

PARISH OF FLEET

All Saints and Ss Philip & James

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING HELD IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2010 AT 8.00PM.

The Vicar, the Revd. Roy Woodhams, was in the chair.

1. **OPENING PRAYERS**

The Revd. Roy Woodhams, opened the meeting with an act of worship.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from:

Mr & Mrs Paul Allen, Mr & Mrs Richard Buller, Mrs S Butterfield, Mrs Camilla Deane, Mrs Vivian Durrant, Mrs Jenny Kelleher, Mrs Doreen Marsh, Mrs Helen Miller, Mr Frank Partington, Mr & Mrs G Pool, Mrs Kate Savage, Mr P West, Mr & Mrs W Wickenden, Mrs J Wickes and Mr & Mrs R Williamson.

3. **MINUTES OF LAST VESTRY MEETING**

Proposed by John Maguire, seconded by Jon Harrow and agreed by all, the minutes were signed as correct.

4. **ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

In the absence of any other nominations, the Vicar declared elected:

Mr Allan Butterfield

Proposed by Claire Holt and seconded by Geoff Wickes .

Mr Andrew Moyse

Proposed by Claire Holt and seconded by Dian Eddy.

The Vestry Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2010 AT
8.05PM.**

The Vicar, the Revd. Roy Woodhams was in the chair.

1. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Proposed by Claire Holt, seconded by Karen Kite, and agreed by all, the minutes were signed as a correct record of the 2009 APCM.

2. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

There were no matters arising.

3. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PCC

Eighteen had been proposed and seconded for election to the new PCC. In the absence of any other nominations, the Vicar declared the following 18 persons elected to serve on the PCC for the ensuing year:

Mr. Paul Allen, Mr Jonnie Anscombe, Mrs. Anne Biffin, Mr. Mike Benham, Mr. Richard Buller, Dr. Tony Cooper, Mr Nick Doran, Mrs. Dian Eddy, Mr. Nic Evans, Miss Erica Ford, Mr Will Judge, Mr. Brian Meeres, Mrs. Anne Smith, Mr. John Watts, Mr. Peter West, Mrs. Kate Wickenden, Mrs. Tricia White and Mrs. Juliet Worthington.

Proposed by Gilbert Rowland and seconded by Carolyn Ford, the above 18 persons were unanimously elected en bloc.

The Vicar thanked all the newly elected members for offering their services in this important role in the life of the Church.

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Parish Accounts had been available to all in the two churches and on the web site for two weeks prior to the meeting. The Examiner's Report had also been received, endorsing the accounts as being a true and fair view of the state of the PCC's affairs as at 31st December 2009 and properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Juliet Worthington, gave an excellent power-point presentation of parish finances, We now have full charity status and have a charity number.

Role of Treasurer Today

Managing cash of over £500,000 per annum.

Handling about 1500 transaction a year.

Preparing and obtaining approval of the Financial Statements to meet both Diocesan and Charity Commission requirements.

Highlights of 2009

- Church Fundraising for lighting £25,000
- Outward Giving / Events over £10,000
- Social Fundraising raised £8,600 net of costs
- Magazine Profit of £3,200
- Legacy Fund Expenditure of £50,000 (P&J kitchen, kneelers for All Saints, Altar rail sockets, Architect Fees,)
- Youth Expenditure as we now have a Youth Group.

- Hall lettings net income increased
- Church use for events that help other charities, especially Phyllis Tuckwell.

Lowlights of 2009

- Pledged Giving down by £1,900 and insufficient to cover our clergy costs
- Health and Safety regulations costs of over £10,000 because of new regulations.
- Interest rates are at an all time low. Interest earned in 2008 was £30,000, 2009 was year £7,000 and 2010 is forecast to be about £2,000.

In Summary

Income for 2009 was £223,000, the same as 2008 although the mix was different. Expenditure was £322,000 giving a cash deficit of £99,000. The General Fund used up And the Legacy Fund now stands at £414,000. Investment Shares up by £4,700 and have continued to rise in 2010.

The Problem

Regular and unavoidable expenses exceed regular income and have done so for many years.

We need £575 a day to run cover costs but only have income of £412 per day giving a shortfall of £163 per day or £1,141 per Sunday. The expected deficit for £2010 is £60,000, but there are always unknown costs which increase the budgeted deficit.

Let's be thankful – we are fortunate

We have funds available for crucial building projects but we need to increase our income.

Questions from the floor were invited.

Geoff Wicks asked why the fixed assets had not been revalued in the past eight years. The Vicar explained that any revaluation to be included in the accounts had to be supported by a report which was not a good use of Parish funds.

Roger Woodcock asked if the £10,000 health and safety cost was a recurring cost. There are some additional costs to be incurred and there will be ongoing costs but these are hundreds not thousands of pounds.

In response to a question from Will Judge, the increase in professional fees was down to the expenditure for the building projects.

5. REPORTS OF CHURCHWARDENS, FABRICS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, DEANERY SYNOD AND OTHER PARISH COMMITTEES

The Parish Report 2009 had been approved by the PCC and had been available in the two churches and on the web site for two weeks. The Vicar hoped all had had an opportunity to read it and, unless anybody had anything to add or comment upon, the meeting would take the Parish Report as read. He thanked all who had contributed to the Report, and commented on how it conveyed a celebration of what goes on in the life of the Parish.

6. ELECTORAL ROLE REPORT

There are 281 names on the electoral role, representing 197 households.

7. RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

No elections were necessary.

8. ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS

The Vicar read out the names of the **Sidespersons** –

For All Saints:

Churchwardens, Mr. Maurice Atkins, Mr. Julian Barley, Mrs A Barley, Mrs. Joan Bell, Mr. Mike Benham, Mrs. Suzanne Benham, Mr. Ian Booth, Mrs. Jane Booth, Mr. Anthony Brown, Mrs Nancy Dawson, Mrs. Dian Eddy, Mr. Nicholas Evans, Mr. Bill Gordon and Mrs. Joyce Gordon, Mrs. Lynda Hix, Mr. Chris Johnson, Mrs. Snowie Johnson, Mr. Jeremy Keep, Mrs. Elisabeth Leng, Mrs. Tricia Maguire, Mr. John Maguire, Mrs. Jocelyn Mardles, Mrs. Sheila O'Connor, Mr. Noel Parker-Ashley, Mrs. Anne Parker-Ashley, Mr. Frank Partington, Mr. Graham Pool, Mrs. Pam Pool, Mr. Donald Roberts, Miss Kate Savage, Mrs. Susan Taylor, Mr. Chris Waller, Mrs. Elizabeth Waller, Mrs. Anne Williamson, Mr. Rod Williamson.

For Ss Philip & James:

Churchwardens, Mr Paul Allen, Mrs. Sheila Buller, Mr. Tim Gillman, Mr. Tony Holbeche, Mrs Sue Huddie, Mrs. Karen Kite, Mr. Hugh Lunghi, Mrs. Helen Miller, Mrs Shirley Pennell, Mrs. Nicolette Pike, Mrs. Anne Richardson, Mr. Peter Rogers, Mr. Brian Tant, Mr John Watts, Mrs Tricia White, Mr. Geoff Wickes.

Proposed by Allan Butterfield, seconded by Nick Doran and agreed by all, the foregoing persons were duly elected en bloc.

9. ENGAGEMENT OF AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

As the turnover for the financial year ending 31 December 2010 is expected to exceed £500,000 (due to the building projects), it is necessary to appoint a registered auditor. The auditor chosen is Graham Best.

10. VICAR'S REPORT

The Vicar's delivered his report and made it available in both churches and on the website. A copy is appended to these minutes.

The report covered four main areas:

- My Sabbatical
- The Ministry Team
- Churchwardens and their Teams
- Buildings

The Vicar was able to announce the sale of Fernhurst (subject to contract) that morning. The offer price was £381,000.

As Claire Holt is retiring from her role as Churchwarden this year she was thanked for her exemplary contribution to the parish over the past five years. She was afforded a generous round of applause.

11. PRESENTATION BY PARISH STEWARDSHIP GROUP

The Vicar introduced the presentation, outlining the history of funding during his six year tenure.

Receipt of £560,000 legacy money in 2005, has been and will be spent in the following ways:

- Some of the capital from those bequests has been used to make certain projects possible - the new organ at P&J, the cupboards at the back of the Nave and the restored area of flooring both in All Saints.

- The interest has been used to support the deficit (which we had said we wouldn't do)
- Although we had a robust Funding Campaign in 2005, the giving has declined, rather than increased, while costs have soared.
- Currently, only a minimal income is being received from our investments.
- Only around £450,000 of the original legacy is left at our disposal.
- We have agreed to build the new Fleet Parish Community Centre as soon as we have received Planning Permission and Faculty.
- We have agreed to sell Fernhurst, from which we expect to realise in excess of £350,000
- As soon as we have that money, we propose to upgrade the kitchen, toilet and meeting facilities at P&J.

When the building projects have been completed there will be virtually no money left. Now is the time to act.

The Vicar explained that:

- We are very privileged to presently have the capital to build a new infrastructure for the future of the Parish.
- It now becomes our responsibility to make that infrastructure work, as well as securing a stable financial future for the parish.
- We need to build the Fleet Parish Community Centre and do the P&J enhancements so that we are able to initiate new activities reaching out to the community, and to have the ability to use our churches separately from the halls. Then we can truly become '7 Day Churches'.
- There is a role here for each and every one of us - we are most certainly not in the business of trying to 'guilt' anyone into giving, but we are in the business of creating a right and proper culture in which you want to give generously in response to God's generosity to you, and because you are inspired and enthused by what your local church is doing in response to its Mission Statement of *'Welcoming all in the Community into the Love of Christ'*.
- The need is immediate - assuming we do all of the things that I have mentioned, and assuming the 2010 deficit is what we have predicted it to be, we have just around another 12 months before the cash runs out!
- None of this is about being reckless - we have contemplated the scenarios at length and we have discussed it at every level, including with our bishop and Archdeacon. This is the right thing to do in order to secure and develop a future for the Parish.

The Vicar explained that there will be no big event, but this is a subject which the Ministry and Stewardship teams will be returning to our ears and eyes over and again in the months to come - in their preaching, in a series of presentations and workshops, in communications and in the opportunity for personal meetings for those who would like to discuss their giving with a member of the team. The Vicar said "I do very seriously ask you to engage with this initiative, and to reflect on what you are hearing tonight, to pray, and finally to respond".

The prayer written for the 2005 Funding Programme was prayed and then the Vicar introduced Nick Doran who gave a presentation on Resourcing Our Ministry.

Nick explained that for the Ministry Team and the new buildings to fulfil their intended purpose, they need to be adequately resourced in terms of ongoing funding.

Our cash position at end of 2010

On the conclusion of all the building projects and the net expenditure for the year there will be funds of approximately £70,000 remaining. The only other saleable assets the Parish will possess are Investment Shares currently valued at approximately £55,000. These are being held as “funds of last resort”.

Our cash position at end of 2011

If nothing is done about our income, sometime during 2011 we will completely run out of money.

Funding our Future

There are two options for funding our future:

- Another Fund-Raising campaign
This is not a realistic option. It has taken over a year to raise £25,000 for the All Saints Lighting which is equivalent to 43 days' expenditure. It fails to tackle our fundamental problem and will not secure our future

- Our only way forward is through a new approach to Stewardship
 - Not a 'quick-hit' campaign
 - Something we think about, pray about, talk about in our services, meetings, newsheets, website etc
 - A long-term programme

Our Target

To achieve at least a 100% increase in the Parish's income from Voluntary Giving over the next two years.

Our Purpose

To achieve long term financial stability for our Parish, by ensuring that our regular income covers the costs of our Ministry here in Fleet.

The Pledged Giving Scheme

- Will be the main focus of our efforts
 - to give us a reliable source of monthly income
 - to reduce our administration costs (particularly if giving is by monthly standing order)
- We want to encourage many new people to join the scheme
- We will ask everyone to commit to a personal review of their current giving.

Pledged Giving (before gift aid)

This currently averages £523 per annum or £10 per week. There is a wide spread of giving with a small number of people donating a large proportion of the money.

Nick stressed that, while the team were keen to be as open as possible about Parish finances and particularly Planned Giving, the actual amounts donated by individuals will not be made public.

The aim of the Stewardship programme will be to:

- increase the amount individuals in the scheme currently give
- increase the number of people participating in the scheme.

What Happens Next?

- There will be a series of Stewardship Workshops, covering:
 - A Theological perspective on Christian Giving
 - Our Mission and Ministry here in Fleet
 - Detailed information on our Finances
 - Information about our Pledged Giving Scheme
 - Guidance on how to assess what our own contributions should be
 - The option to request a follow-up personal discussion with one of the Stewardship group

- Further communication in newssheets, magazine, website and from the pulpit.

The meeting was asked to:

- Commit to attending a Stewardship Workshop
- Be willing to consider their own level of giving
- Pray for the success of this initiative as our Ministry in Fleet truly depends on it.

So that we can fulfil our mission:

“Welcoming all in our Community into the love of Christ”

Questions were invited from the floor.

Richard Dexter asked if the Stewardship meetings were different to the Focus Group meetings mentioned in the Vicar’s report, or would there be overlap between the two. The Vicar explained that the meetings were completely separate and that there would be no overlap.

The Vicar thanked Nick Doran for the work that he has done leading the Parish Stewardship Group.

On behalf of the meeting, Claire Holt thanked the Vicar and the curate for their work for the Parish over the past year. They were afforded a generous round of applause.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm.

The first meeting of the newly elected PCC is on Monday 19th April 2009, 7.30pm in Ss Philip & James Church, preceded by a Eucharist at 7.00pm.