

St Giles Church Northampton

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens held on 28th April 2019

Prior to the start of the official meeting, we had a time of worship together. The children then left for the Parish Centre and we continued with prayer and a reading from Luke 24:13-35.

1. Tim Smith in his capacity as Chair, explained the purpose of the vestry meeting. Alison Steele and David Lidbetter had confirmed they were willing to continue as churchwardens. There being no other nominations, both were re-elected. Tim thanked them both.
1. There was no other vestry business.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th April 2019

1. There were 150 adults present and apologies were received from 3 people. (Richard Deacon, Rachel Boyle and Sally Hughes).
2. **Electoral Roll**
Tim explained that this year being the 6th since the last renewal of our electoral roll, procedure required us to reconstitute it and get everyone to sign up again. The electoral roll currently stands at 222 of whom 6 are resident in the parish. This represents a small drop on last year when it stood at 246. However 47 people who we would have expected to sign up have not yet done so. The roll will open again immediately after the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting 29th April 2018**
It was proposed by Diane York that the minutes, as previously made available in the church, be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Craig MacPherson and the minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.
4. **Thanks**
Thanks were expressed to the current deputy wardens, and in particular to Jan Phillips who has stood down. Cathy Summerside has kindly made herself available to serve as a deputy warden in the year ahead. Steve thanked everyone who serves at St Giles. In particular he thanked Ruth Hamson, who will shortly be leaving Northampton, for her service to St Giles through PCC and on various other ministries including Be, the Children's Ministry and Food4Thought.
5. **Elections**
Nomination of PCC Representatives
Rachel Patching and Jonathan Griggs have stood down from PCC. There were 7 people nominated for 6 vacancies. Derek Bish our Treasurer has kindly offered to stand for 1 further year. The other nominations are for 3 years. The nominees were:
Derek Bish, Mal Boothby, Paul Cooper, Stephen Hewitson, Helen Menzies, Julie Parsons and Dan Woods.

Each nominee had previously provided a brief paragraph about themselves. The meeting paused to pray and a paper vote followed. Voting papers were collected and counted by Helen Goff, assisted by a number of helpers.

Nomination of Deanery Synod Reps

There were 2 vacancies for representatives to Deanery Synod. There being no nominations, members of the congregation were asked to make themselves known to Steve or the wardens after the service, should they wish to fill this role.

6. Annual Financial Accounts for 2018 and Budget for 2019 (see slides)

Our Treasurer Derek Bish indicated that our finances for 2018 were independently audited and were deemed to be in order. He thanked his predecessor David Cline for laying the groundwork. Derek reported that in 2018 our overall deficit was almost £27,000 with a General Fund in deficit to the amount of £13,754. For 2019 we have budgeted a bigger overall deficit than 2018 because the Restricted Funds have been depleted due to the use of the grants we were given for specific items such as our interns/Family Support Workers and Student Worker salaries. The General Fund is budgeted to reflect a further deficit of £12,650 in 2019. Derek nevertheless said our finances are in good shape but not perfect as we cannot sustain ongoing deficits. By law we have to keep reserves and our deficits will be funded from these in the short term. The audited accounts are on our website. Derek invited anyone with questions to be in touch with him. He felt that our Auditors have done a good job and that we should continue to use them.

It was proposed by Duncan Halliday that DNG Dove Naish accountants be reappointed as auditors. This was seconded by David Lidbetter and agreed unanimously.

Derek thanked Serena and Cathy for their work to assist him. He also thanked Steve, Helen and the two wardens.

Tim expressed thanks to Derek and to those who assist with the finances at St Giles. We paused to give thanks to God. He told the congregation that our Annual Report is available in the stand in the Connect area of church and on our website.

Steve spoke about the financial challenge in the year ahead and encouraged any members not yet giving to prayerfully consider doing so. As a result of Barbara William's generous legacy, there are two projects we hope to start this summer. The Hughes Hall, which has not been refurbished for 30 years, will have a new carpet and furniture and at the front of church we will replace the staging to make the area more attractive. This is at the consultation stage and more information will be shared as progress is made.

7. Questions/Comments on Church Matters

No questions were brought to the meeting but at the recent Bringing the Vision to Life consultation sessions, which approximately 100 people attended, many questions were asked and there was lots of discussion. Steve said more sessions would be held in future, by popular demand, and encouraged everyone to attend. Questions were asked about Beth's post, prayer, about working with other churches, better co-ordination of activities and about how we will adjust to having fewer staff. Anyone with questions about church life was encouraged to talk to the church wardens, to staff members or to members of the PCC.

8. Vicar's message and prayer for the year ahead

Steve encouraged everyone to read Luke 24. It demonstrates how lives are transformed by meeting the risen Jesus. He came alongside these two downcast people and walked, listened and talked with them. Despite admonishing them for being slow to understand and "unbelieving" he patiently went through the Scriptures with them, ministered to them and showed them love. We too at times are unbelieving but He is patient with us and wants to come alongside us to minister his love. Sometimes our faith is like a flickering candle but in the presence of Jesus we find peace. He is the Prince of Peace. Jesus reveals to these two disciples what the story of his life, death and resurrection is about. He nourishes their hearts and minds on the journey and now he nourishes their souls with bread and they realise that they are with Jesus, the risen Saviour. The disciples go back to Jerusalem and Jesus meets them there. He reveals his mission to bring salvation to the whole world. This is why St Giles exists. His mission becomes our commission.

Over the last month we have been considering how we can bring our vision to life and last week we talked together and prayed about God's business and four key areas where the vision is coming to life. One is our

work with young people where there is a real vision emerging in Beth's team. Our involvement is needed to bring the vision to life. Another key area is **our work with students**. The nations are coming together at Northampton University and we can disciple them right here. We have a wonderful opportunity to partner with FISH and to continue this work we will need to rise to the financial challenge. Thirdly is **church planting**. We are in discussion with St Columba Church at Collingtree and have made a proposal to the diocese. Over the past three months there has been a consultation with the Collingtree community, the church and the school. We are embarking on a three year project to revitalise that church. In time we hope it will lead to a team of people to join them. We are now waiting to hear back from the diocese. Then there is our **work with older people**. This is an increasingly needy generation. Many are lonely and isolated.

These are the four key areas where our vision is really coming to life. You are invited to prayerfully consider getting involved. The Children's Ministry needs 9 new leaders, the ministry to older people needs musicians and helpers. Prayer is also needed about our finances and giving. The Student Ministry is not in our budget. God has been saying to the MLT that we need to pray, that we need the Holy Spirit and one another. We face a challenge and we need to be in a place of absolute dependence on God. Jesus says we should not think about doing it on our own. We need to open our hearts to what the Holy Spirit is saying and then step out. (Steve told the story of the young woman he had seen sitting in the rain in the middle of the park. He approached her and, guided by the Holy Spirit, told her that she was not alone and that God loves her. He and Molly were able to walk her home and over the last 6 months he has seen her find a place to worship and serve and now she has asked to be baptised). If we all commit ourselves to this vision it will continue to come to life and lives will be changed in the next year.

9. PCC Election Results

Tim thanked Helen and Natalie for doing the counting. The results were announced as follows:

Derek Bish was nominated for 1 year, Mal Boothby, Helen Menzies, Stephen Hewitson, Julie Parsons and Paul Cooper were nominated for 3 years.

The meeting prayed for our PCC members.

10. AOB

The meeting continued with a thank you and a farewell to Martin and Helen Thorman who have served St Giles in endless ways. They are going to join their daughter and son-in-law in a church plant in Towcester.

Steve also extended thanks to Rachel Boyle who comes into the office at the end of each week to help with the large print papers for Sunday services.

The service ended with notices and the children re-joined us for a time of closing worship and blessing.