

ALDRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS 26 March 2007 at the Parish Church

Attendance and apologies: List appended to the Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Richard Cornfield, Rector, welcomed everyone, and opened the evening with a bible reading from Joshua 24 verses 14-16. Richard reminded the meeting that people had been putting their faith in God in this place for 750 years, and today we needed plenty of faith here in Aldridge. Richard led a time of quiet reflection and prayer to focus on the business of the evening's meetings.

At the 2006 AGM it had been suggested that four wardens were needed in a large church to share the work load. This year would be a transition year as roles and new ways of overseeing the life of the church were worked out. Four nominations were presented to the meeting: Ruth Bryant, Keith Callear, Rob Cook and Jen Ford and all were in agreement (no abstentions and none against) that they should serve as wardens for the coming year. Richard thanked Ruth and Rob for their service as wardens over the past year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING held on 26 March 2007 at the Parish Church

Attendance and apologies: List appended to the Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

With the correction of the minute referring to PCM elections to read 'Keith Callear' for 'Kevin Chown', the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record: proposed by Alison Trimmer, seconded by Frank Ash, and all were in agreement, no abstentions and none against.

Electoral Roll

Martin Hodges, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that, as required by the Diocese, the roll had been completely renewed this year and the number of members on the new roll stood at 329.

Financial Report

2006 Accounts

Phil Young, treasurer, reviewed the 2006 accounts. Income for 2006 was £284,400, which represented a decrease compared to 2005 but this was explained by a significant reduction in restricted giving required for overseas mission projects. Voluntary giving, however, had increased by 18%, which was a real achievement. Phil detailed the unrestricted income and expenditure for the year, highlighting generous one-off gifts in November. £170 was carried forward in unrestricted reserves at the year end. Restricted funds carried forward were in respect of the building project. The accounts presented to the meeting were draft figures, which had been approved by the Parish Church Committee subject to audit. Copies of the audited accounts would be available on application to the Parish Church office.

2007 Budget Phil had applied a cost of living uplift on 2006 figures, and £3000 had been budgeted for parish share arrears to be cleared by 2009. A grant had been awarded by the diocese to assist with Church Growth Co-ordinator costs. The 2007 budget required an increase of 10% on 2006 figures, an additional £14,000, which Phil was achievable if everyone reviewed their level of giving.

Rob Cook thanked Phil for his clear presentation of the accounts and budget. There was opportunity for questions and Pete Ford explained the parish share breakdown of costs per incumbent and contributions towards mission in the deanery.

Acceptance of the 2006 accounts was proposed by Lloyd Davies, seconded by Mary Edwards, and all were in favour.

The re-appointment of Whitehouse Ridsdale as auditors was proposed by Chris Appleby, seconded by Kate Watson and all were in agreement.

Richard again thanked Phil for his wonderful presentation, and thanked Jane, Phil's wife, for releasing Phil to do the work of treasurer.

Elections to the Parish Church Committee (PCM)

Richard explained the election process and that the meeting would elect four new members to the PCM. The additional two Deanery Synod representatives (to serve for one year only) that the Parish Church could appoint this year would be nominated at the PCM and next year there would be new elections for all Deanery Synod representatives. Six nominations had been received for the four vacancies on the PCM and following a vote Jo Ford, Helen Gilbert, Alison Trimmer and Jenny Wiedeman were elected. Richard thanked everyone for standing, and encouraged those who had not been elected this time to stand again another time.

Reports

Written Reports had been submitted by church groups. These had been circulated in advance of the meeting and copies are appended to the Minutes. The following reports were included and additional comments made.

Building Group An encouraging report in respect of progress with the building plans. Cliff Lavender would be standing down as chair after 5-6 years, but would continue as a group member. A gift of wine was presented to Cliff in appreciation of this work.

During the year general maintenance and repairs had been carried out and included improvements to the lightning protection on the tower, exterior painting, management of trees in the churchyard. This year repairs were scheduled to two stained glass windows.

Pastoral Care team Maxine expressed great appreciation to the wonderful team of people involved in pastoral care.

Global Affairs Richard thanked the team and highlighted their recent promotion of Fair Trade.

Fellowship Team (FIT) Ruth Bryant took the opportunity to encourage everyone to be involved in the 750 celebrations planned for the summer.

Music Richard commented that we were blessed with many talented musicians and thanked all those involved in leading our worship.

Pop In Always an inspiration. Richard thanked the team, and encouraged others to consider joining the team.

Alpha & Beta Alpha went well last year and was going well this year with more new courses being planned. Rob had been encouraging everyone to be a part of Alpha.

Lay Workers Report Richard expressed wonderful appreciation for Maxine and her ministry.

Child Protection A key area: we all have a vested interest in keeping our children safe. A training course had been run the previous day, and would be repeated 3 or 4 times a year, so all children's workers had the opportunity for training in this area. Richard commented that Lynne's role could be difficult on occasions, and asked the church to support her in this vital work.

Children's Work Loads of work goes on behind the scenes and Richard thanked all those involved in the children's work. The teams needed to grow and Richard encouraged everyone to keep praying for more leaders and helpers.

Noah's Ark Last year Noah's Ark was struggling with low numbers, but this year Irene reported that they were absolutely full: almost too big and there were concerns about safely managing the activity.

Youth Fellowship Matt thanked everyone for their support and encouragement. YF felt very valued as a group.

Youth Co-ordinator Richard expressed great appreciation for Matt and his ministry.

Little Fishes Richard thanked the team, commenting that they were offering affordable child care, and that they had a very demanding job, meeting all the requirements of Ofsted.

Football team Some key games were coming up.

Two Sunday Morning Services

Richard invited comments on the Two Sunday Morning Services arrangement which had now been operating for 18 months. He observed that there would have been some Sundays when it would not have been possible to accommodate everyone in one service. One drawback had been the potential for delay in following up people who are not noticed for being away, but generally the experiment appeared to have been working. Richard commented that the timing of the Sunday morning services was helpful in

managing the whole parish and co-ordinating with Tynings and St Thomas's services. In the summer holiday period it had worked well reverting to one service at 10.30am.

Thank You

Richard expressed his appreciation to many individuals and groups:

Jenny, Joe, Maddy and Oscar. He commented that being a vicar made you rely very heavily on your family. Flowers were presented to Jenny on behalf of the church family.

Richard Taylor and Mike Jones for being excellent clergy colleagues and Richard offered congratulations to Mike on his new appointment.

Staff Team: Maxine Roberts, Matt Wallace, Rob Cook, Gary Daniel and John Grice. They were constantly invigorating.

Jenny Hopley: an awesome administrator. In conjunction with her new job, Jenny would be reducing her hours for the Parish Church, and a new administrator appointment would be made. Flowers were presented to Jenny as a 'thank you' on behalf of the church family.

Mary Thomas and Sue Churchill for their help in the office.

Alan and Gillian Winser for their work with small groups.

Lay Readers and the preaching team.

Worship leaders and band leaders. Mark Roberts would be taking on the music co-ordinating role.

Jill Freeman for the bookstall.

Mark Trimmer and the AV team. Over the past year the benefits of installing the screens have been appreciated..

Len Trew: an awesome verger. Wine was presented to Len as a 'thank you' on behalf of the church family.

The maintenance team: Pete Ford, Alan Pidgeon, Graham Saunders, John Craddock, Tony Phillips, Brian Palmer and Mike Carr.

The teams led by Joyce Gainey and Chris Sutton who visit Homebell House and Rectory Gardens.

Irene Standerwick for help with Baptism preparation.

Ann Harrison for her work as wedding secretary, and those who help with the marriage preparation course.

Dave Gregory for his work at the Parish Church over many years, and now moving to St Thomas's Church.

Jenny Wiedeman, Sue Chapman and the team who organise and provide meals.

Una, Sue, Sarah, Pauline, Phyllis and Dennis for tidying and cleaning the church and church rooms.

Bellringers. It was noted that more new ringers were needed.

Everyone who helps with refreshments.

Wardens and stewards

Those who help with Alpha

Richard concluded with his apologies to anyone he may have missed.

Richard reviewed the year with a series of photos highlighting occasions and reasons for **celebration**, which demonstrated life and vitality and signs of a church moving forward, and looked ahead to the summer events to celebrate 750 years.

He highlighted **priority areas** for the coming year. **New Church Rooms** This would be the year when the plans would be submitted and the building fund formally launched. Richard encouraged everyone to pray about the project, recognising the cost, and that we would be stretched. **Children's Work** Richard spoke about investment in the children's work, the possibility of a children's worker, and of a summer holiday club. **Money** would be a real priority in the coming year, and already there had been a challenge to review our giving. **Growth** spiritual growth through worship which impacts and numerical growth particularly through investment in Alpha and Beta.

He concluded the evening with a reminder of the verses from Joshua, with the challenge to consider where our hearts lie, for this to impact on our life together, to be passionate about this church, and to keep on praying and investing in this place. *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

This concluded the business and the meeting closed with prayer.

Signed

21 April 2008