

# MINUTES of St. Hilda's Annual Parochial Meeting held on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April in the main church building.

[DRAFT COPY, for ratification at the APCM in 2012]

## Vestry Meeting

Pauline Jones and David Dyke were thanked by the Vicar for their unstinting work over the past year. Both of them have agreed to stand for election again and, there being no other nominees, they were elected unopposed.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meeting was attended by 35 people, slightly fewer than in 2010.

1. Apologies: Connie Jinks, the Gibbens family, Carole Southall, David Lewis, Jon and Vanessa Goodwin, Janice Stirrup, Ann and Peter Harris, Renate Wilkinson, Michaela Hinton and Joan Davies.

2. Minutes of the APCM 25/04/10: Agreed unanimously and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes: A discussion was held as to the possibility of opening the church on a more frequent basis [Item 12]. It was agreed that Wendy Dyke and Peter Stokes would investigate the possibility of forming a rota of volunteers to oversee an open church, starting on Wednesdays. John Wilkinson pointed out that those who volunteer need some training to ensure that they do the job effectively - and there was also a need to ensure that there was good advertising so that people passing would know the church was open. Further to this, the Vicar stated that the church would definitely be open on Election Day and a volunteer rota would be drawn up quickly.

4. Church Council Annual Report 2010: The Secretary presented the Report and invited comments. Fran Ellis asked for the following amendments to be made under Schools Ministry: She and Mandy Saunders gave no advice on assemblies at The Orchard School; Mandy Saunders is reading volunteer at Abbey Infants School. David Ellis queried the operation of the new sound system. The Vicar replied that now we are more conversant with its operation there are various extra pieces of equipment that we may consider purchasing, such as a permanent cable to operate the projector at the front of the church. Catherine Lewis raised the importance of having a vision for children and young people in our church. Alistair Jones proposed, Wendy Dyke seconded:  
"that the Annual Report be received" and this was carried unanimously.

5. Annual Church Accounts Report 2010: David Hickman took the meeting through the main points of the accounts and invited questions. He first explained what "transferred to general funds" meant following a query from David Ellis. Catherine Lewis asked about changes in the taxation rules about claiming Gift Aid and David assured her that Christopher Gibbens are looking into this. She also suggested a wider distribution in church of Gift Aid envelopes for occasional visitors - Wendy Dyke mentioned the possibility of including these with the Pew Sheet. In answer to a question from Rosemary Akeroyd, David Hickman stated that the visit of the New English Orchestra produced a small profit and that of Riding Lights a small loss. Alistair Jones asked that we should remember in our prayers those who had left bequests to the church. The Vicar praised the work of David Hickman and thanked him most sincerely for his Report; in turn, David thanked Ron and Muriel Palmer, Mandy Saunders and Gerry Nixon/Christopher Gibbens for their contributions in maintaining the church's finances. Pat Crofts proposed, Ron Palmer seconded:  
"that the Annual Church Accounts Report be received" and this was carried unanimously.

6. Electoral Roll Report 2010: Wendy Dyke reported a pleasing growth in the Electoral Roll numbers, which now stand at 122, of which 68 live outside the parish.

Peter Munn proposed, Gerry Nixon seconded:

“that the Electoral Roll Report 2010 be received” and this was carried unanimously.

7. Churchwarden’s Fabric Report 2010: David Dyke took the meeting through the main points of his Report and invited comments/questions.

After comments by Julie Nixon and David Ellis, the following defects were added to the list of priorities:

Defective taps in the toilets in the inner porch of the church;

Severely corroded pipework and radiator in the choir gallery.

Peter Stokes pointed out that we need to identify the items mentioned in the last Quinquennial Report that have yet to be dealt with and prioritise these.

David Dyke said that the next major project to be financed by the church [as it was unlikely we will obtain grants for it] is the resurfacing of the car park and driveway. The high cost [about £30,000] of doing the job in full means that it is almost certain it will have to be done in stages and he is already looking into this and obtaining quotes.

Derek Latham reported that the Fund Raising Group has applied for grants to install a false ceiling in the Hall to reduce heating costs and the outcome of these applications is still pending.

David Dyke thanked Peter Stokes, Peter Munn and David Lewis for their assistance in maintaining the church and Hall over the past year.

8. Deanery Synod Report 2010: Peter Stokes explained to the meeting the main issues that had been discussed at the three meetings of the Deanery Synod since the last APCM.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at St. Giles’, Ruth Tetlow gave details of the Faith Guiding course which enables people of all faiths to give a better welcome to visitors at their place of worship; this includes school children, for whom church visits are now part of the RE curriculum.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010 at Christ Church, Oldbury, there was firstly a discussion on women in the episcopate, the conclusions being sent to the Diocesan Synod. This was followed by a discussion on the future of the Deanery, promoted by the paper ‘Encouraging Green Shoots’. It was subsequently discussed by the PCC at its next meeting.

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at St. John’s, Langley, the main item was a talk by Rhiannon Jones, the Transforming Church coordinator, who outlined what progress had been made with this initiative in parishes around the Diocese.

Peter was thanked for his report and the Vicar reinforced the message that much more inter-parish cooperation is on the agenda in the Deanery for the future.

9. Election of Deanery Synod representatives, 2011 - 2014:

The Vicar thanked the representatives that had been in office since 2007. He also pointed out how fortunate we are at St. Hilda’s to have such a strong congregation, a virtue lacking in many of our sister churches in the Deanery. He expected that this fact may see much more teamwork around the Deanery in future years.

The following persons were proposed and seconded:

Pauline Jones, Peter Munn, Peter Stokes and Jean Line.

10. Election of Parochial Church Council members 2011 - 2012:

In addition to the Vicar, two wardens and four Deanery Synod representatives, the size of our Electoral Roll allows us to elect a further 12 persons as PCC members. The following were proposed and seconded:

Jon Goodwin, Joyce Lewis, Derek Latham, Martin Hadlington, Janet Gaunt, Pat Crofts, Julie Batham, Rosemary Akeroyd, Wendy Dyke, David Hickman, Sadie Hughes and Fredrica Grogan.

The Vicar thanked the retiring PCC members [Elizabeth Gibbens, Gerry Nixon and Richard Haynes] for their work during the past year.

11. Appointment of Sidespersons 2011 - 2012:

Pauline Jones reported that the following 21 people had agreed to act as sidespeople for the coming year:

Pat Crofts, Joan Davies, Anne Duggan, Wendy Dyke, Janet Gaunt, Alan and Judith Gibbens, Bill Griffiths, Anne Harris, Robert Hickman, Pauline Hills, Irene Hughes, Sadie Hughes, Jean Line, Julie Nixon, Fredrica Brogan, Carole Southall, Janice Stirrup, Betty Tombs, Les Warburton and Tracy

Smith.

She thanked the sidespeople for making everyone who attend church feel most welcome and asked for more volunteers [especially gentlemen!] to come forward if they wished. She gave special thanks to Jean Weyham and Pat Pitt who had been sidespeople at the 8.0 a.m. service for many years. She also requested that anyone who wished to change their dates on the rota to mark this clearly on the list in the inner porch.

She also thanked the small group of volunteers who provide the refreshments after the morning service on a weekly basis.

12. Appointment of an Independent Accounts Examiner 2011: David Hickman stated that Mr. Trevor Clarke has agreed his willingness to continue for 2011 and again would charge no fee.

It was proposed by Gerry Nixon, seconded by David Hickman:

“that he be appointed for a further year” and this was agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the church should provide him with a small gift as a way of saying ‘Thank You’ for all his work over many years.

13. Chairman’s Remarks:

Paul Hinton started by saying that he made no secret of the fact that, as a church, St. Hilda’s had much to be grateful for!

He especially gave thanks to those in the congregation who had, with much good grace, stepped down from their responsibilities during the last year:

Val Blount - who has retired from Playgroup after some 30 years of service and, as was demonstrated at her leaving party, has generated a huge amount of love and affection in the local community;

Martin Hadlington - who retired from Readership [at the same time as Rosemary Akeroyd was selected for Readership Training] but who is now a Reader Emeritus and so will still be taking the occasional service and helping at others;

Ron Palmer - who stepped down as vergers at funerals, to be replaced by Peter Munn;

Julie Nixon - who handed over responsibility for refreshments to Julie Batham [and we are now on our way to becoming a ‘FairTrade Church’];

and finally Gerry Nixon - who has stepped down from the PCC after 62 years of continuous membership, a record probably unequalled in the Diocese. Gerry was thanked by the Vicar for a dedication to duty and service which was difficult to appreciate in its diversity; a tribute to Gerry from Michael Dunk was also read to the meeting and a special presentation was made to him, which was replied to on Gerry’s behalf by both Rosemary Akeroyd and Len York.

The Vicar also thanked Catherine and David Lewis for their help in developing both Parade Services and other occasional events; Jon Goodwin and Peter Stokes for their major contributions to church life; and praised the developing voices of the new children in the choir.

He then said he was looking forward to a more open, listening, questioning church. He estimated that we have had about 10 new children and 25 new adults come to St. Hilda’s in the last year which means there are some 134 adults and 20 children in our regular worshipping congregation, of which 51 are under 50 and 49 are over 65.

He also said how pleased he was that the Passion Play is drawing people of all ages together; that we are hosting the Deanery Confirmation Service in May; that SureStart will be opening a group here in May and have already provided us with £5,500-worth of new tables and chairs for the Hall; and that other groups may well soon be widening our presence in the community by starting here. BUT - he was concerned at the lack of male members in the congregation [only 40 of the 134 mentioned above are men; none of our 4 current confirmation candidates are men; only 5 of the 25 members of the Lent Course are men; and only 3 of the Prayer School members are men]. He was also concerned at the lack of teenagers in the regular congregation.

He admitted to being uncertain of the way forward in terms of attracting men and teenagers to the church and invited all of us to pray about this and to offer ideas to him.

14. Any other business:

A: Peter Munn expressed his thanks to all those who make CAMEO such a successful enterprise, especially Carol Hadlington and Dinah Willetts.

B: John Wilkinson expressed his thanks to all those who had made his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in February such a success.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with prayers at 2.08 p.m.

Signed as a correct record: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_