

# Trinity Church, Exeter - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Clyst Heath School - 7.45pm

## MINUTES

**Apologies: Jane Swain**

### **1. Bible Reading and Prayer - Jonny Elvin (JE)**

Jonny Elvin welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the questions 'looking back over the last year, what do we see?' and then 'looking ahead, what do we want?' He said he wanted to see growth in fruitfulness; not just a growth in numbers, but a growth in lives changed and transformed by the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit.

He then led some reflections from John 15:1-17. God is looking for fruit, lives transformed and increasing Christ-like-ness (v1-2) and pruning for fruit as He cuts things back for our good (v2-3). We are abiding for fruit as we keep our eyes on Him and His Word (v4-5), enjoying the fruit (v6-11) and bearing fruit as we are friends with Christ and part of a loving fellowship (v12-17). He challenged us to be a church that more than ever before depends on God in prayer, looks to Him for our needs, and celebrates His harvest.

JE prayed that we will be a fruitful church for our joy and for his glory.

### **2. Election of Churchwardens**

Jonathan Porter Goff (JPG) was nominated by Colin Silcox and seconded by Ian Cutler.

Paul Johnson was nominated by Claire Clode and seconded by Claire Reynolds.

No formal vote was required, but Jonathan and Paul were unanimously supported by the meeting. JE put on record his thanks for their hard work over the last year.

### **3. Minutes of Annual Church Meeting 2017**

These were accepted as an accurate record and signed by JE.

Regarding matters arising, JPG noted that the minutes of the 2016 meeting (which were not available for review at the 2017 APCM) were e-mailed on 29/04/17 to all those who had attended. No errors or omissions had been raised and so all accepted that JE should also sign these as an accurate record.

### **4. Election of PCC Members & Deanery Synod member**

Claire Reynolds is already on Deanery Synod and Ian Powell had been nominated by JPG and seconded by Tony Swain to serve as a second member. All were in favour.

There were four candidates for the four available positions on the PCC: Claire Clode (nominated by Al Reynolds; seconded by Ceri Brooks), Viki Fry (nominated by Petra Abbott; seconded by Nathan Johnson), Chris Harris (nominated by John Arkell; seconded by Paul Johnson) and Karen Silcox (nominated by Ian Powell; seconded by Chris Harris).

All voted in favour and straws were drawn to determine that Viki would serve for two years and the remaining candidates for three years.

Laura Newall and Mark Oliver had been co-opted last year (due to not being on the electoral roll long enough at the time of the APCM) and so their positions on the PCC were formally approved (unanimously) by the meeting.

JE thanked all who have served and will serve on our PCC.

### **5. Electoral Roll report - Tony Swain**

Tony described the purpose of our church electoral roll, and said that the number on the roll has increased from 103 last year to 118 this year - the largest growth for many years. This has mainly been

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due to people joining from other churches and will help to support the new Seabrook congregation and sustain the Clyst Heath congregation. The number attending each week is usually much greater and Tony stressed that all are equally welcome and valued. Of those on the electoral roll, 37% are now from the parish (5 years ago it was 31%; 10 years ago it was 16%). Tony illustrated this with a pizza 'pie chart' and also showed that 42% are from other parts of Exeter with the rest from outside the city. He said that though it is not all about numbers it would be wonderful if we continued to grow due to many local people coming to faith.

### **6. Deanery Synod report - Claire Reynolds**

Within the Diocese of Exeter we are part of the City of Exeter Deanery (known as 'Christianity Deanery') which is made up of both clergy and lay representatives and meets 2-3 times each year. The first meeting this year was a 'business' meeting which included worship and communion. Then, in October, Simon Austen led a session on discipleship and evangelism, and in February the Synod looked at the importance of prayer walks around the city and the witness they could be to the 113,000 people in our Deanery who do not know Christ. Claire said that the Synod was a great opportunity to be united under the Gospel with people from many different churches.

### **7. Let's consider three ways in which God has blessed us**

#### *a. Finance report - Karen Silcox*

Karen introduced her report in verse. She said that the purpose of the Independent Examiner's report is to give confidence in our accounts and proposed that we re-appoint Martin Cronin as our Independent Examiner (this was seconded by Rosemary Harley).

Voluntary giving made up 96% of our income last year (there was no income from fundraising, legacies, property etc). Expenditure of around £122k was made up of venue hire (17%), mission support (21% - more than the target of 15% due to top-ups provided to mission partners following a fall in the buying power of the pound after Brexit), Common Fund (40% - paid to the Diocese and used to pay clergy etc; works out as around £383 per head) and everything else (22% - not expensive in monetary terms but backed up by huge amount of time).

Karen noted that we have had budget surpluses for most of our history, including last year. There is around £130k in reserves currently, some of which is restricted, but mainly unrestricted (there are also funds designated by the PCC for particular purposes, e.g. children and youth-work staffing). As we only need £50k for contingency reserves, the rest could / should be spent. In future we will be looking for increased giving to support the Mission Action Plan, secretarial support, a new associate minister etc. Karen said there are lots of known unknowns. However we know where we are going in 'big picture' terms even if we don't know the details. We are well prepared financially and so need to step forward in faith even if we don't like the uncertainty.

#### *b. Safeguarding report - Mark Oliver*

Mark said he was slightly surprised to be asked to report at the APCM, but said it made sense because safeguarding is top of our 'register of risks' for the church. It is important that we get this right, and it is everyone's responsibility to be actively vigilant. Ruth Maxwell is deputy safeguarding officer, Claire Adiguzel does much of the administration, and Paul Johnson has agreed to be the representative at Seabrook Orchards. Activities over the last year included bringing DBS checks up-to-date (102 people!), a new abridged version of the safeguarding policy to help leaders, reinstatement of role descriptions from the Diocese, provision of safeguarding packs for all children's groups, briefings to group leaders, promotion on the website, and preparation of a register of training needs. Future plans include training for homegroup leaders (focussing on vulnerable adults), improving storage of records, visiting children's groups, and updating our policy in response to new Diocesan guidance. Mark

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encouraged all who have been asked to do the C0 & C1 on-line training to do so as soon as possible, and reminded those present of the C2 training on 17 May.

JPG thanked Mark for his expertise and hard work.

### *c. Minister's report (part 1)*

JE started by asking for feedback on earlier discussions in small groups about the ways God has blessed us over the last year.

Items mentioned included holiday club, Hannah Hocking's appointment, Trinity School, loving relationships, Laura Newall, Christians in Newcourt, K@TCH (lots of un-churched year 6s), generosity, mentoring of young people in the worship band, teaching, Unplugged (particularly Robbie, Rhiannon, Josiah & Chloe taking on leadership), Phill, seeing the younger generation serving, toddler groups, and our mission partners.

JE then began his report by showing some photos of Trinity School - a great answer to prayer. Phill and he are going into the school every week, and that morning he had been praying with Owen Wilder for each child (and the non-Christian teachers) to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, and know that they are loved by Jesus. Three new very high calibre staff have been appointed; he encouraged us to pray that the staff team would gel well together.

Another huge answer to prayer was the appointment of Hannah Hocking as youth-worker after almost four years of praying and seeking the right way forward. He stressed that it is not just about Hannah and we praise God for all the Sunday group workers, with Claire Adiguzel in her support role.

Holiday Club last year had over 120 children attending - we are praying for even more this summer. It is a great blessing to have continued use of Clyst Heath School & Newcourt Community Centre. JE also mentioned the blessing of having Phill, the wardens and PCC, and recorded special thanks to Jane Swain for her 9 years as ministry assistant.

We have also been enormously blessed through the Bible teaching including morning sermon series on Ephesians, 'Why I believe' and 'Why people struggle to believe', Job, Christmas, Song of Songs and the cross, and evening series from 1 Timothy, Romans, John, Colossians, Esther, and 2 Timothy. JE then previewed some of the upcoming sermon series including some 'unpopular' parts of Old Testament (Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) on Sunday evenings.

### **8. Now, three things to get excited about - and one challenge**

#### *a. Home Mission report - Mark Oliver*

The group exists to help us as a church in our home mission (not to 'do' all the mission). Mark thanked the group members and asked for the support of the congregation in prayer. In the last year they have held regular meetings as well as a discussion evening for the whole church in September. He presented some of the ideas coming out of this which included Messy Church, communication, home-to-home visiting and prayer, more adult outreach, serving young people in the community, expansion of toddler groups, Christians Against Poverty (we are now seeking to signpost to the existing CAP in Exeter), identifying community needs (Phill Brokenshire is taking this forward), inspiring evangelism, prayer, time for friends, and hospitality within the church family and beyond. Mark asked for any who feel a calling to be involved to put themselves forward.

#### *b. Children's & Youth report - Nathan Johnson*

Nathan started by paying tribute to the other members of the sub-group (Petra Abbott, Claire Adiguzel and Hannah Hocking). He highlighted some significant numbers related to our children and young people. These included the following: 124 children on our registers (bigger than most churches in

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Exeter and more than on our Electoral Roll), 22 young people at the most recent Unplugged (with older teens involved in leading), 60 volunteers who help on a Sunday morning, 125 children at the last holiday club, and 6 different camps which children and leaders from Trinity are involved in.

Hannah Hocking was then introduced and interviewed by Nathan. She said her main aim is to provide a framework where every child connected to Trinity can become a whole-hearted, life-long disciple. *Why?* Not through flashy events but instead things which stand the test of time and stop the trend of 20s and 30s leaving the church. *What?* Continuing the fantastic work already happening. Developing what we offer for older teenagers (groups, 1-2-1-s etc), working with local schools (e.g. helping with DofE?). *Who?* Not Hannah on her own, but all in this together as a family. Children remember and are impacted by relationships. *When?* Will take time!

Nathan concluded by encouraging us from Psalm 78:4 - 'we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD'.

### *c. Minister's report (part 2)*

There are many things to be excited about and thank God for. Those present mentioned Seabrook Orchards, new gospel opportunities in both Clyst Heath and Newcourt, opportunities to get to know and love our church family, deeper relationships with friends, family and colleagues, David and Rosemary taking on home-groups including elements of leadership training (JE thanked Mike and Bidy for their leadership over the last 7 years), growth in young adults, spending some of the reserves, and worshipping together.

JE also talked about the opportunities of all the new housing, about some of our mission partners (the Griffiths and Stanfords) returning later in the year, and a new Bishop of Crediton (he encouraged us to pray for a leader in mission to be appointed). There will also be many challenges to make sure we remain rooted in Him, in how we reach out to our share of the 113,000 unchurched in Exeter and connect with people & young adults, and in sustaining and supporting the leadership of Jonny and Phill.

### **9. Any Other Business**

Nothing raised.

### **10. Question and Comments**

Due to the time, there was no opportunity for further questions.

### **11. Closing Prayer - Jonny Elvin**

JE committed all that had been discussed to God in prayer.