



Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Meeting
11.17am Sunday 14th April 2019
St Bert's Church, Norton.

Present

Chairman: Rev. Dr. Steve Torr
20 church members

Apologies

Nil.

- 1) Opening prayers led by Rev. Dr. Steve Torr.
- 2) Appointment of clerk.
David Young (prop Joyce Dippnall, Sec Bekki Ford; AIF).
- 3) Apologies for Absence
Nil.
- 4) Minutes of previous meeting
These had been previously circulated, and copies were available at the meeting. They were agreed (prop Mary Hill; sec Bekki Ford; AIF).
- 5) Election of Church Wardens
Bekki Ford was proposed by David Young and seconded by Paul Otter;
Kathryn Dean was proposed by Lorraine Geraghty and seconded by David Young. There were no other nominations, and they were declared elected.

The meeting concluded at 11.21am.

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11.21am Sunday 14th April 2019
St Bert's Church, Norton.

- 1) Apologies – included in previous meeting.
- 2) Minutes of previous meeting.
Agreed (prop Nicky Banlin; sec Lorraine Geraghty; AIF).
- 3) Matters arising
 - 4(ii) Steve Torr reported that the budget had now been prepared and approved by the PCC.
 - 6 The suggestion of having a sidesperson at Junior Church to welcome arrivals (and guard the door) had been implemented; usually it is a church warden who takes that role.
- 4) Annual Reports
(The published Annual Report is attached to these minutes and forms part of them; all the following verbal reports are covered by that publication).
 - i) Electoral Roll.
Steve Torr reported that the roll had been revised this year (in its regular cycle) and there were now just 46 names on it. A consequence of this is that the PCC must reduce from nine elected members to six. Colin Keiley asked if this drop in the roll has any effect on our parish share, and the vicar said that it does not; our share is dependent on parish population not church membership.
 - ii) Finance Report.
Steve Torr reported that 2018 had been more of a 'normal' year than had 2017 which we finished several thousand pounds in the red. The financial report appears to show that we ended 2018 with balance of £4,735, but this includes our tithe payments due for the past two years – which had remained unpaid for valid

reasons. They were in fact paid early in 2019 (as shown in the Annual Report), implying that we ended the 2018 with a practical loss of just £303; a considerable improvement on 2017. Giving continues to be a challenge and Steve will periodically give teaching on the subject this year.

Colin Keiley asked what had happened to the money in the restricted fund for upgrading the toilets, and Steve explained that one donor to this fund (Big Local) had given permission for their money to be used for urgent fire safety upgrades instead. Due to current proposals to remodel the building (of which Big Local is a part) it seems pointless spending time and money on refurbishing the present toilets which will likely be redundant within a couple of years. So, the remaining money allocated to the upgrade of the toilets will most likely be put towards the complete refurbishment.

Steve thanked Lisa Butler-Hughes and Jane Slater for their work as treasurers during the past year.

iii) Wardens' Report.

Kathryn Dean endorsed their written report and thanked everyone who takes a part in the running of the church.

Bekki Ford reported on the growth of the Next Step teenager group and its split into two age groups – which has seen benefit now there is a greater spread of ages.

Steve Torr was deeply appreciative of the wardens' hard work.

iv) Safeguarding.

Steve Torr read the new Parish Policy on safeguarding which had been agreed by the PCC in its March meeting – a copy is in the annual report. He explained that he had taken over from Louise Hay as Children's Advocate and from David Young as Safeguarding Officer and that there is now a safeguarding handbook in the vestry and a link on our website to relevant Church of England documents. "Safer Recruiting" procedures continue to be in place for all staff working with children and vulnerable adults although currently there are no official groups in church that cater for vulnerable adults.

v) Deanery Synod.

As per Annual Report

5) Election of PCC members

Steve Torr said that Mary Hill, Rodney Rowe and Lorraine Geraghty were standing down from the PCC, and that Joyce Dippnall and Adrian Gough had reached the end of their three year term but were willing (and had been nominated) to stand again. He thanked all these for their service over the last few

years and declared that Joyce and Adrian were declared elected. He pointed out that there was still one vacant post on the PCC.

6) Appointment of Sidesmen

Steve Torr thanked all those who had served to welcome everyone into church services. Thirteen people on the list were willing to stand again, and were duly appointed:

Bekki Ford	Sarah Young	Lorraine Geraghty
Lisa Darlington	Kathryn Dean	Joyce Dippnall
Sandra Dudley	Maureen Hazlewood	Mary Hill
Mark Slater	Britt Keiley	Nicki Gascoigne
Ann-Marie Tynon		

7) Appointment of independent examiner

Steve Torr hopes that Chris Inch, who examined our accounts for 2018, will be happy to do the same again for 2019.

8) Vicar's comments

Steve Torr encouraged everyone to read the annual report. The most important thing is to be present with Jesus – in the words of our motto, "To know Christ and to make Him known."

As of May the only service on the third Sunday each month will be the 8.30am Communion. The normal morning service will be replaced by brunch – a space to eat together, to be together, to invite others to share food without concern about a covert church service ambush. Steve understands this to conform to the pattern of Jesus' ministry of spending time eating with people to build relationships.

The Wellbeing Hub is progressing, with the possibility of work on our church building being completed within thirty months. The team working on this are currently looking at applying for grants to fund a sustainable café space, a flexible main space and other rooms for community use. The footprint of the building will be considerably larger and we are working in collaboration with other agencies although we (PCC and diocese) retain control of and responsibility for the building. Steve estimates the total cost at around one million pounds. The questions are, "What are the needs of the community in this place and how can we meet them?"

Steve thanked everyone who contributes to the life of the parish for their servant work.

9) A.O.B.
Nil.

10) The meeting closed with prayer at 12.12pm.