Parish of St Andrew, Countesthorpe

**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**held in the church at 10.30am on Sunday 19 May 2024**

Thirty-eight people were present. The Revd Richard Reakes chaired the meeting. He read Acts 2:17-21 and led the opening prayers.

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.**  **Anne Jelves** had been nominated in writing by Ann Hindley and seconded by Ken Jones. **Stephen Bailey** had been nominated by Lindsey Jelves and seconded by Edward Thomas. There had been no other nominations and the Chairman declared them duly elected.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**1 APOLOGIES**

The following people had sent their apologies: John Cook, Jacqui McAughey, Debs Perkins, Rachel Pound and Josh Stokes.

**2 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 2023**

It was proposed by Sally Bailey and seconded by Edward Thomas that the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 May 2023 be accepted as a correct record. This was carried and the minutes were signed by the chairman.

**3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.** None

**4 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** None

**5 ELECTORAL ROLL**

Electoral Roll Secretary Ken Jones said that, of the 104 on the Roll in 2023, three people had died - Steven Dimmock, Jim Ward and Pete Thompson. There had been one addition to the Roll: Rachel Pound. The number on the Roll was now 102.

He said that 2025 would be the end of the six-year Electoral Roll cycle, when the Roll would be renewed and everyone would need to fill in a form. At least two months before the APCM all the members would have to be contacted by whatever means the PCC decided. The revision would be announced at all the Sunday services. It would need to be raised on the PCC agenda.

Thanks were given to Ken.

**6 ELECTIONS**

***PCC Members***

The following people had been duly nominated and seconded in writing and were declared elected for a three-year term of office:

**Yvonne Bennett** nominated by Liz Swift and seconded by Jill Cramp

**Margaret Seville** nominated by Liz Swift and seconded by Jill Cramp

**Jacky Sturrock** nominated by Eva Morris and seconded by Gail Mackley

There remained four vacancies on the PCC, but there were no nominations to fill the vacancies.

***Deputy Churchwardens***

**Sally Bailey** had been nominated in writing by Anne Jelves and seconded by Eva Morris. She was declared elected unopposed.

There remained three vacancies for Deputy Churchwarden. Thanks were given to Sally for all the help which she gave to Churchwardens Steve and Anne.

**7 APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

It was proposed by Alison Dale, seconded by Christine Root and carried unanimously that **Mrs Sue Wyllie** be appointed again as Independent Examiner.

**8 SERVICE SCHEDULE REVIEW**

The new pattern of services, with only one service on Sundays alternating between Holy Communion at 9am and Morning Praise at 11am, was due for review and church members were invited to give their views. The meeting would not be making any decisions, but the views expressed would help the Rector in his considerations. Points made included the following:

BACK TO TWO SERVICES

* We should go back to two services.
* Concern that there is not a contemporary service every week.
* One person said she would like there to be a 9 o'clock service every week, even if it was a said communion.
* One person said he was happy to worship with pre-recorded music.
* There are always issues. If we see problems before we start, saying 'What if?, we get nowhere.
* The new pattern had had casualties. Some people did not attend at all and others only once a fortnight.

ONE SERVICE AS NOW

* It was a joy to see more people at Foston. People who don't want to come at 11am go to Foston.
* Foston is greatly blessed by those who come. A Congregation of thirty was not unusual, in spite of there being no parking and no toilets.
* The current pattern takes pressure off the ministry team.
* It is difficult to provide rotas for organizing services.

OTHER COMMENTS

* An opportunity for other people to organize something.
* Service leaders should be in pairs. There is a lot to do, especially in a contemporary type of service. The main task is finding musicians. Music is especially important in contemporary services. Pre-recorded music is not ideal.
* It looks like we are managing decline. Where will the musicians come from?
* Richard had been asked to go to another church once a month - where they had no one.
* Richard said he was blessed to have one of the largest ministry teams in the Diocese. He also said that a Minster Community could have up to thirty churches. More people from the laity would have to take responsibility using Service of the Word type of services.

OUTREACH

* Reaching out to the new people in our village. The 11 o'clock service needs a rethink. We are not reaching out to many people to come into church. There are people with music skills who could at least be approached.
* Messy Church is a good way of getting people to come. Some people had seen the signs outside at the last Messy Church. Focus on Messy Church and consider new ways.
* As Christians we are called to witness. How can we if people don't come? It is God's will that we go out.

CURATE

* We are going to have a Curate. Will that help? Richard pointed out that in his first year a Curate would have only a supportive role and would be here to learn. He would not be an extra pair of hands. He would help more towards the end of his time here. After six months the Curate may wish to develop the 11 o-clock service.

PRINCIPLES

* It should not be the worship, the style of worship, but the coming together.
* It is not what works for us, but for the community.

PROCESS

* We could leave it as it is for 12 months. Or have discussions. Things could change.

Caveat: if we changed now, we might have to change back.

* The Rector said that any decision had to go through due process via the PCC and the Ministry Team had to be consulted. It would be discussed by the Ministry Team on the Away Day.
* Prayer is needed.

**9 REPORTS**

* RECTOR'S REPORT. The Rector's report was included in the reports booklet. There were no questions from the floor.
* PCC ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS. The report and accounts had been circulated after adoption by the PCC.

Thanks were given to Treasurer Alison Dale.

Some people said they had not received the papers which had been circulated by e-mail and the system of distribution needed to be looked at for the following year. Church members were invited to let the Church Administrator have their current e-mail addresses.

* SAFEGUARDING. Dave McAughey's report had been circulated. At the meeting Dave McAughey stressed that Safeguarding was everyone's personal responsibility, especially those in positions of responsibility, such as Churchwardens. Training needed to be up to date at the appropriate levels; it needed to be undertaken every three years. The records needed to be up to date. The three new PCC members would need to do Safeguarding training as trustees of a charity.

The Rector gave a huge thank-you to Dave for taking on the role of Safeguarding Officer.

* CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT.Anne Jelves's report had been circulated with the agenda. The Rector thanked Churchwardens Anne and Steve, Deputy Churchwarden Sally and also Honorary Churchwarden Josh Stokes and others who supported the Churchwardens, such as Trevor Ainge and Geoff Kirk.
* DEANERY SYNOD REPORT. Sally Bailey's report had been circulated with the agenda. The next Deanery Synod was due on the following Thursday. It was noted that our Deanery Synod Representatives were Sally and Steve Bailey and Helen Stokes.
* REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS. The Reports Booklet had been circulated.

**CLOSE**

The Rector thanked everyone for attending.