems with the roof and bulging back wall. Estimates in these respects are being looked at as to the type of work that needs to be carried out and the best way forward bearing in mind the complexity of the works required.*

*The Parish Centre – also continues to be well used and in good repair.*

*The Church – continues to be cared for by our team of cleaners who meet every fortnight and along with the dedicated team of flower arrangers our church continues to be a place of tranquillity and peace. The Church is now open again every day for public access.*

Sheila Park commented that the church wall running along Crossway was flaking and shedding stones which could prove to be a trip hazard. Revd Dixon replied that the PCC would note this as part of the ongoing material state reviews.

10 **Report on proceedings of the Deanery & Diocesan Synods** – no report tendered.

11 **Affirmation of Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies** – Revd Dixon reported that policies were in place, and are available for consultation from the Parish office. They will continue to be monitored and reviewed by the PCC at appropriate intervals. The parish Safeguarding policy and contact details are up to date and publicised on both the Church noticeboard and in the parish Centre.

12 **Elections**

Sides persons – as proposed by Pat Waller and seconded by Margaret Devlin, re-elected en bloc on the current list (see reverse of agenda) with the additions of Debbie Baird, Judith Clark and Liz Shipway.

PCC members –

- nominations for PCC membership had been received (Debbie Baird, Michael Bayley and Liz Parr);
- two members of the current PCC retired (Tony Baird by rotation and Malcolm Soulsby standing down), with Liz Shipway seeking re-election.
- There being more places available on PCC than nominees, Euan Duff proposed, and Dorothy Steward seconded that all four (Debbie Baird, Michael Bayley, Liz Parr and Liz Shipway) be elected to serve on the PCC for a three year term, agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Deanery Synod Representatives – there being no re-election requirements this year, Julian Brown, Linda Benneworth and Ian Buxton continue as Holy Saviour's representatives to Deanery Synod.

13 **Appointment of Auditors** Karen Bilton proposed, Ian Crawford seconded, that Haines Watts be retained as our auditors for another year. This was unanimously agreed.

14 **Any Other Business**

A request to have a picture of the Church reinstated on the front cover of the Parish News.

15 **Concluding remarks** – Revd Dixon repeated his thanks to all who put in time and effort to support the Church. He was especially grateful for the warm reception to both him and his family, stating it was an absolute joy to serve as vicar and long may that remain so.

**Closure of meeting** - Following the Grace, the meeting closed at 12.17.