

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
of St John the Baptist Hartford and Christ Church Greenbank
Wednesday 25th April 2007 at 8.00pm**

Mike Smith, Vicar of St John the Baptist, Hartford and Christ Church, Greenbank, took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The hymn 'How deep the Father's love for us' was sung.

Present:- George Agar, Hilary Agar, Russ Baker, Ian Barton, Jackie Barton, Kathryn Bayne, Paul Bell, Frank Blamey, Pauline Blears, Pam Breeze, Tony Breeze, Victoria Breeze, Ray Bridgewater, Sheila Bridgewater, Annabelle Bundle, Paul Bundle, Graham Campbell, Rosalind Campbell, Rosemary Charlton, Dick Clague, Alistair Coney, Emily Dean, Catherine Dicks, Hilary Duncombe, Helen Eccles, Kevin Eccles, Gordon Elliott, Ruth Elliott, Roger Fawcett, Denise Field, Paul Field, Sally Foulkes, Fiona Gibson, Neil Gibson, Danny Greaves, Janet Greaves, Cynthia Griffiths, Joyce Halliday, Shirley Harding, Jackie Heumann, Tim Heumann, Tim Hooper, Fiona Hughes, Irene Hughes, James Hughes, Les James, Liz James, Anne Lucas, Glyn Lucas, Cherry McCallum, Brenda Mendham, Stan Mendham, Alison Metcalfe, Andrew Millinchip, Jane Millinchip, David Morris, Janet Morris, Chris Naylor, Liz Neale, Mike Neale, Debbie Nobes, Carolyn Osborne, Julian Osborne, David Payne, Rob Payne, Veronica Payne, Ian Pike, Ruth Port, Alison Rhodes, David Richards, Jenny Richards, Judi Rigby, Diana Robinson, Foster Rochester, Andrew Rodwell, Mary Shorter, Margaret Smith, Mike Smith, Pam Smith, Morag Sutton, Don Tyson, Ann Walker, David Walker, Ian Williams, Alan Wood and Pippa Wood.

1. Bible reading and opening prayer

The reading was Psalm 145:8, 13b, 17. Mike opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Election of Church Wardens

Glyn Lucas was thanked for six year's service as Church Warden. There were two nominations:- Tony Breeze (proposed by Graham Campbell, seconded by David Walker) and Tim Heumann (proposed by Glyn Lucas, seconded by Rosalind Campbell). The elections were unanimous.

3. Apologies for absence were received from:

Kate Agar, Mary Astle, Nicola Barton, Jane Bell, Anne Buchanan, Vic Buchanan, David Charlton, Mary Clague, Dawn Coney, Jacqueline Crow, Kevin Dean, Fran Fawcett, Miriam Fawcett, Maureen Hartwell, Charles Hayward, Joyce Hooper, William Hughes, Jackie Marle, Chris Metcalfe, Tom Nobes, Nicola Parker, Joan Parkin, Matthew Rigby, Paul Robinson, Christine Rodwell, Alison Walker, Keith Wilby, Tina Wilby and Pam Wilkinson.

4. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 26th April 2006

The minutes were overwhelmingly passed and signed by Mike Smith as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

6. PCC Representation

Election to the PCC: Hilary Agar, Paul Bell, Helen Eccles, Neil Gibson, Danny Greaves, Jackie Heumann, Stan Mendham, Rob Payne, Sarah Smith and David Walker.

Thanks were extended to those who have served us as:-

PCC members – Hilary Agar, Helen Eccles, Danny Greaves, Jackie Heumann, Tim Heumann, Anne Lucas, Sarah Smith, David Walker and Catherine Yevseyev.

7. Election of Sidesmen

Chris Metcalfe was thanked for his service in the role of sidesmen co-ordinator and Neil Gibson was thanked for taking over from Chris. Mike Smith proposed the list of sidesmen. All were duly elected.

8. Minister of Christ Church's address

Readings were Ephesians 3:16-19 and 4:11-16. James Hughes explained that over the next year Christ Church would be focussing on Maturity (Knowing Christ) and on the Mission to the local area (Making Christ Known). They would be considering six areas of maturity for Christian growth:

- Meeting God Daily
- Attending Church Weekly
- Taking the Small Group Challenge
- Using God-given gifts and resources
- Reaching out in Love
- Evangelistically Active

As well as making mature disciples of Christ, we should be making new disciples. Over the coming months, Christ Church will be reviewing their strategy for reaching out to the community with the good news of Christ. As the church continues to grow they will need to look at their buildings and facilities, to see how they can best be used and improved, to help them reach more people for Jesus Christ.

9. Youth Minister's address

Reading was John 15:16; Roger Fawcett's vision for youth work in both churches. Roger thanked all those involved in youth work and those who pray for it. He then listed some of the year's highlights:

- Group from Crossover attending Keswick – having a good time and good teaching.
- Christmas – record number of parents and children at school carol services.
- 3rd Pig – record number of leaders learned how best to teach young people about God.
- Lift Off – after school club at Riddings Lane for 7-11's. Enthusiastic children hearing the gospel.
- Mind the Gap – new Bible Study group for Christ Church 11-14's.
- Tim Hawkins' visit – challenged and encouraged us about youth work.

Roger would like to set up a Dads and Toddlers session and already has one volunteer. He would like to involve parents from inside and outside the church in the youth work, develop discipleship for 11-14's and 14-18's and increase the work in schools. To achieve these things needs leaders who love God and His word. Emily Dean, as a youth leader, encouraged others to consider becoming involved in youth work. We are still looking for two trainee Youth Workers and have had eight applications. The Youth and Children's Committee have been developing a vision for youth and children's work in our churches.

Rosemary Charlton asked how we can stop 11 year old boys from leaving the church. Roger suggested that if they came from a church family, their parents should ensure they still come, though sometimes creative compromises may be needed. We also need a faithful ministry to boys up to 11 and maybe offer Bible Studies at other times in the week.

10. Report by Electoral Roll Officer

The roll at last year's AGM stood at 439. A new roll has been prepared this year and as of 8th April 2007, the roll now stands at 335. Graham Campbell asked why there had been such a large drop in the numbers on the Electoral Roll. Mike replied that the new roll included 38 people that hadn't been on the previous roll. Of the old roll, 36% had left the area, died or had only been on the roll in order to marry at St John's; 24% were still attending, but hadn't filled in a form yet, or had been unable to fill in a form; 16% were worshipping elsewhere. Dick Clague asked if this reduction would have any implications. Graham thought that the church would lose one Deanery Synod place if the roll was less than 400.

11. Presentation of Annual Accounts

Graham Campbell presented a brief overview of the accounts to the meeting, then asked for questions. Judi Rigby asked about the large increase in heating costs. Graham replied that it had been due to restarting payments after having a payment holiday (because of overpayment) and also the general increase in fuel prices. David Richards asked how next year's finances might look with less tax recoverable and reduced HGMT donations. Graham replied that it would be a tight year and we may need to cut costs. Paul Field wondered if not passing the offering plate had reduced giving but Graham didn't think it had. Graham thanked Mike and Liz Neale for their many years of counting and banking cash for the church, the new team that has taken over and Julian Osborne for taking on the job of Planned Giving Officer. Graham proposed that we accept the accounts, subject to the auditors' final adjustments. David Richards seconded the proposal, which was passed unanimously.

12. Appointment of Auditors

David Richards proposed that Mitchell Charlesworth be re-appointed as auditors. The motion was seconded by Graham Campbell and carried unanimously.

13. Written Reports

Annual Reports were received on: Housegroups and Prayer Fellowship, Maintenance Committee, Buildings Committee, Parish Weekend, Woman2Woman, Just Women, Crèche, Tots & Tinies, Sunday School class reports, Rock Solid, Crossover, After Eights, Hartford Bellringers, Missionary Committee, Social Committee, Men's Football, Ladies' Fellowship, Ladies' Fellowship Sponsor an Orphan, Men's Fellowship, Koinonia, St John's Bible Reading Notes Account, Church Bookstall, St John's Café, Crackin' Café, LAF Group, St John's Golf Fellowship Society, St John's Curry Club, Counselling at St John's, Christ Church Greenbank Reachout Report, Growth Groups, Thursday Service & Christ Church Café, Tots & Co., Christ Church Sunday School class reports, On Track, Mind the Gap and The Junction. Graham Campbell thanked Dee Rollinson for the front cover and Jackie Barton for chasing up missing reports. Mike proposed that we accept the written reports as an accurate account of church life. This was passed unanimously.

14. Wardens' Report

Glyn Lucas thanked Tony Breeze for his wisdom and efficiency as fellow Warden and said it had been a great privilege to have served as Warden for the last six years. He went on to list the many blessings God has given the church over that time and reminded us that we are the body of Christ here to minister to those around us and to each other.

15. Vicar's Address

Mike Smith began by thanking God for David Hyndman and his family and for their ministry at Christ Church. We are sad to lose them but pleased for the arrival of James Hughes and his family. We are also looking forward to the arrival of our new curate, George Crowder and his family. Mike asked us to pray for their move up here and also for their new baby, due in December. Mike thanked Fiona Gibson, Jackie Barton and Janet Greaves for their efficient running of the church offices and Dave Ashley for maintaining the buildings.

Mike presented a series of slides showing the life cycle of a church; starting with rapid growth, then slowing growth, then static, followed by slow decline and lastly, rapid decline. Then Mike explained where our churches currently stand in this life cycle.

- St John's
 - a viable church on a plateau
 - we are heading towards the edge; we need to act!
- Christ Church
 - a growing church but not yet able to stand alone.

Where do we need to go?

- St John's needs **reforming**
 - to take us from a static church to a growing church
 - moving from comfort to pain!
 - moving from membership to ministry
 - ◆ re-establishing the leadership course in the autumn
 - sharpening the focus on evangelism
 - ◆ re-inventing the Evangelism Strategy Group
 - ◆ being willing to accept change for the sake of the newcomer
 - planning for growth
 - ◆ which means pressing ahead with the building project
 - planning for another church plant (though not just yet!)
- Christ Church needs **resourcing**
 - She is growing up but hasn't left home!

How do we get there?

- The source of church growth
 - Always and only the triune God. (1 Cor 3:6, Eph 2:22)
 - We should make plans about how best to 'plant' and 'water'; but we always depend on the Lord to give the growth.
- The means of church growth
 - Always and only the word of God. (Acts 12:24, Mark 4:8,14, 1 Pet 1:23-2:3, Eph 4:11)
 - The word of God must be central in all our activities.

Debbie Nobes asked if Mike had any plans for local outreach. Mike replied that we must engage in it and there is always more we can do. It is already happening in Tots and the Crackin Café; there will be more opportunities in the summer with 'On the Move'. We should be asking God to give us non-believers to speak to about Him.

16. Suggestions to the Parochial Church Council

Some had been received by email and would be dealt with in due course.

17. Any other business

None.

18. Closing prayer

The hymn 'Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided' was sung.

George Agar closed in prayer and everyone said The Grace. The meeting ended at 10.03pm.

Tony Breeze was re-elected as Vice-chairman, Graham Campbell was re-elected as Treasurer and Jackie Barton was re-elected as Secretary. Pippa Wood was re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer. Julian Osborne was elected as Planned Giving Officer and Danny Greaves was elected as Assistant Treasurer. In addition to the Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Jane Millinchip, James Hughes was elected to join the Standing Committee.

Signed Date