

Minutes of the St John's Church Annual Vestry Meeting Held on Wednesday
20th March 2019 at 7.30pm in St John's Schoolrooms

The meeting was chaired by the Rector, Reverend James Dudley-Smith. 75 church members were present.

- 1. Bible Reading and Prayer.** Tom Putt read from Luke 13 demonstrating that the world then and now is hostile to Jesus. The Pharisees wanted to kill him but Jesus wanted to gather the people to himself. We are to extend that invitation to the people of Yeovil and the world.

There followed a short time of prayer.

- 2. Apologies**
Apologies had been received from Becky Dudley-Smith, Roger Fox, Caroline Jeeves, Nick Scorer, Clarence and Grace Spracklen, Sylvia Thompson

- 3. Minutes**
The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of 18th April 2018, which had been displayed on the Parish website and were available at the meeting, were accepted without amendment and signed by James as a true record. There were no matters arising.

- 4. Churchwardens**
There were two nominations for the two churchwarden positions: Rob Dean and Jennifer Matthew were duly reappointed. James thanked and commended them for all their hard work.

There being no further business the vestry meeting finished at 7.45pm

Minutes of St John's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.30pm in St John's Schoolrooms

The meeting was chaired by the Rector, James Dudley-Smith. 75 church members were present.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 18th April 2018 were accepted without amendment and signed by James as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Election of new members to the PCC. After the count the following were declared duly elected: Mary Irwin, Iain Maitland, Tom Oaks, Tim Thurgood and Anne Wicks.

3. Consideration of the Electoral Roll of St John the Baptist Church

Kath Upton reported that the number on the new electoral roll currently stands at 182.

4. To receive the written Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year.

James opened by saying that he hoped that everyone has had or would have an opportunity to read the Annual Report, and encouraged them to do so if they had not, as it is a delightful picture of all that is going on and God being honoured in so many ways. It can be found on the website whilst a few hard copies are available from the church office.

- a) The report on proceedings of the PCC as contained in the written Annual Report – taken as read.
- b) The report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod as contained in the written Annual Report – taken as read.
- c) There were no matters arising on any other report included in the written Annual Report.

5. Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of St John's Church

The Treasurer, John Brookes, began by referring to his full Finance Report which is available on the website. He then ran through the accounts by means of a slide show. With regard to income, a pie chart demonstrated that £142K is from pledged giving with £30K returned to us in the form of Gift Aid tax, together totalling 86% of our income. Income totalled £201K but expenditure was £214K: 60% goes to Parish Share, 16% to wages, 9.4% to missions and 13% to running costs. The deficit of £13K was reduced by £10K from the Peter Wakely fund to pay for the Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Our current church membership stands at 234 and Parish share will increase to £141K in 2019 from £131.5K in 2018. In order to pay this would require each member of the church to give £81.50 a month, or £163 per couple.

John ended by asking those present to consider leaving a legacy to St John's in their will. Details on how to do this can be found on the website.

6. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St John's Church.

Rob Dean reported that the log book and terrier have been updated, and that the silver has been mustered and is correct. The report on the fabric of the church is contained in the Annual Report.

7. Report from Helen Peace, Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Helen began by thanking everyone who had responded to the needs of others and particularly to the team of nine Lay Pastoral Assistants. Also to those who help man the Gone Fishing Café which now has a 5 star rating! to those who visit the sick and elderly in their homes; to those who helped with the Holiday at Home, last year in Australia, and the Christmas Festive event, both events being for the elderly in the parish. The Weekend Away at Brunel Manor was once again a wonderful church family experience for all who attended, aided by the many who helped make it the success that it was.

Among other events were: The Great Get Together in June; Super Saturday in September; and switching on the Christmas lights in December, all of which help us demonstrate that we are part of the local community. St John's also ran their Holiday Club for children during the Summer holiday which once again proved a great success. Many thanks go to Lin Hann and her team for all their hard work.

A new monthly event is Wednesday Kitchen Live run by Roz Chatwin

Helen and Lin Hann have undergone Bereavement Training and have since run two training events in Barnstaple.

She then gave a slide show containing pictures of the newest members of the church and of some of our elderly members who were not able to attend the meeting.

She concluded that there is much to be thankful for in St John's. James thanked her and her team for all their valuable hard work.

She asked that the list of nine LPAs be agreed. Approved unanimously.

8. Report from Mary Irwin on the Yeovil CAP Centre

This has been up and running for eight years now and continues to go from strength to strength. The Editor of the Western Gazette is proving supportive and happy to publish articles relating to the CAP centre. Two exhibitions of Art for Cap raised nearly £6K for the centre.

Mary and Steve are grateful to the team of befrienders and those who pray for them when they go out on visits, all of whom come from ten difference churches. They are also grateful to Ian Croxford and David Upton who run men's breakfasts in the schoolrooms every week for CAP clients.

A third debit coach, Anne Charlotte, has joined the team as a volunteer one day a week. They receive 60 new referrals every year and are booked for three months ahead. 40% of clients become debt free and of those 90% remain debt free.

James thanked Mary for her report.

A time of prayer followed.

9. Update on Reordering Project

Rob Dean gave an excellent and informative presentation on the progress to date of this project. Experts have been consulted and our inspecting architect, Benjamin & Beauchamp, have been engaged for the project. The PCC have met in church to discuss the proposed changes and were unanimous in their support. The DAC have since visited and provided their advice. The cost is estimated to be between £400K-£500K. The PCC has agreed that this is an appropriate use of the Peter Wakeley legacy being within the wishes expressed in his will. The fundraising task is therefore ~£250k, which is equivalent raised for the Tower Project in 2014. It is hoped that this project will be completed by 2024.

10. To accept the Wardens' list of Sidespersons. Approved.

11. To approve the list of persons working with children subject to DBS checks. Ros Bush had produced the list of more than 100 people which was duly approved. We currently have two Safeguarding Agreements in the parish.

12. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2018. Craig Howes has kindly agreed to act once again in this capacity.

13. Rector's Report

James reminded us that in October 1619, a gentleman named Stukely Westcott married Juliann Marchant in St John's Yeovil and proceeded in due course to join the Pilgrim Fathers in America. He went on to found the first ever Baptist church in Providence, Rhode Island, and there are plans afoot for some of the American descendants to come over to mark the 400th anniversary later this year.

James showed a picture of The Wedding at Cana, painted by Veronese in 1563, on the screen for the duration of his talk.

- He likened the crowd in the painting to our church family; they are alive, vibrant and colourful, all designed to be different and gifted in different ways.
- He mentioned those who had moved away and those who had sadly died, all of whom will be missed.
- There will be newcomers, and future staffing changes. The interior of the church will change, our services will change, ministries will stop and others will start. But God is faithful, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He remains at the centre.
- Everyone in the church matters and has something to contribute to our church life and ministry, and he wished to thank certain people for the work they had done during the year: Shauna Ewen, Eddie Brooks and Les Whittle for their behind-the-scenes help; Keith Ovenden and Jane Hiscock for their work with the music group; Elaine Mitchell for her work on Focus over 10 years and 100 editions.
- James mentioned George Beverly who has begun part-time ordination training, and Stefan Davies who has been accepted to start full-time ordination training at Oakhill in September, and asked us to pray regularly for them.
- He mentioned the two visits of Ed Drew from Faith in Kids and the resulting reports which give huge encouragement to our children's and youth work, and suggests that the obvious next step would be to appoint an individual to help grow this ministry.

Back to Veronese's painting which shows Jesus at the centre but if one looks carefully, one can see the butcher's knife raised as a portent of the sacrifice that Jesus will later make. As we approach Good Friday and Easter, let us preach Christ and him crucified, for nothing in all our church life matters more.

14. Any Other Business

The churchwardens wished to thank James for all his work and for being our Rector, and presented him with a gift.

The meeting concluded after a short time of prayer at 9.30pm