



Central Telford Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25th April, 2017, in St Leonard's Church, Malinslee.

Members Present Three Clergy: Tim Storey, John Jukes and Lee Plummer.
and 14 lay members.

Chair: Rev. Tim Storey.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (APM)

1. The Opening Prayers were led by Tim who first prayed for the success of Lisa's and Richard Long's operations earlier in the day. He continued with the observation that the churches had recently studied the Lord's Prayer and he read Philippians 4: 4-9. Prayer is most important in our lives and the Lord's Prayer encompasses the events in the whole day. It is a conversation with God drawing us closer to Him in a relationship. In the reading Paul prays with thanksgiving and praise. We need to apply his message about focussing on the positive and worthwhile aspects of our lives and not on the failures.

The Lord's Prayer was said together.

2. Apologies: Rev. Lisa, Rev. Janet, John Chetwood and Richard Long.

3. Minutes of APM on 26th April, 2016.

There were no amendments made. The minutes were agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

There had been no Away Day. The discussions had been held in a service in Holy Trinity Church instead.

5. No Other Business.

None had been notified.

6. Election of Parish Wardens:

Jean Heighway was nominated by Dave Broome and seconded by Margaret Cartwright; she was unanimously voted as Parish Warden.

Mike Clarke was nominated by Lyn Hurdley and seconded by Dave Broome; he was unanimously voted as Parish Warden.

The meeting finished at 7. 47 pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The Minutes were accepted and signed along with the APM minutes.

2. Matters Arising.

The parish involvement with CAP had been examined. The parish is a nominated church but it was not felt able to fulfil its obligations and offered to withdraw. Matt Lefroy had been keen to keep the

status quo and we still give financial support. There are now two Befrienders from Central Telford Parish and there have been no meetings scheduled recently.

3. A.O.B.

1. A new and more efficient DBS system is being started and the record has been up-dated. Some current certificates extend to 2021 but a significant number of people have not been recently trained. There have been changes, such as the recent PREVENT initiative which seeks to discern leanings towards or susceptibility for radicalisation, racism and other crimes.

Training sessions are to be organised both locally and by the diocese at no cost to participants to avoid the horrendous results of procedures not being followed effectively. The dates and locations for these are determined centrally.

2. Problems have occurred in church graveyards as a result of unauthorised repairs to graves. A "B&Q" headstone at St John's Church was mentioned and at Holy Trinity Church the boundary of a grave had been extended with plastic edging without permission.

The Archdeacon was consulted but the situation is difficult. It is not in the interests of the church to incite negative publicity by summarily removing the offending articles. He favours a carefully-worded notice stating that all are welcome to enjoy the church grounds but that permission is required for any alterations. These should be professionally produced and include the right to remove anything that does not accord with church policy. The PCC is to work on the wording of the policy and to post it on the PCC web site with a link to the active graveyards.

The view was expressed that the Archdeacon had not shown due fairness to those who do the right thing but the issue was described as a "nightmare" to enforce after the fact. The funeral directors make the position clear for new graves; the repairs are the problem. Also, the Church has jurisdiction over the actual graves and not the council. Diocesan rules are paramount but the PCC has some influence over the graves actually surrounding the churches.

4. Election of PCC Members

Holy Trinity	Hannah Yapp and Barbara Crawforth
St John's	-----
St Leonard's	Dave Broome and John Chetwood
St Mary's	Doreen Dyson and Ann Broadhurst
River	Helen Smedley
CTK	Chris Hicks

5. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Holy Trinity	Jean Heighway
St John's	-----
St Leonard's	Dave Broome
St Mary's	Mary Richards
River	-----
CTK	-----

6. Financial Report and Appointment of Financial Examiner.

Barbara Crawforth proposed Margaret Cartwright as Parish Treasurer, Jean Heighway seconded and Margaret was voted in unanimously.

Margaret explained that the financial report was a combination of all the individual churches' accounts for the year and already approved by them. The diocese had judged them excellent.

The churches' finances were not in a good state at the end of last year as most had suffered from reduced income. This had been an agenda item all year and a suggestion for preaching. It was noted that St Leonard's details had been omitted from the list but the total did include them. The diocesan software was helpful in compiling the accounts.

A vote of thanks was given to Margaret and all the DCC Treasurers whose hard work had enabled this report.

The picture is an unhappy one: there was a loss of £14,500.00 over the year.

Measures were put forward to improve giving:

- a series of presentations in church on generosity and the approach to giving: we worship a God of grace and generosity;
- leaflets to be given out in each church, adapted to individual churches by the DCCs to review giving and the cash flow problem in church;
- meeting with the diocese for advice.

Two comments were made. Church income was reduced in united services because fewer people came; also, people give more willingly to disasters like the recent famine appeal than to the Church. Tim's view is that we need to encourage people to give by envelope and standing order and pointing out the necessity of giving if we value our church buildings. He outlined the disparity of the Parish Share. This is £84,000.00 a year and comes nowhere near the actual cost of five clergy and Pam which realistically should cost over twice as much.

It was decided last year that the Financial Examiner should be engaged for years rather than being appointed annually. The Charities Commission's rules apply and the diocese nominated the examiner. It was voted on and carried unanimously with Margaret proposing and Lee seconding.

The parish accounts were accepted with the proviso that St Leonard's details are included. The proposer was Mike Clarke and Jean Heighway seconded.

It was noted that there are 218 people on the Parish Electoral Roll and a large number of weddings, baptisms and funerals had been conducted during last year. Tim invited everyone to read the reports at their leisure. He undertook to email copies to those without and pointed out the overview on page 7.

The appendices were discussed briefly:

Appendix A showed success in Little Fishes at CTK with 22 tots but more helpers are needed. There were issues with funding and prayers are being said for land outside.

Appendix B showed that the tots group in Holy Trinity have outgrown their space. A faculty is to be submitted on 8th September, 2017, for the work to remove the pews which will give more room.

Appendix C showed that River Church has had steady growth and that three TYF members have been baptised.

Appendix D showed that St John's shoe-box work had been well supported and that the faculty for the new glass doors was under way.

Appendix E gave an account by month of St Leonard's activities. Tim made a special mention of Graham's wife's severe illness.

Appendix F showed that a lot is happening in St Mary's and Appendix G showed Janet's great commitment to the work in Stirchley and Brookside.

In Appendix H Pam discussed the success of Messy Church in Holy Trinity. She also informed us that Cerys Hughes is to merge the Hadley Messy Church with that of St Leonard's.

7. Rector's Report

Rev. Tim said that the life of the parish had already been well covered in the individual church reports.

He summed up the position as the parish experiencing tough times but that good things were also happening. There were reasons to rejoice and to feel encouraged; the finances are challenging but there are positives, too.

8. The retained third item of A.O.B. was inserted here. It was a paper concerning the Rule 18 Scheme of the Church Representation Rules as they affect the Benefice of Central Telford and issued by the Diocese of Lichfield.

Central Telford Parish consists of six communities, churches or components. The paper sets how it works and imposes order on the arrangement.

Tim explained that its purpose was to give us a structure and that every church is represented by the PCC and the provisions are there to protect and safeguard the position of the individual churches. The last time this was done was over 10 years ago and some things have changed. Tim had added explanatory notes in red which had been checked as correct by the diocese.

As Pam and Margaret are licensed by the diocese they are entitled to vote in any of the churches; the rest of us are only allowed to vote in the church we attend regularly which can be any church in the geographical area of Central Telford.

It concerns the legal decision-makers for the whole parish which rests on the PCC; the DCCs only have delegated powers and sub-committees have no legal power. For the purposes of this paper, River's Core Team counts as a DCC and has the same protections.

In reality, there was nothing in the paper that changed the current practices. A two-thirds majority vote was required but the acceptance was unanimous; Tim proposed and Chris seconded.

- At this point a text message arrived that Lisa would be returning home later that evening. It was decided that the parish would send her flowers.

9. Diary Date.

Instead of a PCC only meeting on 13th June, 2017, there is to be an open meeting for the whole parish with Bishop Mark. He will talk about future plans for the parish and the delay in appointing a new vicar to St Leonard's and St John's Churches. Subsequent PCC meetings would be concerned with deciding the way forward afterwards.

A vote of thanks was given to Rev. John Jules for his time in the parish.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm with prayers by Tim and the Grace.