

St. Giles' Matlock: 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting. 09/04/2019

Present: Fr. Mark Crowther-Alwyn (Rector), Alison Grindrod, Allan Preston, Angela Neale, Bridget McCrae, Carol Sanderson, Claire Drabble, Edwin Sanderson, Fred Drabble, Jackie Steel, Jane Pomphrey, Jane Terry, Jason Knighton, Jonathan Grant-Nicholas, Martin Smith, Mick Maltby, Nicola Knighton, Peter Steele, Sarah Higgs, Stephen Oxley.

APCM19/01 Apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from Barbara Hughes, Brian and Helen Legood, Bridget Caudle, Emily Brailsford, Joan Link and Joan Pybus

APCM19/02 Minutes of the 2018 APCM

The minutes of the 2018 APCM were approved as a correct record and signed by Fr. Mark.

APCM19/03 Consideration of Reports

3a) Changes in the electoral roll since the last annual parochial church meeting:

Complete Revision of Electoral Roll April 2019

2019 is one of the years in a 6-yearly cycle for a complete revision of the Church Electoral Roll. All those who completed an Electoral Roll Form will be included on the new Electoral Roll. This Roll will come into effect on the day after the APCM.

The numbers on the new Electoral Roll are as follows:

- Number on Roll 98
- Living in the Parish 47
- Living outside the Parish 51

Alison Grindrod: Electoral roll officer

Alison updated the report to say that the numbers on the roll had now reached 100.

The report was accepted without any queries

3b) The proceedings of the PCC.

Since the inaugural meeting of the PCC immediately after the 2017 APCM, there have been 6 scheduled meetings and one extraordinary meeting. The average attendance at the scheduled meetings has been 13, out of a possible 17 attendees.

In addition to the full PCC meetings there have been 3 meetings of the Standing Committee and also a meeting of the Strategy Committee.

As last year the most common issues discussed have been related to finance. Every meeting has had a financial report and an examination of the minutes shows no fewer than 20 individually minuted items relating to financial matters. These inevitably cover a wide range of topics.

Aside from finance, the next most significant issue discussed has been the ongoing discussion about the role of the Barn as against the use of space inside the church itself. As part of this debate, the Fun Club was moved from the Barn into the church itself, initially as an experiment but now on a permanent basis. The PCC is going to try using the rearranged choir vestry for some of its meetings; again on an experimental basis.

Safeguarding has been another regular item discussed and Joan Link as our safeguarding officer has reported to each regular PCC meeting on the progress being made on this matter. There is a separate report on this issue in these papers.

Numerous other items have cropped up over the year, involving church services, the garden party, other social and spiritual events, mission outreach and the inevitable church maintenance and safety issues.

Last year I mentioned the change coming in the diocesan arrangements. The new Carsington Deanery is now up and running and there's a report on this later. One aspect of the change is the likelihood of a reduction in clergy numbers over the next few years and the appendix to the Deanery report gives a clear indication of what is proposed. No doubt members of the congregation will have views on these proposals and it would be interesting to hear them, so that the new PCC and Deanery representatives can convey your views to the appropriate authorities.

Last year I commented that, at face value, the new data protection legislation, appeared to preclude the Secretary of the PCC from sending out notification of an APCM unless people on the Electoral Roll have given their express permission that they can be contacted. Of course this hasn't actually materialised, but just shows how hastily conceived legislation has a nasty habit of raising ludicrous and unnecessary fears by not being explained sufficiently clearly.

I've no doubt that the 2019/20 PCC year will be another 'interesting' one.

Martin Smith: PCC Secretary.

The Secretary's report was approved.

3c) Churchwarden's Report - 2019 –

Another year has passed and we are making good ground in furthering the church as a building and as a community. The strategy team have worked hard to identify what we hope to achieve in the coming months and years and how we are going to approach it and are working towards those goals. Largely this is focussed on growing our congregation to enrich our community and share our experiences through warmth, inclusion and appealing to those who don't know what they are missing yet.

Looking at immediate tasks: Along with our deputy churchwardens and PCC members we have tidied up the spaces in church. The North Aisle is a better area for social events and the children's area. Redundant furniture has moved on to make way for new chairs. Thank you to all those who graciously donated money to help fund them. A framed notice details are those who have donated and loved ones who are commemorated in those donations. The vestry is now a glowing example of using the space better to make it more attractive to newcomers and ourselves. The council have replaced the more damaged slabs leading from the side gate. We continue to monitor if enough has been done. A specialist has repaired a shattered Victorian heating grill using age old techniques and it is due back any day now and so we now have a supplier going forwards if any more are broken in the future..

The water heater has been replaced in the kitchen so all working well. Signage has been upgraded on the private road. We keep fingers crossed that this is enough to keep the bad parkers at bay. We are looking at restoring the door in the Lady Chapel to eliminate the very cold draft. We continue to nibble away at various outstanding repairs to maintain and care for this beautiful building behind the scenes. All restricted by budget or time, but we will try to complete them.

Bigger Issues: A 50% grant has been offered to help us upgrade the kitchen facilities, and Wi-Fi capabilities particularly with security in mind, discussions continue. We are battling through how we view the future of the barn and what options are open to us to optimise and make the most of this space.

We also have a keen eye on the other side of the newly repaired roof; it will be on the agenda in the next 3-5 years so keep us in touch if you spot any water ingress. We have an inspection in a few weeks by the DAC and I am very confident that we are on top of our tasks and copious amounts of required paperwork.

Thanks: Finally, my thanks go to our wonderful team of volunteers. Where would we be without Our welcomers, our tea and coffee team refresh us on Sundays, our cleaning team and flower ladies keep our church sparkling and beautiful, our choir and organist keep us 'on song' and 'in tune', our handy men who fix and move, who rustle up an Easter garden or risk life and limb scaling the Christmas Tree dangling lights, our bell ringers call us to church, our social media and printed news teams keep us up to date and on schedule, our youth leaders inspire our young to worship, our PCC guide our big decisions, and our dedicated servers work quietly around Father Mark enabling him to concentrate on providing an extraordinary level of service and spiritual care. Our Garden Party teams, the Christian Aid team, The Lent lunch organisers and chefs, the makers of our Christingle Oranges and our Mothering Sunday posies, the list is endless. What an extraordinary community. Look how much we achieve together!

A word of warning: On a final note, a book has come into my possession which details much of the church's history and alterations made over the course of many years. I was thrilled to learn that in the late 1800's the pew backs were head height and entered through a pew end door. The Churchwardens at that time were issued with lazy-tongs to shake anyone who, unnoticed behind the high pew backs, fell asleep and was snoring out of tempo with the choir. Be warned.

Angela Neale

3d. Financial report

Jane introduced Bridget McCrae, who explained the various accounts and answered one or two queries. It was noted that there is still about £500 of income derived from 'plate money' which has to be counted. This is despite the number of people who have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme or pay their contributions by standing order.

Jane then thanked Bridget for her assistance in preparing the accounts and dealing with the book-keeping part of the Treasurer's role. She also thanked Dave and Marion Pooley (auditors) for all their assistance and Peter Steele the previous Treasurer for his help. Fr. Mark thanked Jane and Bridget, Dave and Marion Pooley for their work over the previous year and also thanked the various other people who had helped counting the collected money.

Mick Maltby proposed that the Financial report and accounts should be accepted. This was seconded by Angela Neale and approved unanimously.

Resolved: That the financial report and accounts for 2018 are approved.

3e. Carsington Deanery Synod Reflections 2018

The Deanery Synod has met three times during the year in March, June & October. Much of the time has been spent in seeing what parishes around the Deanery are doing to encourage the churches to continue being "God's presence in every community" and seeing how we can adapt to the change in ordained ministry numbers yet still keep this vision for our people real. We have shared good practice, news of outreach events and looked at what is taking place nationally. We have also been reminded of the various grants that are available for imaginative, mission focussed use of our church buildings – such as toilets, kitchens / kitchenettes and wi-fi / broadband projects, through Rural Action Derbyshire and the Raymond Ross Fund.

Church life is changing and we must be willing to change too.

We have considered Evangelism Today – "Talking about Jesus", looking at national research and thinking about what works best in our parishes – how can we share the love of Jesus within the community in which we live and work.

In October we were led through a reflection of "The Church, Dementia and Spirituality", thinking how we can adapt to welcome all people – excluding none.

This last year we also had to elect members to Diocesan Synod for the next three years. Those elected were:

Clergy – Nick Grayshon, Carollyn McDonald, Lindsay Pearson & Duncan Ballard,

Lay: Andrew Colly, John Rigarlsford, John Paulson & Mike Warner.

An interesting year lies ahead with a new Bishop, Bishop Libby and with changes to our ordained ministry coverage, all members of the church must consider their own ministry to keep our churches and ministry relevant for today.

A copy of the Deanery Overview Plan is attached as an appendix to these papers.

Mike Warner, February 2019.

3f(i) St Giles Matlock MU Report 2019

We had a difficult year with changes along the way.

Brenda is missed all the time. Her extensive knowledge of MU always helped us do the correct thing.

We miss Jean Henshaw, who is no longer able to attend meetings and we also miss Dorothea, who is now settled in her new home at Kirk Langley. They are now 'indoor' members.

On a positive note we have continued to work and pray for MU and I feel that we start the new year with a resolve to keep going and continue the work we do.

The meetings have been well attended given our few (10) members. Through the year, MU have provided and served tea for the children at Godly Play. We collected items to send a Moses basket filled with useful things to help a mother giving birth to her baby in a refugee camp.

We meet with our deanery friends for services and now have the extended Carsington Deanery at our gatherings. We look forward to working with them.

MU charities were sent several donations and we pray for the huge amount of work MU is doing through the world.

On a personal note, thank you for all the support you have given me during a year when I was not well.

Joan Pybus

3f(ii) Meeting Space Committee Report

Fr. Mark reported on the work of the Meeting Space Committee, pointing out the changes that had taken place in the N. aisle, the vestry and the Lady chapel. The latest meeting had come up with a hoped for compromise whereby there would be investment in both the Barn and the main body of the church, especially improvements to the kitchen area. This would be put to the new PCC for consideration.

3f(iii) Safeguarding Report

The general Safeguarding work has continued as we progress in implementing the 2016 Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. Joan Link is still Parish Safeguarding Link and Sarah Higgs the PCC Lead.

DBS checks continue and are held by almost all the key relevant post holders, including all volunteers working with children's activities, all Office Holders and most others on the PCC, as well as the PSL. This is of course an ongoing exercise as people move in and out of volunteer roles. We now also need to check a handful of people through the church system who already hold DBS checks for other organisations, and I expect to get that done soon.

The ID Verification part of the DBS process has now been dropped through to Parish level and this is an additional chore if I am honest. I am very grateful for the way people needing to go through this process have been patient in finding all the documents and helping me to check them and record data accurately! Anyone who is good at detail and would like to help please apply here, especially if you already have a DBS check!

Most people who need it have now done the basic level training, C1. There is now a C0 level course on line, so we are looking into whether those who have done C1 have to do that as well.

I'll be in touch as necessary with them if so. We still need to get a few people through the next level course C2, so this will be pursued.

We have reviewed provision for children's work since it is now over 2 years since the policy came in, and as a result we are instituting regular registers of those attending all children's events, and regular meetings between the Leaders and the Rector and PSL.

Future Actions

The Parish Audit in mid-2018 spurred on action on DBS and Training, but we still need to write our own Complaints Procedure and renew action on advertising what we do on Safeguarding e.g. on the Parish Website and maybe Facebook. The PCC agreed in January that we would invite some information sessions on dementia for the whole Parish with a view to getting the Alzheimer's Society badge for being Dementia Friendly.

Joan Link, Parish Safeguarding Link

3f(iv) St Giles Fellowship Report

Alison Grindrod

3f(v) Sunday School & Godly Play reports

Sunday School. We continue to have a regular attendance of 6 children almost every week. We have focussed on ensuring that they receive Bible teaching now that they are on church rather than just playing. The Sunday school syllabus which we purchased last year has been a valuable addition and helped reduce preparation time. There is one for each liturgical year however they are £30 each so we are making do with the one we have at present. I have asked some of the volunteers if they could help on a family service rather than a normal service as it is actually during the family service when the children participate more. I will be emailing the rest of the volunteers this week to inform them of this change. It means that they will be in the rota much less often which I hope will be agreeable to them.

I would like to thank the PCC for allowing the purchase of the new cupboard. I think it has tidied up the corner wonderfully.

I'd also like to thank the PCC for their patience and support whilst I have been unwell.

Emily Brailsford

Godly Play. Another lovely year for our Godly Play sessions. We have had another young family join us and seen our regulars grow and develop their understanding of a wide range of Christian topics. The children have been involved in discussing their faith and their beliefs and listening to stories from the Bible.

The Mothers Union have reinforced their commitment to Godly Play and have included it in their five year plan. It has not been an easy year for our MU group but the dedication of our members has meant that the children have had wonderful story and craft sessions with a delicious tea afterwards.

A big thank you to all our children, parents, members and supporters for making it such a success.

Bridget Caudle

3f(vi) Bell ringing report 2019

Another successful year, and a steady improvement of our bell ringers.

It is much appreciated when members of the congregation comment on the improvement of striking which the ringers are trying to perfect.

Gill has rung her first quarter (3/4hr continuous ringing) at a first attempt and I hope other learners will follow on in the coming year with quarters.

We have been on visits to other towers and ringing outings not to mention meals out and general social events etc., mainly due to James's enthusiasm – thank you to him

We hope to install sound control for the bells to a) quieten it down so the organist can play more contemplative music before the 9,30am service b) Outside service times we can ring for longer, possibly a peal (3hours continuously) without annoying the neighbours! This is of course with the Rectors and PCC approval.

The ringers continue to pay weekly to build up funds to enable us to maintain and improve the bells.

We have transferred £50 from ringers income to church funds for electricity used for heating and lighting on practice nights.

Helen Legood: Tower Captain

3f(vii) Choir

There was no choir report as such, but Fr. Mark reported that there were now regular choir practices and he thanked Stephen for this work and for the church music generally. Claire Drabble reported that the ladies in the choir were getting new choir robes to replace the unsatisfactory old ones. Hopefully the new robes will be available in time for Easter.

Fr. Mark, Claire Drabble.

3f(viii) Magazine

The magazine continues to be produced by Mick Maltby and Joan Pybus. Mick made a plea for reports to be sent in early. There were far too many 'last minute' items and quite a few that required complete re-typing so anything that could be done to improve this situation would be warmly welcomed. Fr. Mark thanked Mick and Joan for all their work, expressing the view that the magazine was still an effective means of communication for parishioners and visitors alike.

Mick Maltby

3f(ix) Churches Together.

Alison referred to the continuing work of Matlock 'Churches Together', and especially the ability of this group to achieve events and actions that individual churches would be unable do on their own. She felt that the group's work was worthy of greater support. She and Brian Legood are the representatives from St. Giles on the CTiM committee. There have been numerous occasions in Matlock in the past year where CTiM has organised an event. There are 6 churches in Matlock who meet regularly to plan and take part in services and occasions where people from the member churches meet together to show a presence in the Matlock community. These meetings often take place at the Park head in Hall Leys Park and are well attended by Matlock people. One of the priests or leaders of churches in CTiM leads the service and worship. The main meetings this last year have included; Good Friday (where the large cross is placed on Masson hillside), Advent and Christmas services and social occasions like the annual market, Christingle in the Park and café carols in the Imperial Rooms. WE have found it too expensive to have a stall at the Advent Markt so we hope that CTiM can plan a different mission event at Advent/Christmas.

Other mission occasions have included Remembrance Day and the Ash Wednesday service,(placing of ashes on heads). We always hope that more people from the CTiM will come to these services. CTiM is committed to sharing their mission of the Church to the people of Matlock and around, not just within their churches, but to visitors to Matlock as well.

Plans are under way for a National Mission Celebration on June 1st called, 'Thy Kingdom Come', which CTiM will be telling you more about fairly soon. Please put this date in your diaries.

Alison Grindrod

3g Incumbent's Report (Fr. Mark's Report)

It was wonderful being able to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of my ordination as a priest last June and I am very grateful to all who helped make that such an enjoyable and memorable

occasion. Over this last year, the special festivals, Easter, Corpus Christi, Blessing of Vehicles, Animal Service, Advent and Christmas have all been a great success because of the hard work we all put in. The PCC has been thinking carefully about how we can draw more people into our worshipping life and it is interesting that we decided to particularly concentrate on advertising these special occasions of the church's year. I am very grateful to the Mission Committee for the work they are putting into this. It is good to welcome new members on that committee, but sad to see former members retire, though they do so with our thanks.

In that context it is worth remembering with sadness the deaths of Brenda Maltby and Sue Grant-Nicholas during this last year, both of whom will be greatly missed for all their work for the church.

I am also grateful to the Meeting Space Committee for the hard work they have put in. It is good to see the north aisle clear for special occasions, the alterations in the vestry and to have the new chairs which have made the Lady Chapel so much more adaptable. Evensong, Breathing Space, Benediction and Healing services are now held in there and are so much better being in a small and adaptable space than in the larger church. We are aiming over the next months to make some modest adaptations to the Barn and to the kitchen in church. This committee's work is crucial in supporting our objective, which is to make our church building more welcoming for outsiders.

Times are difficult for the Church generally. It is difficult to replace those members of the congregation who become housebound or those communicants who pass away. However, there is still vital life in our church and it is interesting that our Electoral Roll isn't much down on what it was. Likewise, it was lovely this last year to present William and Vladimir for confirmation, to be now preparing Bree to receive Holy Communion and only this last month I have baptised two adults. It has been great to welcome Jane and Philip to the area and to our congregation at St. Giles.

Nevertheless, times are difficult and we must do what we can to build up our church. There are no easy answers, but what really matters is our own personal commitment to the Gospel and to the depth of our religious life.

The relationship between the priest and the churchwardens is absolutely critical for the good running of the church. I am very lucky to have had two such talented and hard working churchwardens and to have got along with them so well. I am sure that things will go equally well over the next year despite a change of one of the churchwardens. I am also lucky to have a licensed reader, who again is so keen and I am looking forward to Emily being able to play a full part again, now that her back problems seem to be improving after her operation.

It is also good that I have such an amiable and hard working Secretary of the PCC and Treasurer and that they are all backed up by good deputy churchwardens and PCC members. Angela has mentioned all the various groups who work so hard for the smooth running of the church; servers, bell ringers, readers, flower arrangers and the choir.

It is lovely to see the music of the church flourishing and I am immensely grateful for the work and talent Stephen brings to us and for the help that he is providing for the choir.

So, in conclusion, we press on with Christian confidence, facing the challenges that lie ahead with optimism and a smile, grateful for the many opportunities and graces we have received.

Fr. Mark

APCM19/04 Election of Parochial representatives of the laity.

Nominations had been received for the various posts of churchwarden and PCC member. No nominations had been received for Deanery Synod. The names of the candidates and their proposers and seconders were read out at the meeting. No further nominations were received and accordingly the people nominated were elected unopposed. The results of the elections for Churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council and members of the Carsington Deanery Synod are as follows;

Election of Churchwardens			
Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Result
<i>Angela Neale</i>	<i>Jason Knighton</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jason Knighton</i>	<i>Angela Neale</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
Election of PCC members			
Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Result
<i>Brian Legood</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Edwin Sanderson</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Claire Drabble</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Joan Pybus</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Claire Drabble</i>	<i>Angela Neale</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jackie Steele</i>	<i>Jane Pomphrey</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Jane Pomphrey</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Jackie Steele</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Michael Amos</i>	<i>Emily Brailsfor</i>	<i>Lee McClean</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Sarah Higgs</i>	<i>Peter Steele</i>	<i>Martin Smith</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>
<i>Stephen Oxley</i>	<i>Mick Maltby</i>	<i>Emily Brailsford</i>	<i>Elected unopposed</i>

NB Joan Link and Martin Smith remain members of the Carsington Deanery Synod having been elected in 2018 and 2017 respectively to serve until 2020.

APCM19/05 Appointment of Welcomers (sidesmen/women).

The following people served as Welcomers (sidesmen/women) in 2018.

Alison Grindrod, Claire Gibson, Michael Maltby, Christine & Andrew Henshaw, Edwin and Carol Sanderson (8 o'clock), Henry Holmes, Isabel Walker, Jenny Faulkner (8 o'clock), Jenny Servante (8 o'clock), Joan Pybus, John & Sarah Higgs, Judith Naden, Lee McClean, Martin Smith (8 o'clock), Martin Cruttenden (8 o'clock), Sarah Higgs, Val Alcock, Viv Smith, Mrs Appleby, Mr and Mrs Loveday, Mr and Mrs Summerfield.

It is worth noting that any member of the PCC not mentioned in the above list, can be called upon to act as Welcomers/sidesman/woman, but will not be on the rota. Also the churchwardens can formally appoint anyone to act as a Welcomer if required.

Resolved: That the people appointed in 2018 remain as Welcomers (sidesmen/women) in 2019

APCM19/06 Appointment of an independent auditor or examiner of the accounts.

Resolved: That the current auditors, Mr David Pooley and Mrs Marion Pooley, are reappointed for a further year.

APCM19/07 Other matters of parish or general church interest that have been notified to the Rector in advance of the meeting.

Mick Maltby raised the issue of gift aid. Some gift aid is dealt with through the Parish Giving Scheme, but this still leaves gift aid to be sorted from other income, e.g. standing orders, the envelope scheme, collection plate cash and any donations. Mick would like to relinquish this job and asked that the new PCC address this issue. Fr. Mark agreed to put this on the PCC agenda for consideration.

MISSION

A flourishing
Christian
presence in
every
Community

VISION

By 2025, Carsington Deanery will be arranged around three main church centres (or Minsters): Wirksworth, Matlock and Ashbourne, each served by two stipendiary priests, and either a curate or a full-time lay worker. Each of the three Minsters is a centre of prayer and learning, and has gentle oversight of the fifteen or so surrounding churches, which in turn are supported and sustained through small ecumenical teams. Each of the churches has found new ways to serve their communities, and a new church is planted every three or four years: there has never been so much Christian ministry being offered in the Deanery.

VALUES

Rooted in Prayer and Sacrament

- Offer life transforming Gospel encounters
- Learning to live the faith
- Being a prayerful and worshipping presence

Valuing Partnerships

- Lay and Clergy together
- Strengthening Ecumenical ties
- Collaborating with schools, civic, charitable and other networks

Investing in the parish

- Valuing traditions
- Trusting local parishes to make decisions
- Low control / high accountability
- 'Can-do' expectations

FOCUS

Encouraging
Vocations

Learning
for life

Developing
the Minster
structure

Faith in the
parish
Church

ACTION PLANS

2018: Vocations encouraged across Deanery

2019: Local ministry teams formed in every church

New learning opportunities launched in every Minster

2020: Invitations to whole-life Discipleship

2018: Establish legal and financial structures

2018: Lay and Clergy deployment plan developed

2019: Strategic partnerships created

2019: Deanery resources library established