

## **ALDRIDGE PARISH CHURCH**

### **ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS 21 April 2008 at the Parish Church**

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

Richard Cornfield, Rector, welcomed everyone, and thanked the church for the opportunity given to him to take three months' sabbatical leave. The sabbatical had been particular helpful to him personally and to his whole family. He had returned to a busy environment, and to a sad time for the church with the deaths of Frank Ash, Michael Orr and Peter Cragg. Richard explained that the evening would focus on the necessary business of the AGM and he would communicate more of his vision for the church in September. There were a number of things on his heart: emphasis on **worship, mission** and getting involved, support for our **community** and **prayer** and how to develop prayer ministry. He read from Philippians 4, making Christ central, and the Lord's Prayer was said together.

Continuing the arrangement started at last year's AGM four wardens were to be appointed to share the work load. Four nominations were presented to the meeting: Ruth Bryant, Keith Callear, Jen Ford and Chris Leng. There was unanimous agreement (no abstentions and none against) that they should serve as wardens for the coming year. On behalf of the church Richard thanked Rob Cook for his four years as warden, and he also thanked Annette for supporting Rob in his role as warden. Richard remarked on Rob's drive, enthusiasm, encouragement and vision. Rob would continue in his role of Church Growth Co-ordinator.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING held on 21 April at the Parish Church**

Attendance and apologies: List appended to the Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meeting. In noting apologies from Gavin Burnage, who was on holiday, appreciation of Gavin's work, especially during Richard's sabbatical, was recorded.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2007 were approved and signed as a correct record: proposed by Helen Gilbert, seconded by Jen Ford, and all were in agreement, no abstentions and none against.

#### **Electoral Roll**

Martin Hodges, Electoral Roll Officer, reminded the meeting that the roll had been completely renewed in 2007 and then totalled 329. During the year there had been 32 additions and 4 deletions, giving a new total of 357, an increase of 9%. Martin thanked Jenny Hopley and Maureen Rouse for their help in producing and maintaining the roll.

#### **Financial Report**

Phil Young, treasurer, reviewed the 2007 accounts, repeating much of what had been shared with the church in the New Year. The figures were presented on powerpoint slides and copies are appended to the Minutes.

Income had increased by 4.2%, to £6k per week. Unrestricted giving (general funds) giving was fairly flat at £4k per week. £38k of giving, ie 19%, came from gift aid, and Phil thanked Chris Leng for overseeing the gift aid recovery. Other income came from church activities, weekends away, weddings and funerals, and the incorporating of the sequestration fund as agreed with the diocese. Phil had built in a 10% increase into the budget for 2008, which in the credit crunch environment would be a challenge, but already there had been a positive response from church members, with the monthly income graph showing substantial increases in January and March 2008. The level of giving

by standing order had increased only marginally, and there was the encouragement to review and increase regular giving.

Restricted giving was down slightly, and this included giving for specific mission projects and individuals, and grants from the Cooper & Jordan trust, the diocesan Growth Fund and the Clerks Land charity.

Expenditure had increased by 6.9% from 2006. Mission support was an important part of our church work. Increases in lay worker costs were expected in 2008, with the full staff team now in place. Parish Share, after allowing for provision of rector, curate, church building and rectory, would effectively be £45k of mission giving to help less well off churches in the area. The church in Mossley had specifically asked that their thanks be passed on for this support which enabled them to do the work in their parish. General costs were fairly flat, and Phil hoped they would remain much the same. Repairs to the church rooms following the fire had been covered by our insurers. Administration costs covered office staff salaries and other expenses associated with the office, and Phil anticipated a 3% increase for this area. Expenditure from restricted funds included architect's fees.

In 2006 the church was just in credit. This year there was a negative balance and the 2008 budget had been set to produce a small surplus. The overspend of restricted funds was not a problem as money was being spent for designated purposes and the £10k brought forward was mainly to do with the building fund.

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 had been a difficult year in some respects, but support for missionary links was maintained, the parish share was paid in full and salaries were met. Gift aid would continue to be recovered during a transitional period of three years, and whilst figures were encouraging at the beginning of 2008, Phil encouraged everyone to review their giving if they had not done so recently. In conclusion Phil commented that arrears of parish share were still being cleared and that the building project costs would be outside the normal budget and would introduce some very big numbers.

Opportunity was given for questions. Clarification of share arrears was requested and Phil explained that approx £25k was owed across the parish, although the parish church had consistently paid its share, and he hoped that a new management of arrears scheme would be agreed with the diocese. A query about support for Tearfund was raised, and it was noted that although in previous years Tearfund Sunday had been supported, we had not done so last year. A question about the organ was deferred to the building group report.

Richard thanked Phil for his dedicated service to the church and for producing a 'sparkly' set of accounts. Richard was grateful for the good start to the 2008 finances and encouraged everyone to review their giving and to use gift aid if possible.

### **Elections to Deanery Synod**

Based on electoral roll numbers presented at the 2007 AGM, the Parish Church could appoint five representatives to Deanery Synod. Three nominations had been received: Jen Ford, Peter Ford and Martin Hodges, and with the unanimous agreement of the meeting, all three were appointed. All were in agreement that the Parish Church Committee should decide how to fill the other two places.

### **Elections to the Parish Church Committee (PCM)**

There were initially 5 vacancies to fill, but Martin Hodges' appointment to Deanery Synod created an extra place. Profiles had been prepared by each of the candidates and it was agreed to accept all seven nominations and to accommodate this in the appointments to Deanery Synod. The following were appointed: Jon Bowyer, Kate Harrison, Leo Luik, Steve Mills, Oliver Nicholls, Rob Richards and Andy Watson.

Three members were standing down: Irene Standerwick, Lynne Trew and Kate Watson, and Richard thanked them all for serving on the committee.

## **Reports**

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

**Building Group** Pete Ford was invited to speak about the developments with the building project over the past year, as outlined in his report. Pete also referred to proposed improvements to the church building: replacement organ and refurbished kitchen, redecoration, upgrade of audio system, and stonework repairs. It was intended that there should be one appeal to finance the new church rooms and improvements to the church and to provide some funding for the staff team now in place. Richard wanted to see the new church rooms built, then to worship in them while the church was refurbished. It was difficult at this stage to determine a timeframe and prayer was requested that during the coming year significant progress would be made.

**Pastoral Care team & Lay Workers Report** Keith Callear thanked everyone who had helped with pastoral care, and Richard thanked Keith for co-ordinating this area during Maxine's maternity leave.

**Global Affairs** Richard had today received an email from mission links Hilary & Reza who thanked the church for their support. Operation South America had also prepared a report this year, and this is attached to the Minutes.

**Fellowship Team (FIT)** Richard added special thanks for the work of the team on the 750 celebrations.

**Small Groups Report** Richard thanked Alan & Gillian Winser for their work co-ordinating this area of ministry.

**Prayer Ministry** Richard thanked Helen & Peter Walley and all the team involved in this work.

**Pop In** Referring to the sadness in the team on the death of Frank Ash, Richard encouraged people to help on the team in this valuable area of the work of our church.

**Sew & Sews** A new report to the AGM.

**Church Growth Co-ordinators Report** Rob Cook's report covered Alpha & Beta, Men of Aldridge and the church website.

**Embrace** Women's ministry report.

**Child Protection** Report from Lynne Trew, Child Protection Co-ordinator

**Health & Safety** Jenny Hopley highlighted ongoing work relating to Health and Safety: A surveyor from Ecclesiastical Insurance had visited the church and church rooms and given new valuations and recommendations regarding health and safety procedures; the health & safety policy had been reviewed (copy in church office, along with Child Protection policy); fire risk assessments had been undertaken and fire safety training provided by Steve Mills; a food hygiene course had been offered recently and arrangements were in hand for a first aid course, primarily for children's work leaders but open to other church groups.

**Youth Fellowship & Youth Co-ordinator** Matt Wallace thanked everyone for their prayers and encouragement, and Richard thanked Matt and all the teams involved in the youth work.

**Children's Work** Special thanks to the Coolbox and Freezer teams, and to everyone involved in children's work, which Richard considered to be a priority in our church. It was a privilege to have children here in our church and they are taken seriously. More people would be needed to join the teams.

**Noah's Ark** A fantastic work.

**Little Fishes** A great work for our community.

**Fizz** A new report to the AGM.

**Other Reports** It was noted that the football team were playing in the cup final this evening. It was suggested that a Sports Report be included next year to cover football (senior & junior) and cricket teams.

Reports for worship and music would also be included next year. Richard expressed appreciation to the musicians who bring their gifts to the church and lead our worship.

### **Two Sunday Morning Services**

This arrangement was working well and Richard commented that it would be uncomfortable with just one morning service. He felt it was important to try and grow the services. It was agreed that one service at 10.30am was appropriate during the summer holidays and that consideration would be given to just one morning service on the Sundays immediately after Christmas and Easter.

### **Thank You**

Richard expressed his appreciation to many individuals and groups:

Jenny: for her support for his work and ministry, and to Joe, Maddy and Jonah (and Oscar!)

Gavin Burnage: a great addition to the team.

Richard Taylor and Joan Fisher: fantastic people, who do much behind the scenes for the Parish Church taking weddings and funerals

Mike Jones for his ministry

Staff Team: Maxine Roberts, Matt Wallace, Rob Cook, Sue Fung, Gary Daniel, Michelle Hart and John Grice. All were vital, often doing unglamorous stuff, but moving forward with lots of exciting things.

Jenny Hopley, Maureen Rouse and Mary Thomas in the office

Lay Readers and the preaching team: dangerous and hard work

Worship leaders, band leaders and musicians

Mark Trimmer and team

Len Trew: an 'invisible' person, doing a fantastic job as vergger.

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

The Homebell House and Rectory Gardens service teams.

Irene Standerwick for help with Baptism preparation

Ann Harrison for her work as wedding secretary

Jenny Wiedeman, for co-ordinating the team who organise and provide meals

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

Everyone who helps with refreshments

Bellringers

Stewards and welcomers

Those who help with Alpha

Richard concluded with his thanks to everyone involved in doing ministry in the church - Christ's body here Aldridge. Everyone was needed on the team to work hard so the church continues and grows and moves forward.

On behalf of the church family Ruth Bryant expressed appreciation to Richard for his ministry.

There was no further business and the meeting closed with prayer in small groups.

Signed

20 April 2009