

**Minutes of the Parish of St. Giles' Matlock, 2016 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
April 5th 7:30pm**

Present: Fr. Mark Crowther-Alwyn (Chair), Alison Grindrod, Angela Neale, Annette Lowe, Rev. Audrey Smith, Bethany McLarkey, Brian Legood, Claire Drabble, Helen Legood, Jackie Steele, Jean Haines, Fr. John Drackley, Jonathan Grant-Nicholas, Joy Lowe, Martin Smith, Michael Amos, Peter Steele, Peter Taylor, Sarah Higgs, Sarah McLarkey, Stuart McLarkey, Susan Grant-Nicholas.

Welcome. Fr. Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting and began the proceedings with a short prayer.

1/16. Apologies. Apologies were received from: Fred Drabble, Barbara and Trevor Hughes, Joan Pybus, Michael and Brenda Maltby, Anne Thomas.

2/16. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 APCM

The minutes of the 2015 APCM were approved as a correct record and signed by Fr. Mark. As all the issues raised in those minutes had been discussed later by the PCC, there were no matters arising.

3/16 Reports

- a) **Electoral Roll.** Alison Grindrod reported that there were 110 names on the electoral roll, a very similar number to the previous year. She expressed the wish to stand down as electoral roll officer, having done the job for close on 20 years. She also suggested that she and Fr. Mark should go through the electoral roll and see if there were any names that should now be deleted as the people concerned had moved away. She also pointed out that the nature of the electoral roll had changed in that it was no longer used to calculate the diocesan quota, so theoretically there is now no constraint on the number of people on the roll. **The report was received.**
- b) **Annual Report and Accounts.** Peter Steele as Treasurer introduced this item. The annual report and accounts were circulated. Peter pointed out that the accounts had been audited, independently examined and pronounced in order. The accounts had already been approved by the PCC, this being necessary because they were required for a grant application. Copies of the annual report and accounts are available on request. Peter pointed out various aspects of the accounts, noting that the principal change in finances arose from the expenditure on the new heating system. He stated that he was in discussion with the gas suppliers to try to ascertain what difference the new system had made in terms of gas consumption, but this was proving to be a more difficult exercise than anticipated. 60% of the church's income came from donors, 58% being from planned giving and 16% from gift aid. Peter noted that the income from rental of the Barn had been reduced because the upper room is no longer available. He also pointed out that some of the expenditure on the Barn, i.e. utilities costs had not been attributed to this particular account, but it would be in future years. Finally he identified the rood fund, which he said was in a good state. This is fortunate as the quinquennial inspection has identified the need to repair a section of the roof and this will cost around £40k. A grant application has been submitted requesting about 1/3rd of this sum and a response is awaited. In response to a suggestion from Angela Neale that we should have a cash flow account, Peter said he was very happy to have such an exercise and that he would welcome advice from Angela on the matter. In response to a query from Sue Grant-Nicholas about the loss of Barn rental income, Fr. Mark pointed out that the embroiderers group was now so small that they are meeting in someone's house. The cyclists group has paid rental up to the end of March and it remained to be seen if they would continue. The Treasurer expressed the view that he would like to see the upper room become available again. There being no further questions, Fr. Mark thanked Peter. Angela Neale proposed the report and accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Jean Haines and approved unanimously. **The Treasurer's report and the accounts were approved**

- c) **Churchwardens' Report.** This report deals with the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church. A copy of the report forms Appendix 1 to these minutes. The churchwardens expressed their thanks to the Treasurer for putting together the grant application for the church roof repair. There were no questions on the churchwardens' report, so Fr. Mark thanked them both and in particular thanked Brian Legood who has completed his 6 years in office and is standing down as church warden. This sentiment was endorsed by those present at the meeting. **The churchwardens' report was approved.**
- d) The proceedings of the Deanery Synod. Martin Smith stated that the Deanery Synod report had been circulated and he had nothing to add to it. A copy of the report forms Appendix 2 to these minutes. **The report was accepted**
- e) **Other reports.** Fr Mark asked if there were any other reports. Alison Grindrod reported that Fellowship had met regularly with a varied programme of speakers. She felt it was an important part of the social life of the parish, but that more members were always welcome. She thought that a recruitment drive would be in order. Alison also reported that the Mothers Union had 13 members. They also had monthly meetings and regularly attended the Thursday Eucharist. Their assistance in Godly Play activities was very important and also very enjoyable. £500 had been raised at the harvest sale. Finally, Alison referred to Churches Together in Matlock. Six or seven of the Matlock churches participate in this. The current chairman is the Methodist Minister. The main events are at Easter and the Victorian market both of which a very enjoyable. There was also reference to the Church on the Bus, which is run by the Church Army. Brian Legood is an approved driver for the bus. **Alison's reports were received.**
- f) **Incumbent's report.** Fr. Mark then gave his report, a copy of which forms Appendix 3 to these minutes. He finished with suggesting three cheers for St. Giles and its congregation. After three hearty cheers there was a round of applause. **Fr. Mark's report was approved.**

4/16 Election of Parochial representatives of the laity as follows;

- a) **Churchwardens.** Angela Neale and Peter Taylor had both been duly nominated and in the absence of any other candidates were declared elected as churchwardens for 2016/17
- b) **Deputy Churchwardens.** Brian Legood, Jackie Steele and Sarah Higgs had been nominated for these posts and in the absence of any other candidates were declared elected as deputy churchwardens for 2016/17.
- c) **Parochial Church Council members.** Claire Drabble, Michael Amos, Sue Grant-Nicholas and Peter Steele had been duly nominated. The Secretary asked if there were any further nominations as there were six possible places and he specifically asked Jean Haines if she intended to stand again. She had forgotten to submit a nomination form but was promptly propose by Alison Grindrod and seconded by half the people present at the meeting! There being no further nominations, these five people were duly elected to the PCC.
- d) **Deanery Synod members.** The Secretary pointed out that St. Giles was entitled to a further Deanery Synod member, but that no-one had put their name forward. The existing members of Deanery Synod are Helen Legood, Joan Link and Martin Smith and their term of office is until 2017. No-one volunteered to fill the vacant place.

5/16 Appointment of sidesmen/welcomers.

The list of authorised sidesmen/women which appeared as Appendix D in the minutes of the 2015 APCM was examined and with the deletion of Angela Neale and Don Jones from the list it was approved as the authorised list for 2016. Noted that churchwardens can appoint sidesmen/women as required. **The list of authorised sidesmen/women for 2016 forms Appendix 4 to these minutes.**

6/16 Appointment of an independent auditor or examiner of the accounts

It was agreed that the Treasurer should ask Roy Turcotte if he would be willing to continue to act as independent auditor/examiner of the accounts. **Action: Peter Steele**

There being no other business, Fr Mark closed the meeting with a prayer.

Church Wardens Report APCM 2016

First of all we extend our thanks to the Rector for conducting our worship, giving spiritual guidance and leadership and for doing all those other things that rectors do! Also to Father John and Father Brian for all they do to assist the Rector.

Our thanks go to the PCC, Deputy Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer, who has just completed his first year. During that time he has made a grant application for roof repairs, we are grateful for this extra work.

About a year ago the five yearly inspection of the church fabric was conducted. Everything is covered, the roof, the stonework, the churchyard etc. etc. Following this the architects provide a Quinquennial Report, detailing all aspects of our church building and its surrounds. This includes recommended repair work needed.

Since the report we have had some minor roof repair completed. Other works in the report continue to be investigated. One of these, well underway, is the installation of a safety rail around the deep French drain at the NW corner (back) of the church.

As mentioned in my introduction we have applied for a grant towards a major roof repair, another report recommendation. It is to renew the slates on the south facing slope of the nave, that's the bit above your heads and to your right! Many of these slates are broken, all are old and fragile. The wooden planks, that you can see, need to be protected from the elements, as do we!

Now the winter has passed, although it was not really cold, I am sure you, the congregation have noticed that the temperature in church has been much improved, thanks to the new heating system. I hope that soon the treasurer will be able to report we have used less gas. This will be, in the long term, better for our finances and better for the world! Once again we thank Richard Hayward for this work with the architect and the contractors during the installation of our new heating system.

Brian Legood & Peter Taylor (Church Wardens)

Finally I am standing down from the post of Church Warden. I thank you all for your support over the past six years, I know you will give the same to my successor.

Brian Legood

Deanery Synod – Annual Report 2015

Deanery Synod continued its usual pattern of 3 meetings in 2015.

Sessions normally include an external speaker. In March, the Diocesan Director of Education updated us on the work of the Diocesan Board of Education, which has significantly expanded so as to enable a Multi Academy Trust (for schools converting to Academy status – by choice or otherwise). In June we heard a presentation on Spirituality, with particular reference to Christian Meditation, and at an “open” meeting in October Canon Dr Alan Billings (retired priest, author and Police & Crime Commissioner) urged us not to lose sight of the parish system and the Church as we know it in an effort to pursue growth and alternative ways of “being church”.

Regular updates include staffing and pastoral issues, administrative and procedural changes and finance - including Common Fund and the Local Mission Fund. Grants from the latter included: (1) purchase of a Deanery DVD group work resource (2) funding a residential course to enable children as worship-leaders missionaries to their peers and (3) to support “Explore Together” sessions at the Bridge Matlock and elsewhere in the Deanery.

Elections (in which Deanery Synod members form the electorate) were held during 2015 for both the Diocesan and General Synods.

Plans are in place for Wirksworth and Ashbourne areas in due course to combine as the Dales Deanery, however the timescale is as yet unclear.

S Spilling - Assistant Secretary 04.02.16

Since the receipt of this report there has been a further meeting of the Deanery Synod on 17th Feb 2016 at Matlock Bath. A report on this meeting is given below.

MISSION and STEWARDSHIP: The meeting heard a presentation by **Canon Dr Susan Jones** (Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry) and **Canon Geraldine Pond** (Diocesan Director of Vocations), on “**Transforming Faith**” - a new year-long course of study encouraging vocation, transforming people so they can in turn transform others. It is designed for people from all backgrounds and at different points in their journey and will be delivered locally in small groups through Deanery “learning hubs”, with local clergy acting as facilitators but supported as required by Diocesan staff. Contact fiona.bennett@derby.anglican.org / 01332 388650: a leaflet is available for display in Church. Numbers of stipendiary clergy are falling rapidly: we need to identify those who may have a call to ordination (parish-based or in new areas such as Pioneer Ministry or Ministers in secular employment). Lay vocations are also important: rural churches need to develop lay-led Christian communities. The book “Listening to God’s Call” by Susan Jones (discussing discipleship in the widest sense) is available from Cornerstones Matlock. The Parish Support Office (based at Church House Derby), is there to help Deaneries and Parishes become “Growing, Learning, Healthy and Outward-Facing” and is keen to hear what we need. Steve Shaw and Dave Mundy (Parish Development Officers) are working on stewardship and MAPs with Wirksworth Team parishes at the moment, and elsewhere in due course.

Parishes are encouraged to send delegates to the “**Germinate**” Conference: sharing experiences and considering the future for rural ministry (Saturday 15 October 10am – 4pm, Arthur Rank Centre Coventry)

DEANERY RE-ORGANISATION: plans have been delayed by the recent departure of the Ashbourne Rural Dean and the proposed joint meeting in January had to be postponed, but Wirksworth and Ashbourne Chapters are meeting together and it is hoped to arrange a joint Synod in June. Canon Truby has accepted the additional position of Acting Rural Dean for Ashbourne pending the re-organisation, with assistance from Revd Phil Michell (Kniveton) as Deputy Rural Dean. **OTHER STAFFING & PASTORAL ISSUES:** Revd Stephen Monk is shortly to take time off for treatment on his back – Revd Julie Stanton is helping cover, as well as in the Wirksworth Team. Janet Turville was recently licensed in her new parish at Walton and a new curate – Lindsay Pearson - will be joining the Team Ministry in June. Revd Alan Griggs has taken over as part-time **Agricultural Chaplain:** lay **Rural Representatives** (church members with a farming background) are being sought to help provide pastoral oversight for farmers in their Deanery and to attend Harvest Festivals etc.

FINANCE: Synod finances remain healthy: the balance of the Diocesan Mission Grant has been entrusted to The Bridge Matlock for a series of “Explore Together” events (the resources are available to Deanery parishes on request – speak to Revd N Barraclough). The Local Mission Fund is still available to make grants of up to £100 for mission initiatives. Subscriptions will be due in May.

The new **Common Fund** formula should be in place later this year and Church Resource Officers will be conducting explanatory “road shows” over the Summer. It is appreciated that parishes have been doing their best under the current system.

FOR INFORMATION: the printed **Diocesan Directory** has been replaced by an online directory: unfortunately there are quite a few errors/omissions, so parishes are encouraged to check their entries. The **Church Support Hub** www.churchsupporthub.org has useful resources for Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9th June 2016 (7.30pm) at All Saints, Bradbourne.

Incumbent's Report

I would like to begin by warmly thanking the outgoing PCC members and churchwardens, Brian and Peter and their deputies for their hard work this last year. This year, Brian's six year time limit for standing for re-election has been reached and so I would like to make mention particularly of Brian because of the hard work he has done. It was a post he stepped into rather apprehensively and so congratulations on rising to the occasion. Happily, Brian is standing as a deputy warden and is happy to continue with the many tasks he does. I would also like to make mention of Alison, who is stepping back from the PCC for a while. Alison is willing to do all, or almost all of the chores she has done up until now; which is good, but thank you very much.

Many thanks to the PCC secretary, Martin, for taking excellent minutes and keeping us all on the strait and narrow as regards procedure. Also thanks and congratulations to Peter, our treasurer, who has completed his first year in office. He has worked very hard and is always kind and considerate.

Thank you to all those who help in the running of the worship. To the servers. We do well to have a team of servers. A lot of churches don't have, so, if some Sundays we can't manage a full team, I don't think that's a cause for disquiet. It is wonderful that we have servers at the weekday Eucharists as well. So, thank you to the servers, both past and present. I would like to make mention of Fred, who on his own lays everything out on Saturday mornings for Sunday and who changes the frontals. To Claire who washes the purificators. Thanks to Trevor who orders all the altar requisites very efficiently.

Many thanks to the bell ringers for calling us to worship week by week. Mention should also be made of those who beautify the church – Gill and her merry band of flower arrangers, Cynthia, Lee and Diane who clean. Also those who help in the leading of the singing; the choir members and our organists, Stephen and Fr. John.

Each month the magazine is dutifully produced and the also the newsletter each week. We have a wonderful website and it is great we now have a Facebook page. Many thanks to Joan, Mick, Ann and Sarah Appleby. The communication side of the church is essential.

The Fun Club and Godly Play continue under the leadership of Bridget and Emily and with help from a lot of people. Especial thanks to the Mothers Union members in providing food for Godly Play. On St. Nicholas' Day we had a family service in which Fr. Brian provided chocolate St. Nicholas' and did a lovely talk. Linda did some prayers and there were quite a few children there, including one little baby crying out at some points in the service. I thought, "How wonderful! Many churches would give not only their back teeth, but their whole set of teeth to have a baby crying a little in the service". In fact, on Easter Day, there were about 20 children present, as well as a full congregation. I was delighted that, in Lent, the average Sunday attendance was 67, which is up on the last few years and there were a few more at the Holy Week services as well. Then, at Christmas, the Christingle Crib service was an experiment that paid off with a lovely service and a good attendance. I say all that, not to be unrealistic about the challenges that face us, but grateful to Almighty God that we do have some children and also to boost people's morale. Clergy morale and congregation morale can often be low in this day and age, and I think it is important to keep up morale and move forward, whatever the challenges, with Christian confidence.

Looking back over the year, it was lovely to present five candidates at a confirmation here in St. Giles last April. Two of those candidates, Oliver and Scarlett, were baptised by me early on in my ministry here. Then there was the Angel Festival, which was much appreciated by many. Likewise, the garden party was a great success and my thanks to Angela for the loan of her garden.

It is sad that our experiment with the church opening in the mornings met with security issues; the money boxes being broken into and the CCTV being stolen. With the help of the

insurance money, some more money from the PCC and Harry Powell's expertise, we have again got the CCTV running and the church open in the mornings. If security issues continue to threaten us, then we shall have to think again, but at the moment it is good that the church is open in the mornings for prayer and tourists during the week and of course will be open for longer hours during the Summer, with the help of Church Watch.

We continue to work hard to build up relationships with St. Giles' school. The new head teacher, Suzanne Foster, is very good to work with and John Higgs, as chair of governors, is also a good link between church and school.

Part of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) was to improve the children's corner. A visitor to the church last Summer, who hadn't been here for a while, remarked how welcoming that corner is. The Mission Committee has worked hard this year in sending out invites to those who have had baptisms, in arranging the delivery of Christmas cards and in organising social events. One project we would like to develop is the idea of a small group of people, after training and having their DBS checks, doing some pastoral visiting. That would be a good way of developing our MAP.

This year the PCC will be working hard on the church roof project and on the barn project. Hopefully we will be able to obtain a grant from the government for the church roof, but if not, it isn't the end of the world. We will just have to think about other ideas of raising the money.

At the recent Standing Committee, when we were wondering what we could do next Christmas after the 2015 Angel Festival, Jean said, "We haven't always got to be doing things. Church is about prayer and worship and being, not just about doing". Those are very sensible words. It is important to be reaching out, but the primary purpose of the church is to pray and bear witness by our lives to God's word.

We are lucky to have a kind and friendly congregation here at St. Giles. Sometimes, as I say, church and clergy morale can be low when we look at the challenges that face us. However, I do believe we should remain hopeful and confident and also, though we of course shouldn't stoop to the sin of pride, we should be positive about ourselves and the work we do. So, would you please do me a big favour? Please stand up and give three cheers to the congregation at St. Giles.

After three hearty cheers there was a round of applause.

APPENDIX 4

Authorised sidesmen/women. 2016 list

Alison Grindrod,
Claire Gibson
Edwin and Carol Sanderson (8 o'clock)
Henry Holmes (not on rota)
Isabel Walker
Jenny Faulkner (8 o'clock)
Joan Pybus
Judith Naden
Lee
Martin Smith (8 o'clock)
Ruth Taylor (Evensong only)
Sarah Higgs
Val Alcock
Mrs Anthony
Mrs Appleby
Mr and Mrs Lambley
Mr and Mrs Loveday
Mrs V Smith
Mr and Mrs Summerfield

In addition, any member of the PCC not mentioned in the above list, can be called upon to act as sidesman/woman, but will not be on the rota.