

St Chad's Church, Ladybarn.
Minutes of the Vestry and Annual General Meeting
Sunday 17th March 2013.

The Vestry Meeting.

The Rev'd Elizabeth Davies opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Opal Walsh proposed that the minutes of the 2012 Vestry Meeting be accepted. Muriel Hargreaves seconded and the motion was carried.

Churchwardens: Diane Wynn and Judith Fletcher agreed to continue as Church Wardens. This concluded the meeting.

The 90th Annual General Meeting,

The Rev'd Elizabeth Davies chaired the meeting.

Attendance: 25.

Apologies: Sheila Newbury, Jenny Black, Edna Burgess, Christine Hindley, Bobbie Garrad, Beryl Bray, Kathleen Mulligan, Julie Young and Irene Wardley.

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 4th March 2012. John Milner proposed and Leslie Fletcher seconded that these should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. The motion was carried.

Matters Arising: It was clarified that the cost of the annual tuning of the organ should be met out of the organ budget.

PCC Membership: Those standing down this year were: Eric Leary, Opal Walsh, Peter Knight and Colin Young. The following were elected as new PCC members: Leslie Bell, Jean Nixon and Leslie Fletcher.

Sidespersons: The following were elected: Sheila Newbery, Jean Nixon, Kathleen Mulligan, Fay McCrone, Pam Race, Muriel Hargreaves and Jean Matthews.

Report and Financial Statement: Copies of the PCC Annual Report had been made available prior to the meeting.

Financial Report: The accounts had been examined by an appropriate independent examiner and had been confirmed by him as a true and fair view of the financial position of the church.

The question was raised whether the amount of money stated to be in the bank at the end of December 2012 was subject to liabilities. The treasurer led the meeting step by step to show how the figure had been arrived at. This was accepted.

Wardens' Report: The Wardens had created a folder of information about St Chad's various groups and activities. The terms of reference and contact details were included. Any further suggestions for this booklet would be welcome. One copy is to be kept in Church and one in the Community Hall. Colin Young proposed and Helen Reid seconded that the booklet be accepted. The meeting was in favour.

The Rector's Report: The Rector thanked Diane Wynne and Judith Fletcher, the churchwardens and Muriel Hargreaves the treasurer for all their hard work and support; also John Milner, the Reader, Helen Reid the 'nearly Reader' and Opal Walsh as Accredited Lay Minister. The Rev'd Colin Powell and Canon Albert Radcliffe were also thanked for their contribution to the life and ministry of St Chad's. Thanks were then expressed for all who help maintain St Chad's as a place of worship and a Christian presence in the community.

The Rector then drew attention to the financial situation at St Chad's which had no reserve funds to meet unexpected bills and the failure to pay the parish share in full last year. Although significant grant funding was received in 2012 raising more money has now become a greater priority. The

Stewardship Campaign which begins in June is also a way of defining who we are and what we are here for; how we can make strangers welcome, making St Chad's a place for all and an integral part of the local community.

Church Finance and Fund Raising:

The meeting divided into groups, each with a recorder, to discuss how to improve the church's financial situation.

The following suggestions were made:

- [1] More parish events such as a St Chad's Day Party and a Harvest Supper.
 - [2] The Art Explosion to be combined with a Pop-Up Shop in the Community Hall.
 - [3] Consideration to be given to promoting the use of the church building on week-days and developing its use to meet the needs of the area.
 - [4] Perhaps moving services to different times.
 - [5] A Coffee Morning could perhaps be held on some weekday mornings.
 - [6] Lectures could be offered on a variety of subjects.
 - [7] Consideration to be given too, to make church spaces more attractive, for example the present church hedge is too high for the church to look welcoming.
 - [8] An Easter Supper.
- The Chair thanked the groups.

[The wardens then collected the lists of suggestions made some of which had not been read out and these can be found in the minutes of the following PCC Meeting.]

Stewardship Campaign:

Information is being made available through the magazine and Sunday notice sheets. Specimens of St Chad's Brochure, Financial and Time and Talents Form are to be made available.

Question and Answer Session:

Q: Is there a suggestion that members give a proportion of their income regularly?

A: This is known as tithing for which General Synod has provided guidelines.

Q: Do all parishioners understand the function of the Jigsaw?

A: The Jigsaw is a way of involving everyone and giving a snapshot of parish life. Everyone wanting to take part in the campaign receives a number which is then exchanged for a piece of a jigsaw which builds up to give a picture of life at St Chad's. These numbers will be included in the packs together with the brochure, financial form and covering letter. These packs will be delivered personally.

The meeting was then asked if anyone would be prepared to help the Stewardship Committee. There were a good number of volunteers. Training would be provided for those delivering the packs.

The Campaign would last four weeks starting on Sunday 9th June and closing with a Final Service on Sunday 14th July. It was suggested that the committee consider the production of a poster. There would also be an evening organised for collating the contents of the information packs.

AOB.

Jean Matthew gave advanced notice that the Ladies Group were holding a second fashion show by FIZZ on Wednesday 22nd May. Further information would follow.

Past years events and successes: The Harvest Supper; The Open Weekend; Links with Southways; the Community Garden and its links with students; St Chad's Day Party; Fashion Show; Science Evenings; Kneelers; Carol Services.

Diane Wynne thanked the Rev'd Elizabeth Davies for her services during the year, and the meeting closed with prayer.

The Next PCC Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013.