

Church of the Good Shepherd, Leighton Buzzard, APCM Minutes 2023

Sunday 21st May 2023

Vestry Meeting

1. Opening prayer:

Rev Steve Marsh opened the meeting with prayer

2. Apologies for absence:

None noted.

3. Minutes of APCM 2022:

The minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Church Wardens

Election of Katharine Reedy and Stuart Blofeld

Katharine Reedy and Stuart Blofeld kindly and generously will continue to be our Church Wardens.

KR, SB and Frank Reedy (Treasurer) and SM form the standing committee.

SB, FR and KR are called Mission Enablers. This role includes developing outreach, enabling people in their contribution to the life of CGS and building them up and encouraging those who are more comfortable in supportive roles within our ministry.

The Mission Enablers roles will be reviewed and refined as they develop.

The Vestry Meeting was concluded.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Presentation of Electoral Roll:

A copy of the electoral roll has been published on the church website.
There are currently 18 people on the Electoral Roll

2. Elections: Parochial Church Councillors

The existing PCC members presented for re-election
Stuart Blofeld (Churchwarden/Mission Enabler)
Katharine Reedy (Churchwarden/Mission Enabler)
Jenny Marsh
Frank Reedy (Treasurer/Mission Enabler)
Clare Nichols
Philip Nichols

Members of the PCC stepping Down
Steve Nixon
Dave Gregory

As there are no new members of the PCC no election was required.
Jess Paine has kindly offered to join the PCC at PCC Secretary

3. The PCC Report

The 2023 APCM report is available on the Church website

SM thanked the PCC Secretary for pulling the APCM report together

4. Mission Enablers Report

KR gave a brief overview of the previous year, which had been active and creative in the number and variety of community events. These had included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's funeral, and the Coronation of King Charles as well as regular fixtures such as Beer & Carols and flower arranging. It had been good to see CGS people of all ages develop their gifts and contribute to church life.

The Wednesday café had continued to develop, with Lego & Hot Chocolate getting off to a successful start in the school holidays and a beneficial partnership with NHS social prescribers being established. We do a lot with a relatively small number of people, and the importance of action being connected with prayer was emphasised.

5. The Ministers report:

Much to Celebrate

SM talked around how we have been working on and delivering our Vision this year.

Our four vision statements are:

Vision Statements

- (1) As a Church we will be at the heart of the local community and enable, create and build the wider community.
- (2) As a Church we will be a welcoming, informal, family friendly space where you know you will be accepted and valued.
- (3) As a Church we will encourage each other to lead a God centered life, celebrating our spiritual journey together and equipping each other for everyday life.
- (4) As a Church we will share life and all that it throws at us, together for support, friendship and laughter.

SM celebrated the success of our Wednesday Café, Holiday Drop in Club, House Group and our seasonal events, along with joyful events of Frank and Katharine's licensing as Readers and Lozza and Fiona's Baptism.

As a small community CGS has been very busy. It is the adaptability, responsiveness and resourcefulness that has enabled all that we have done.

SM gave his thanks to all that everyone has done.

Inclusivity Statements

SM shared the following inclusivity statements that the PCC had formulated. SM encourage CGS members to come and speak to him if they had any comments relating to these.

Policy Statement 1: Membership

"The Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS) firmly believes that the gospel is open to all who are willing to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. For that reason no-one, whatever their Race, Gender or Sexuality is limited from becoming a part of our community, sharing in worship together or standing for leadership as part of our Parochial Church Council (PCC)."

Policy Statement 2: Worship and Speaking

The Church of the Good Shepherd places no specific requirements on speakers coming to speak or lead worship at a meeting, but anyone wishing to do so must come at the recommendation of the Minister, a PCC member or a member of the church in good standing.

Policy Statement 3: Long Term Leadership

Any community member hoping to become a leader at CGS may only do so at the discretion of the Minister and the PCC, and must have been in attendance at the church for six months, except in exceptional circumstances.

Policy Statement 3: Long Term Leadership

Judgement of suitability for leadership will be made specifically on the basis of the qualifications for leadership identified in 1 Timothy 3. Focus is given to the individual's maturity as a Christian and Gentle character.

As a small community CGS has been very busy. It is the adaptability, responsiveness and resourcefulness that has enabled all that we have done.

Looking ahead

The PCC will reconsider the Pioneer Missioner Project and look to readvertise the role. The PCC will also look to develop our missional work and our worship gatherings.

6. Finance report:

The financial accounts have been available in the APCM report.

The Parish Share for CGS for 2023 is £35,617, our regular giving is £20, 246 which leave us with a deficit of £15,191.

The funds that have been raised for the mission project are separate funds which cannot be used for the Parish Share and are being used to support our mission project.

SM and FR thanked all for their financial generosity. If anyone would like to increase the amount they give or start giving, please speak to FR. There are lots of different ways to financially support CGS and the majority of that support can be Gift Aided.

SM thanked FR for his work as CGS Treasurer throughout the year.

7. Appointment of Auditor:

Our current Auditor, Hills and Burgess, have recently been taken over by Upton Wilson, so they will be our new Auditor. However, the staff we deal with will remain the same as will the fee.

The meeting approved Upton Wilson 3 West St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1DA as our Account Auditors

8. Dates of next meetings:

PCC Away Day Saturday 17th June

PCC Meeting Monday 17th July at 7:30pm

The CGS community were encouraged to pass feedback and ideas to the PCC for consideration at these meetings

9. Provisional Date of APCM 2024:

A provisional date of Sunday 19th May 2024 was suggested for the 2024 APCM

10. Any Other Business:

No AOB's raised.

11. The meeting closed in prayer

Revd Steve Marsh closed the APCM with a prayer based around the CGS Vision Scripture of Hebrews 13:20-21