

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Uplyme

2020 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 21 September 2020 at 7.30pm on Zoom

The meeting was opened in prayer by the chair Rev. Nicky Davies.

Apologies for absence: Bruce Roberts, Eunice Roberts, Neil Pullinger, Heather Pullinger, Shirley Hobden, Peter Dawson.

Present: 30 Rev Nicky Davies, Rev. Clive Sedgewick, Marilyn Kent, Roger Grose, Jo Clarke, Simon Chaffin-Johnson, Kay Chaffin-Johnson, Jenny Perham, Robin Hodges, Sheila Stratton, Rob Smith, Jo Smith, Philip Tolhurst, Martin Wells, Sue Wells, Jo Cursley, Anne Hardman, David Hardman, Geoff Linsley, Mike Maccoy, Jan Maccoy, David Dare, Rosemary Dare, Brian Stansfield, Brenda Stansfield, Matt Roe, Rev. David Lawrence, Heather Lawrence, Jeanne Allen, David Jones

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Election of Churchwarden. There was one nomination. Jenny Perham had been proposed by Martin Wells and seconded by David Jones. She was duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 April 2019 – proposal of acceptance of the minutes made by Jenny Perham, seconded by Jo Clarke. Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising – none

The Elections and Appointments

1. Honiton Deanery Synod – Robin Hodges and Matt Roe were applying for re-election and had been proposed by David Jones and seconded by Jo Clarke. They were duly elected.

2. Election of Parochial Representatives to PCC: Geoff Linsley was retiring and seeking re-election. He had been proposed by Jo Clarke and seconded by David Jones. He was duly elected.

3. Appoint Electoral Roll Officer – Mike Maccoy is happy to continue as was appointed.

4. Appoint independent examiner for accounts. Martin Whitehead is willing to continue and was appointed..

THE REPORTS

1. The Churchwardens' Reports

Martin Wells and Jo Clarke gave verbal reports – copies of which were subsequently circulated to members on the church electoral roll.

Rev. Nicky Davies thanked the retiring churchwardens for their reports and acknowledged that there had been difficulties in the past. She was determined that they would not re-emerge and become a problem. Nicky confirmed that she was open to a form of forgiveness and reconciliation should that be considered desirable.

Jo Cursley stated that the churchwardens had provided massive support during the interregnum and that she always felt that the church was in good hands.

Brenda Soldan thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

Simon related an experience of one of our youngsters in Exeter Cathedral when after she said she came from Uplyme church – the response was “Uplyme where there are all those lovely Christians”.

2. The Revised Electoral Roll – the numbers on the roll remained constant at 108 (see written report)

3. PCC Annual Report – copies of the report as agreed by the PCC had been circulated to the members of the revised electoral roll prior to the meeting (see written report).

4. Financial Report – Philip Tolhurst spoke to the written report which had been approved by the PCC and had been circulated to members of the revised electoral roll and displayed in the church porch prior to the meeting (see written report). He praised Marin Whitehead, our independent examiner who was very supportive of Uplyme Church. There had been a deficit on General Funds for the year of £3k which had been offset by three new legacies into the Legacy Fund even after paying for Simon Smith our youth worker from this fund. The deficit was caused by a drop in income with several monthly standing orders of regular giving being ended. Our balance sheet assets had increase to £160K which sounds healthy, but there are five particular funds which Philip wanted to bring to our attention. The Youth Ministry Fund which deals with youth work other than Simon’s salary has increased to £11600, The Disabled Toilet Fund has remained unchanged at £11k the Fabric Fund has increased to £18k the General Fund at £28k which aims to have a balance of four months regular expenditure and the Legacy Fund with a balance of £89k from which we are paying for Simon, our youth worker until his contract expires in June 2021. and reducing the General Funds deficit. In November the PCC set a deficit budget of £8k to reflect an increase in Common Fund contribution and the full impact of the decrease in standing orders. This has been further affected by the loss of cash collections during Covid-19 and although some new standing orders have been made by some former weekly cash contributors, another two regular contributors have stopped. This is likely to lead to a deficit on General Funds for this year of £10k which will be covered from the Legacy Fund. This is not sustainable in the long term and there are three projects for the church building which are looming. These are the Disabled Toilet, a new boiler and roof repairs which together could amount to between £120k and £160k. This has led to Philip feeling uncomfortable as Treasurer combined with the adjustment to being part of the Axe Valley Mission Community. He thanked everyone who had helped him along the way, especially Martin and Jo who had worked their socks off and was hopeful of finding a willing and capable successor to take over from him at the end of the year. Philip ended with a verse from 2 Corinthians Chapter 8 which had been Philip’s guidance whilst treasurer “ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich”

Jenny Perham thanked Philip for explaining everything so clearly. Martin Wells said that Philip was unique – everything was well thought out and he was well respected throughout the church. Rev. Nicky Davies highlighted the need to prioritise the Legacy Funds for the church building.

5. Fabric Report

Geoff Linsley spoke to his meticulous report which had been circulated to the members of the revised electoral roll in advance of the meeting. Geoff looked to the future and said we will continue to patch the roof as long as possible and that he is seeking a good solution for when we have to replace the boiler. The Disabled Toilet project had been on hold whilst we dealt with the fallout from the re-ordering, but he has now been given the go-ahead from the PCC to start a dialogue with the architect. He reported on a recent monumental leak in the church roof which had

been successfully remedied. In answer to a question from David Jones Geoff confirmed that the remedial work to some stonework in the Nave had been postponed for the time being owing to sickness. He confirmed that the school music teachers could use the church for the time being and that he expected to get a week's notice of the new start date for the work. Brenda Soldan commented that old boilers can go on for a long period and Geoff agreed but pointed out that the heat exchanger was now porous. This was OK until it springs a leak and we would then be in a mad panic to find a replacement boiler. He is looking to move this matter forward and is examining different options. Ideally the new boiler would be housed in the newly refurbished Church Shed. With regard to the proposed Disabled Toilet Geoff stressed that fund-raising events would be necessary to raise the finance. At this point Martin Wells was invited to tell us about the Victorian font which has been restored by the owners of Park Hall Farm and has been erected by the west door of the church. Martin confirmed that a re-dedication of the font as the Parke Memorial will take place this coming Sunday. Jeanne Allen thanked Martin for all his hard work on this matter and stated that she would have no more sleepless nights about the font.

6. Deanery Synod Report

Robin Hodges had provided a written report which had been circulated. He stated that a lot of the Deanery's work had been to produce the Deanery plan and he had recommended to joining with the Axe Valley Mission Community as the only viable option. There are no funds available and we must work together. He believes that the AVMC will be a great success and a model that can be reflected around the deanery.

7. Team Rector

Rev. Clive Sedgewick reflected that following the loss of a valued colleague in Kate Woolven early in the year of 2019 the first conversations began to take place about Uplyme and Axmouth joining the AVMC. There were questions about the other churches but it was stressed that AVMC was just a group of Christians who wanted to work together and each church would maintain its own character. Uplyme finally became a member on 1st July 2020 and we are learning to be a team through communication. It is important that we are honest in all our dealings and that prayer is the basis of our community (Philippians 4 v. 6-9). We all make mistakes but all will be well if we are Christ's people seeking to work together. He advised Martin and Jo that there was no escape – tasks would be found for their special skills. He also looked forward to the skills that Jenny would bring.

Team Vicar

Rev. Nicky Davies said she had been with us for some six weeks and was very happy to be here. She could see that Uplyme was a cared- for place and the reports of the various groups had made inspiring reading. She is very hopeful for the future, to think creatively to love God, our neighbours as ourselves and to seek to share this with all in our community.

AOB

It was reported that the next PCC meeting would take place at 7pm on Monday 19 October and if on Zoom the meeting ID would be the same as tonight. Roger Grose thanked Clive and Nicky for their support and felt that the Mission Community had tremendous resources and would prove to be a true Christian community. Rev. Nicky Davies thanked Roger Grose for all his work

Rev. Clive Sedgewick closed the meeting in prayer at 8.55pm