

Annual Church Meetings 26th April

Vestry Meeting

Gillian Harman presented the new Electoral Roll, which showed a net increase of 12 from 173 to 185 during the last year. Of those on the roll, 95 live in the parish and 90 outside.

There was warm appreciation for the contribution made by Wendell Newbold during his period as Warden. Dorothy Toyn and Andrew Povey Richards were proposed, seconded and approved unanimously as wardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Full minutes will be available from the PCC secretary (Renee Booker). The following is a 'snapshot' of some of the key points and information.

Election of PCC Members

The following were elected to the PCC:

Newly elected to serve for three years: Edwin Godfrey, Sue Horner, Vivienne Robertson.

Re-elected with two years still to serve: Martin Bird, Fiona Earle, Pippa Jenkins, Kath Oates and Richard Toyn.

Re-elected with one year still to serve: Renee Booker, Rosemary Graves, Malcolm Oughton, Judy Oughton and Martin Penny.

[The PCC also includes three Deanery Synod members (elected for a three year term last year): Colin Bird, Janet Bird and Leon Ajao and also the Vicar, the Wardens and Geoff Oates ex-officio.]

Finances

Colin Bird, Treasurer, presented the various accounts. Copies of these are available at the back of church. Owing to a combination of efficiency in getting 5 tax refunds in one year, the extraordinary success of the Christmas Tree Festival and substantially higher giving at Christmas, we ended the year with a surplus of £8150.38 on the main account. All of this occurred in the last month of the financial year and was a welcome and unexpected outcome.

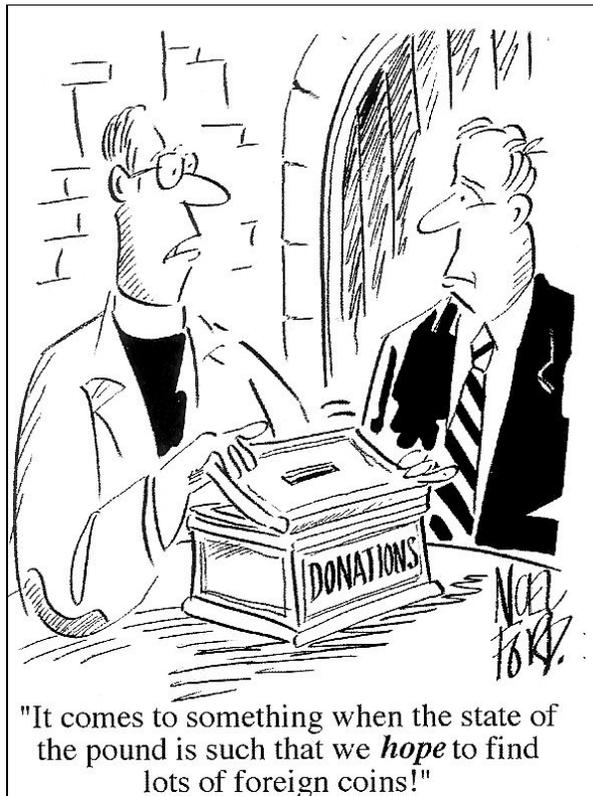
He then moved on to the 2008 budget as approved by the PCC. The Stewardship campaign in November resulted in increases in pledges of approx. £8000, with 74 people making pledges. This balances out anticipated reductions in interest and dividend income and increases in insurance and energy and results in a balanced budget – the first time for many years.

	2008 Actual	2009 Budget
INCOME		
Giving (net of tax)	49,830	52,000
Income tax	16,654	11,500
Donations – St John's Hall	2,500	7,500
Donations – Choir	-	500
Donations – Other	4,248	6,000
Soundbites contribution	2,000	2,000
Baptisms, weddings & funerals	5,701	5,000
Magazine	232	250
Interest	948	250
Dividends	581	250
Main event	4,498	2,000
Church hire	2,865	2,250
Other events	<u>4,241</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	94,298	92,000
EXPENDITURE		
Assistant Clergy honoraria	320	400
Clergy working expenses	3,111	3,350
Service materials	1,184	1,250
Insurance	5,469	6,000
Heating	8,021	8,940
Less: Cull Fund income	(2,440)	(2,440)
Electricity & water	2,076	2,500
Organ tuning	814	1,000
Organists/music	7,286	7,500
Choir pay	2,974	4,000
Administration	4,354	4,500
Copying	629	750
Charitable giving	250	750
Diocesan Contribution	<u>52,100</u>	<u>53,500</u>
	86,148	92,000
ESTIMATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)		
	<u>£8,150</u>	<u>£nil</u>

We managed to make some significant contributions to charity in 2008, in total amounting to £10,240.09 – some 10% of our total income. (*Ed: in effect an Old Testament Tithel!*).

Colin highlighted the tremendous value of the (often unsung) work done by work parties in maintaining our large buildings. He also expressed his thanks to Charles Murkin

for the many hours spent examining all the church accounts.



The vicar thanked Colin for the huge amount of time and skill he puts into keeping our affairs in such good order and for the clarity of his presentation.

Group Reports

Copies of individual reports are available either electronically (where we have them) or in hard copy on request for:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| All Saints Art | Mothers' Union |
| Choir | St John's Hall |
| Churches Together | Sidesmen |
| Deanery Synod | Toddlers Group |
| Flower Club | Vergers |
| Junior Church | Women's Fellowship |

Churchwardens Reports

Interior – Wendell Newbold

The general condition of the church is good. After some work (and expenditure) in 2008 the boiler system is now in good order (and dried out after the flood). The next projects will be lighting and sound. There are questions of effectiveness, efficiency and some Health & Safety issues to be addressed.

Wendell reiterated the thanks to Derek Westwood and his maintenance team who do so much unseen, vital, and otherwise very costly work. He also highlighted the many people doing the background tasks such as laundry, cleaning, flowers etc that make such a difference in terms of the appearance/presentation of the church. We are seen as friendly, welcoming and caring.

He expressed the thanks of all to Chris Benham for all his work in raising musical standards to extraordinary heights and wished him well in the next phase of his musical career.

Exterior – Dorothy Toyn

We have now got a very effective working relationship with the Town Council, not least due to the efforts of the new Town Clerk. There is a plan to improve the churchyard and parking. Already much ivy has been cleared away and work is planned for several monuments. The Diocese has recently announced a 'Living Churchyard' initiative and wild flowers have already been planted.

We are expecting the Car Park to be resurfaced this year and this will trigger the next part of the plan to ensure the space is used with suitable respect for the graves and other users. This will entail clear guidelines and limits on the number of cars that can be parked. so that we keep the verges in good condition and maintain access for all church users.

The cause of the flooding that led to the collapse of part of the wall on to Gascoyne Way and the damage to the boilers has been identified and cured. The wall will be rebuilt shortly, though it is not yet clear exactly whose insurer will end up footing the bill!

Vicar's Report

The meeting concluded with the Vicar's Report (published on page 2).

Jo finished with a witty and comprehensive list of thanks (which you had to be there to enjoy in full), ending with thanks to us all for making it a "Welcoming, Loving Church that people want to come to again and again".