

St Thomas a Becket Church APCM 28th April 2024

In attendance:

Shan Oswald (Chair), Glennis Brown, Val Molloy (Sec), Jeremy Hyde (Treasurer), Judith Hyde, Hayley Challinor, Jane Cusworth, David Cusworth, Pip Cadman, Diana Hyde, Richard Hyde, Bill Seeger, Tracey Summerell, Rachel Thompson, Jackie Southwell, Martin Muir, Lesley Barker, Adam Southwell, Ian Bell-Berry, Rachael Bell-Berry, John Oram, Bev Harding, Tamara Wadsworth, Cathy Moulton, Leo Knaggs, Neville Palmer, Costas Nicolaou, J. Nicolaou

Apologies:

Jeanette Seeger, David Paynter, Charlotte Clark, Fiona Ward, Jeremy Summerell, Kay Rawlinson.

Vestry Meeting

Shan reported that everything has kept going as usual during the interregnum except for the 8 am Communion service. She said that the Reports showed everything that has been going on, very positive. She, Glennis, Jackie (Administrator) and Hayley (Children & Families Missioner) have been having weekly meetings to keep everything going. Leo extended thanks for all they have been doing, especially as Shan and Glennis had stood down from the post of church warden a year ago, but had taken up the reins again for the interregnum.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the previous APCM were accepted as a true record.
2. Deanery Synod representatives:

In the absence of anyone volunteering, and James Carter's absence so it is unknown whether or not he wishes to continue, Glennis agreed to continue, but Rachael Bell-Berry agreed to take over from her in July following her retirement.

3. No nominations for PCC lay representatives this year, but all existing representatives had agreed to continue for a further year while the new incumbent settles in. However, Glennis said that we need to pick up rolling membership again, so that one third retire each year.
Proposed: Glennis Brown Seconded Richard Hyde
4. Appointment of independent examiner to review next year's accounts – Roger Taylor.
Proposed: Jeremy Hyde Seconded: Rachel Thompson

5. Reports had been circulated online prior to this meeting and a few printed for those with no access to online services

i. Finance Report was presented by the Treasurer. Jeremy noted that we have £211,000 in the bank, the bulk of this being the legacy from Steve Brown. The current account has about £40,000 which keeps us running, and is about £30 pw short.

The gas and electricity bills have risen from £7000 to £21,000 pa.

However, we have changed contract so it is hoped this will get us back nearer to last year's costs.

Quotes for the repairs due to the recent break in have been requested from 4 different companies and we are awaiting these.

Jeremy was thanked for all his hard work.

ii. Electoral roll – currently stands at 106, slightly lower than last year, but Ian said this does not necessarily reflect what is going on in church.

iii. Safeguarding – Jane said everyone should be aware of this in church, and if anyone has any concerns they should talk to her. She was thanked for doing such a professional job, and we are noted as one of the best in the diocese for being so organised.

At this point Shan mentioned that the 'I Know' data system is being introduced into the church administration and we will be asking for contact information/vulnerabilities.

iv. Other areas were briefly discussed, as full reports had been circulated. Flower Committee – Rachel Thompson has taken over as Chair and there are now 6 on the committee. She wants to bring it closer to church life. She was thanked.

Bellringers – Cathy thanked all for support. She reported that David Paynter and Ian Bell-Berry are currently working on a different method of winding the clock which is currently a strenuous task.

Children's work – Hayley mentioned we are working in all schools with workshops both in and out of church, and Open the Book (ecumenical team). About to launch a Wellbeing room at the Abbey. The recent Holiday Club brought forth new volunteers. Hayley was thanked.

Craft Group – this is a good outreach, opening up wider ministry to some who are not church-goers. Judith and Rachel form a good team organising this, and said they need more volunteers to do demonstrations if we know of anyone.

Fabric Committee – Lesley reported they are considering how to bring the church forward into the 21st century with current plans to view for

removing the pews and making the building more accessible by changes to the West door. There will be fundraising for this and looking for possible grants.

Fundraising Committee – a Jazz, Fizz and Puds afternoon on the Green is being planned, plus continued concerts.

The Summer fete – less than 5 weeks way and is mostly in hand though volunteers are needed to set up and take down before and after the event.

Mission committee – a concert is coming up on 29th June – Nene Voices of which Martin is a member. A big thank you to all who contributed to a record number of Christmas hampers sent last year.

Music – Neville celebrates 20 years as our organist!

Pastoral work – we continue with monthly Seniors lunches in church, coffee mornings every other month, monthly Home Communion services in Florence House (where we had a record number of 17 in attendance last week), and Baptism preparation on a home visit basis until the new incumbent arrives. Val thanked the team who make all this possible, especially Judith.

Toddler time – 13-14 children, same adults, though they do not all attend every week. ‘Refresh’ is an innovation once a term for mums/carers and this has been well received.

Worship – Fen Church has developed over the past year. The 20s& 30s group helped with organising a service on Monday of Holy Week, with a Worship band from Godmanchester. In Maggie’s absence on maternity leave they have been meeting at the Ale House and supporting each other through a Whatsapp group. Maggie will re-advertise this when she returns.

The Scout Hut – we got a grant to enable us to take this on and it is used for children’s activities, as well as siting the office, and holding PCC and other meetings. Diana Hyde has volunteered to clean this once a month.

We ended with the Grace.