

CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 23 April 2008 at 8.00 pm

In the Chair: Rev'd Richard Lane (Vicar)

Present: Mark Adams and Chris Aylen (Church Wardens); David Essex (Treasurer); Colin Holloway (PCC Secretary) and approximately 30 members of the congregation

1. The Meeting was preceded by a Eucharist for St George's Day.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Barrett, Jim Finch, Val Hancock, Farhad Hedayati and other members of the congregation.

3. Election of Church Wardens

Mark Adams and Chris Aylen were unanimously re-elected as Wardens.

4. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 April 2007 were approved. There were no matters arising.

5. Vicar's Report

Richard first thanked the Wardens for their dedicated service over the past year. He then referred to coming changes in the membership of the PCC. Monica Brown and Colin Holloway were stepping down from the Council as Deanery Representatives. Describing Monica as 'a pillar of this community for more years than most of us can remember', he recorded the gratitude of us all for the innumerable ways in which she had given herself to Christ Church. On behalf of the church he made a small presentation to be given to her, a token of our esteem, love and best wishes. He also thanked Colin for his contribution as PCC Secretary, for his care over the written record and his input into the discussions it described. He was also grateful for Colin's support, encouragement and guidance over his time at Christ Church, noting the benefit that the church gains from contrasting styles and personalities in the achievement of common purposes. Colin thanked Richard for his kind words and the gift from the congregation marking them.

After particular tributes to our 'office holders', Richard expressed his warm thanks to all who contributed to the life and work of the church in this parish. We had special cause to be grateful to the Hall Committee and to Lynda Coleman and Sue Rocksborough Smith for their valiant re-ordering of hall matters over the summer.

Turning to the highlights of the year, Richard mentioned the well-supported joint study course held with churches in the Wimbledon Team, the successful launch of Toddler Church, the encouraging turn-out for the dawn service on Easter morning and the Eco-Festival last June. KFH, our Sunday evening group for young people, was going well, as is the Traidcraft stall which was now sponsoring a child from Senegal. The response to the new pattern of collective giving to charity was heartening; sums were generous and information was much better. Our choir continued to be a strength of the church and concerts by the Jigsaw Players added to our musical riches. The Vicar was encouraged to be joined at daily Morning Prayer and had been almost bowled over by the support for the children's Service on Good Friday.

He was most appreciative of the enormous amount of work which David Essex, as Treasurer, had put into explaining the infra-structure of Christ Church finances and helping the PCC to focus on future expenditure and the income required to meet it. In January a timely reminder had encouraged members of the planned giving scheme to review their contributions. This had been productive and promised well for the future.

Some aspects of our church life were less rosy. The turn-out for mid-week courses in Advent and Lent had been sparse and the home eucharists had proved a failure. The November quiet morning had been poorly supported, as had carol-singing around the parish. Getting a full complement of participation outside Sunday morning was a challenge which needs close attention and new approaches. General invitations were easily submerged in the pressure of modern life and the hard work involved in arranging events was sometimes 'not worth the effort for the numbers they seem to appeal to'. More partnerships with our neighbours will be explored.

The Christian journey is often a rugged pathway, but we travel towards God, helping one another to build the Kingdom. 'We search for reconciliation, truth and love and it won't ever be easy or straightforward. But we go, knowing that we are loved and knowing that all will be well.'

6. Presentation of the Revised Electoral Roll

The revised roll at Christ Church in April 2008 showed 199 names. This showed an increase of 39 names upon the register for 2007. Of these 9 lived in the parish and 30 outside it, making overall totals of 78 in the parish and 121 outside. The proportion of those living outside the parish continues to increase. Sue Morrell was thanked for her work in compiling the revised roll.

7. Election of Officers

The following nominations had been duly proposed and seconded:

a. Deanery Synod Representatives

Joslyn Taylor and John Wilson were elected and Lynda Coleman and Jenny Tomlinson were re-elected for a term of three years as the four lay representatives of Christ Church on the Deanery Synod. They are *ex officio* members of the PCC for this period.

b. Parochial Church Council

Judy Luddington was elected and Martin Evans re-elected for a term of three years as members of the PCC. The other elected members of the PCC enter the second or third year of their period of office, as noted in the Annual Report.

c. Electoral Roll Officer

Sue Morrell was re-appointed as Electoral Roll Officer.

d. Stewards

Pat Spencer reported that Nick Robins would replace Melinda Hogvard in Team 2 next year. Other teams were unchanged. The Vicar thanked them all for what they did as both stewards and welcomers. The teams were re-appointed. Pat was thanked for her work and reappointed as Chief Steward.

8. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC

The Annual Report for 2007 had been previously circulated and David Essex, as Treasurer, spoke primarily to the Accounts and the main financial features of the year.

In contrast to 2006, when exceptionally there had been no expenditure on major repairs, we had spent £23,700 in 2007. The £6,000 cost of the new carpeting at the east end of the church had been met by a most generous donation, but £16,000 had been required for the new disabled toilet in the Hall (£9,500) and essential repairs to the flat roof above it (£6,500). To offset this there had been a £4,000 increase in the trading surplus of the Hall to £6,232. Expenditure on routine maintenance was down by £5,000 to £1,673. While these figures reflected that the church was in

good condition at present, the pattern over the years showed that the incidence of major repairs had the most significant impact on our 'operating' results.

Significant donations, including that for the carpet, were up £8,000 to £11,700 and investment income was up by £3,000. On the other hand our Diocesan contribution, used mainly for the costs of ministry, was up £5,000.

In 2007 our income from planned giving and collections was £92,755 compared to £90,276 in 2006, but this was below the figure of £93,000 raised in 2005 after the last major stewardship campaign. This was a matter of continuing concern, though the recent drive to review our regular giving, already reported, was encouraging.

The 2007 Accounts showed a small surplus of £1,700 on 'operations', although they also included an unrealised loss of £15,100 on the recent revaluation of our investment assets.

David concluded by saying that we were not generating the surpluses we need to allow us to put money aside for future major expenditure. Although our church buildings were in good order for the next 10 to 20 years, over the last nine years we have in total only generated surplus cash of £11,200. This was not nearly enough. The PCC was therefore currently looking at ways in which income can be increased.

In answer to a question about how these surpluses would be invested, the Treasurer referred to the statement of the Investment Policy of the PCC included in the Annual Report. The Vicar added that the three working groups mentioned in the Annual Review, which were considering future financial issues for Christ Church, would report at the Away Day arranged for 17 May.

David Essex was warmly thanked for his presentation and the commitment and industry which lay behind it. The report was received.

9. Election of Independent Examiner

Justine Belton was thanked for her work as Independent Examiner and re-appointed in that post.

10. Church Wardens' Report

The Wardens' report had been previously circulated. This included sections on the work on the east window, the belfry staircase, the pews in the south-east corner, the hearing loop and microphone system and the new health and safety policy. These matters are also referred to in the Annual Review. Generally the church is in good order.

11. Presentation of Other Reports

Reports were received from the Hall Management Committee, the Social and Fund-Raising Committee, the Standing Committee, Deanery Synod Representatives, Christians Together in West Wimbledon, the Director of Music, the Youth Group, Junior Church, the Prayer Group, the Bruno Bear Toddler and Carer Group, the Eco-Congregation at Christ Church, the Friday Study Group, the Monthly Book Club and Christian Aid. All these were welcomed and those responsible for these activities were thanked for their work.

From the floor there were special tributes to Ron Cayless and the Choir for all that they contributed through the music of the church to our worship and enrichment, to Cynthia Aird for her regular and

remunerative coffee mornings and to John Barrett for his excellent and informative Church Walks.

12. Any Other Business

1. Church Hall Changes. In answer to a question about the inclusion of the status of the church hall in the coming review of church finances, the Vicar said that a replacement of the hall was at present no more than one idea among others awaiting discussion in the context of the future of the hall and its contribution to parish life and church finances..

2. Faith in Action. Brenda Clark thanked the church for its contribution last Autumn to Faith in Action, the local churches' charity for the homeless. This was a continuing need. Richard pointed out that our new pattern of giving to charities allowed us to meet such needs better and more flexibly.

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.00 pm.