

Minutes of the Annual Parish Church meeting on 21st April
2013 at 7.30pm, in Holy Trinity Church

7.30pm Vestry Meeting

Item		Action by	Due
1	<p>Opening Worship and time of Prayer Phil Cansdale (PC) opened the meeting with a time of prayer, and chaired the meeting. He reminded those present of the importance of conducting the evening's business with grace and in the gaze of God.</p>		
2	<p>Apologies for Absence were received from 13 people.</p>		
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2012 were circulated, agreed and signed as accurate (proposed: Francis Best seconded: Megan Arnold, passed with all in favour).</p>		
4	<p>Election of Parish Wardens PC highlighted the importance of the work of Parish Wardens. He thanked Andy Digby and Dave Gregory as Parish Wardens and Chas Holden and Richard Boak as District Wardens and for their many contributions to the life of the church over the last year. PC thanked Dave Gregory for his seven years work as Parish Warden. And presented Dave with a gift on behalf of the PCC. Everyone expressed their thanks. Peter Hubbard prayed for Dave and his family.</p> <p>Two nominations were received prior to the meeting for the position of Parish Warden and as there were no other nominations Andy Digby and Chas Holden were duly elected for a period of one year. PC prayed for Chas and Andy.</p> <p>Andy Digby was nominated by Jill Withington and seconded by Gloria Davidson. Chas Holden was nominated by Brian Bates and seconded by Debbie Hubbard.</p>		

7.45pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1	<p>Apologies for absence were noted. There were 75 people present, and apologies were received from 13 people.</p>		
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd April 2012 Were circulated and agreed as accurate (proposed: AD, seconded: RB, passed with all in favour).</p>		
3	<p>Matters arising There were no matters arising.</p>		
4	<p>Brief reflections on the life of our churches PC commended the APCM report for obtaining a full perspective of life in Trinity Churches and as reminder of how important it is to be thankful for all the great people who are involved in growing the life of the Church and building the life of the Kingdom here in Shrewsbury and beyond. Its been great to welcome the Hubbard and Bruce families during the last year and we are looking forward to welcoming Gordon Lamb in July. Very thankful to the congregational leadership teams and the management committees for TMAC,TCMC and Cafe Connect. PC thanked those who look after the building of Holy Trinity and he thanked the staff team who support the ministry of all of us.</p> <p>(a) Holy Trinity Dave Bruce (DB) focussed on Holy Trinity. He thanked those present for the welcome both the Bruces and Hubbards received in summer of 2012. A few of DB's highlights include the encouragement of the evening service at Holy Trinity. Numbers have increased but more significantly, people have been able to go deeper with God and step out in faith. The series on 1 Corinthians has encouraged greater openness to the Spirit and participation by all members. The challenge now for the 6.30pm congregation is to continue to look outwards. The next sermon series will be based on Grace and will use material from Freedom in Christ. Using the St. Chad's Rhythms of Grace across the parish has given a common framework for discipleship and there have been good testimonies from small groups using the material. Currently 20 small groups running across the parish and part of DB's role in the coming year is to look at how to develop this further and to increase the variety of groups. DB concluded with the reminder that if we commit to seek God and to learn to follow God's leading we can be led out in mission and if we are faithful to God He will provide for all our needs including financially.</p> <p>(b) Christ the King Peter Hubbard (PH) and Judith Clarkson (JC) spoke about a couple of particular days during the last year at Christ the King. PH spoke on the free family fun day hosted by CTK in Radbrook Community Centre on 15th September 2012. A whole range of activities was planned and it was the first time this kind</p>		

	<p>of event had been attempted. The aim was to bless the community with a grace-filled event which would allow people to ask questions. The event itself was overwhelming with lots of fun, all ages represented and people commenting on how welcomed they felt. People stayed for the whole time and there was a real sense of CTK taking its place at the heart of the community. As a result of the day other relationships have been built across Radbrook. JC spoke on Peace At Christmas, held in December where parents had the opportunity to leave their children for a morning to participate in a nativity production which the parents then returned to watch at the end of the morning. The toddler group First Steps continues to thrive and families are assured of a warm welcome and good conversations happen and it is a great way to serve in the community. As relationships are grown it can help CTK with seeking the way forward for the community of Radbrook.</p> <p>(c) Church in the Meet Place</p> <p>Simon Mason (SM) spoke on the work of the Meet Place and one particular event called Taste and See, which is a relatively new monthly service on the Meole Estate. This was a result of many years sowing seeds. The aim was that it would be an act of worship on the estate, for the people of the estate and that it will be led by those who live on the Estate. The service has been running for several months now and people are beginning to own the worship and pray for each other. The May service will be led entirely by the 3Gs home group, who are one of two groups that meet on the Estate. The second hope is that it will be place where people truly encounter God. SM shared a story of someone who had met with God and was finding their life is changing as result of attending the service. SM concluded by thanking Dave Bruce for his encouragement and support to get the service going.</p>		
5	<p>A report from the Electoral Roll Officer</p> <p>Andy Digby (AD) reported that 2013 saw the start of a new roll for Trinity Churches. The total number on the new roll is 344 (CTK: 45, HTMB: 299). The numbers on the roll have increased when compared to the figure at the start of 2008 when 302 were on the roll (CTK 57, HT 245).</p>		
6	<p>Annual Report including:</p> <p>(a) Churchwardens report</p> <p>(b) PCC Report from the Lay Chairman</p> <p>(c) DCC Reports from the Lay Chairs Holy Trinity and Christ the King</p> <p>(d) Deanery Synod Report</p> <p>(e) Report on the activities of Trinity Churches</p> <p>PC introduced and presented the Annual Report that had been circulated to members. The floor was opened for questions. PC asked people to share with their neighbour one encouragement or one question.</p>		

	<p>Encouragements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint services where people have the chance to get to know others from different congregations. • The report itself which gave a sense of the big picture of life in Trinity Churches as does the monthly Reflect magazine. • The visual displays in the Trinity Centre and the development of the Garden Room as a prayer space. • The church weekend away at Cefn Lea provided a great opportunity to deepen relationships across the congregations. • Votes of thanks were given to the Flower Guild, the office team and the pastoral teams who all work hard on behalf of Trinity Churches. • The diocesan conference in November which saw churches from across the diocese come together and will be repeated in November 2013 with George Carey as speaker. There will also be a Women's Conference in July 2013 with Sarah Richards as speaker. <p>PC asked meeting to receive annual report and particularly the legal aspects:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Church warden report PCC report Deanery Synod report.</p> <p>All of the above reports were formally received by the meeting.</p>		
7	<p>Emerging Vision</p> <p>PC spent some time feeding back on the process for discerning vision and the way forward. Much of the vision developed in 2008 has now happened – e.g. Trinity Centre, worship on Meole Estate, and development of small groups. He is very grateful for all that work and the last three months have spent time looking at what the future vision is for the next three to five years.</p> <p>A paper was circulated which looked at Aiming Higher, Going Deeper, Growing Younger and Reaching Further all illustrated with a picture of a tree. The four dynamics of tree life tie in with the four areas of emerging vision. Going Deeper is represented by the root systems, each one searching for life, good roots can withstand a period of drought or a bitter winter and take a life time to grow. The tree has to go down before it goes out. Reaching wider is symbolised by the tree branching out over a wide distance, bringing shade to things, bringing life in its branches. Growing Younger is represented by the sap rising in a new tree. New buds of life alongside older established life. Aiming Higher can be seen by the tree stretching up to the light and sun where there is life. The language of trees invites the language of pruning as well which will be one of the more challenging aspects of this process. We need to decide what we can do and what we can't do. A process of discerning vision is not about discerning a five year to do list. There will be a need to refine and clarify ministry. On 16th March, the PCC and leadership teams spent time reflecting on vision and</p>		

	<p>the following various themes and priorities are emerging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going Deeper – out of a place of depth bring life to others. Using Rhythms of Grace to develop spirituality. How might we belong more fully? Have a large fringe on edge of church and need to see them move towards core. • Reaching Further – setting a table/ seeking new opportunities, for example through serving bacon butties at the Meet Place for those on school run or releasing people on the frontlines of their workplace. How do we resource you? Building a caring community that draws people to faith – various community teas/ coffee mornings. • Growing Younger – one longing is that if we meet in five years time we will be younger. On all aspects – music, leadership teams, PCC. We need to be an inter-generational church. The current work in schools is an amazing resource and it's a privilege to be able to pray each month at our local Church of England primary school. • Aiming Higher – blessed to be a blessing. Resource and bless other churches. How do we enable ministry to keep on discerning God's best? We need to be alert to God's guiding and keeping central to God's guidance. <p>This is not a finished process and listed above are just some of the themes that are beginning to emerge. There is a sense of joining in with what God is doing.</p> <p>In the light of these emerging themes PC asked three questions of those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there something here that excites you? • Do you have discernment and wisdom about where best to start? • Is this a God sized vision and how do we discern this? <p>People were asked to respond in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To spend time at Pentecost (18th and 19th May) praying for discernment and wisdom. • Will you stand with us in seeking God's best for where to begin with the vision? People were encouraged to give feedback to PCC members, congregational leadership teams and the staff team. • Will you join with us in working across the parish to see God's kingdom come? How might you respond to God's call in this vision? <p>Questions were taken and fielded by PC.</p>		
8	<p>Finances</p> <p>Jill Withington (JW) Honorary Treasurer was introduced and took the floor. She thanked the various members of Trinity Churches who support her work as treasurer including Gloria Davidson, Sylvia Leake, Brian Bates and Janet and David Perkin and their team of counters who count all the money on a weekly basis.</p>		

	<p>JW introduced one additional item of business before beginning the main finances. It had been hoped that Laura Bright would be able to be independent examiner for the 2012 accounts. However, this was not possible so JW proposed that the APCM retrospectively approve Jonathan Hill from the Diocese of Lichfield to be the Independent Examiner for the 2012 accounts. BB seconded, passed with all in favour.</p> <p>(a) Annual Accounts for 2012, for approval These were circulated and presented by JW. In 2012 a deficit of £20K was incurred which was about £14K higher than in 2011, this was due to the fact that the Trinity Centre surplus and grant income were lower than anticipated. Although disappointing to incur a deficit there are encouragements – expenditure and giving have both remained static. However, the accounts show a surplus of £42K which is due to a one- off gift of £50k plus gift aid. This is a restricted gift for new staff posts. It will go towards the role of the Pioneer Minister and the eventual appointment of a youth worker. At the year end, Trinity Churches has assets of nearly £300K but some of this is restricted. Currently, there is £100K in unrestricted reserves. PC thanked JW for all her work and very clear analysis. The accounts have been scrutinised by PCC and Standing and Finance and independently examined. There were no questions on the 2012 accounts. The accounts were formally approved (proposed: JW, seconded: SL, passed with all in favour).</p> <p>(b) Budget for 2013, for information The budget was presented by JW and circulated for information. A detailed budget has been received and approved by the PCC which currently includes a budget deficit of £24k. There are sufficient reserves to cover the deficit but it is hoped to bring this down and finances will be found to cover vision. If members giving were to go up by 11% then budget would break even. Questions were taken and fielded by PC.</p> <p>(c) Appointment of Independent Examiner, for approval JW proposed that the Independent examiner for 2013 is Jonathan Hill from the Lichfield Diocese. The proposal was agreed (proposed:JW, seconded: BB, passed with all in favour). PC thanked JW for all her work.</p>		
9	<p>Election of District Churchwardens for Holy Trinity and Christ the King (one each to serve for one year) Richard Boak was elected warden for HT (proposed: Deborah Williams , seconded: Maggie Pierce), and Judith Drury was elected warden for CTK (proposed: Mike Arthur, seconded: Debbie Hubbard). Both to serve for one year.</p>		

	PC welcomed them both.		
10	<p>Election of DCC members (to also serve on the PCC): 3 (Holy Trinity) Michala Hoyland, Sylvia Leake, Jill Withington and Brian Bates have all come to end of term on PCC. Jane Strouts has resigned due to the birth of her baby. All were thanked for their work on PCC.</p> <p>Jill Withington and Brian Bates have not stood for re-election as have both completed 6 years on the PCC. PC will ask PCC in June to co-opt them both as treasurers.</p> <p>Nominations for Holy Trinity DCC members also to serve on PCC were received from Sylvia Leake, Kerry- Ann Booles and Steve Alston and as no other names were received Sylvia, Kerry-Ann and Steve were duly elected to serve on Holy Trinity DCC for 3 years.</p> <p>Kerry Ann Booles was nominated by Corinne Ashton and seconded by Jessica McCombie. Stephen Alston was nominated by Derek Willis and seconded by Francis Best. Sylvia Leake was nominated by Gary Fulcher and seconded by Joan Nottle.</p> <p>This leaves vacant one place on each DCC.</p>		
11	<p>Election of 1 Deanery Synod Representative to serve for one year Will Morris has resigned as Deanery Synod representative due to work commitments. One nomination was received prior to the meeting and Steve Jones (9am) was duly elected to serve on Deanery Synod.</p> <p>Nominated by Pauline Jones, seconded by Kevin Lawrence.</p>		
12	<p>Proposal to reduce the size of future PCCs PC introduced a proposal for the reduction of the PCC membership. PC has spoken to the Churchwardens, Standing and Finance and the Archdeacon of Salop about this and has also explored with other larger churches what they have done to manage the size of their PCCs. If everyone attended PCC there would be 32 present which is a very large group. PC gave a breakdown of membership.</p> <p>PC is committed to strong accountability across the parish and to having the right mix of clergy and lay membership. Any changes to a PCC take 12 months. The Church wardens have agreed this and have worked with PC to develop the following proposal:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTK representation is reduced from 3 people to 2 people • HT representation is reduced from 6 people to 5 people • The ex-officio authorised readers are limited to 3 places. The others may of course, stand for election and may be invited to attend as observers, if appropriate. The reader membership could rotate each year. • An informal arrangement to be made with the deanery synod reps who may chose not to attend every PCC meeting. This would allow their gifts to be exercised outside the parish and represent the life of the parish in the deanery • Hold the right to co-opt to 3 members if necessary. <p>This proposal will bring numbers down to 28 and sometimes 24 if not all the deanery synod representatives are present. The proposal would take effect at the APCM in April 2014. The Archdeacon has given his consent and the wardens are in agreement with tonight's proposal.</p> <p>AD proposed that the meeting accepts the recommendations to reduce the size of the PCC, CH seconded, passed with all in favour. Questions were taken and fielded by PC.</p>		
13	<p>Any other business There was no AOB.</p>		
14	<p>Closing Prayer The meeting closed with the sharing of the grace at 9.25pm.</p>		

Signed as an accurate record

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Chair

Date