

ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GLYNCORRWG

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

19TH MAY 2013

1 PRESENT

Rev. Phillip Masson, Area Dean (Chairman)

Mr. Graham Stent (Vicar's Warden)

Mrs. Christine Boast

Mrs. Lorna Davies

Mrs. Gladys Davies

Mrs. Polly Duffield

Mrs. Ann Evans

Mr. Wyndham John

Mrs. Lynne Laskey

Mrs. Anne Lloyd

Ms. Kaye Maggs

Mr. Tom Morgan

Mrs. Joan Newman

Mr. Cyril Paynes

Mrs. Eurllys Phipps

Mrs. Rita Rawlings

Mrs. Dilys Rogers

2 APOLOGIES:

Some members absent due to holidays

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Chairman thanked the congregation for their continuing support and loyalty during the interregnum and especially for the warm welcome given to Rev. Edwin Phillips. Personally, and on behalf of the PCC Members, Chairman expressed immense gratitude to Graham for his hard work during the interregnum period.

Graham responded by thanking everyone for their help and support. He reminded meeting that a Licensing Service is to be held at CAERAU Church on Monday 10th June 2013 for the new Vicar of Caerau and Glyncorrwg Churches, followed by a combined Service at Glyncorrwg, on Sunday, 16th June.

3 MINUTES OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING MAY 2012

Minutes were **agreed** as an accurate account and **signed**.

4 PARISH REPORTS

Vicar's Warden's Report. **Read and noted.**

Other Reports (Choir Report, Sunday School Report etc.) **All read and noted.**

Administration e.g. Electoral Roll, fabric, insurance. **Noted and agreed.**

Accounts. **All accounts were examined and accepted. It was noted that the accounts had been audited up to 31st December 2012.**

5 ELECTIONS

Churchwardens:

a. People's Warden

As Mr. Geraint John had now moved out of the village, and had tendered his resignation from this position, Mr. Les Jones had offered to take over the role. It was agreed that Les be appointed to this position on his return from holiday. The meeting expressed grateful thanks to Geraint for his work during his time as People's Warden. Secretary to PCC to write to Geraint thanking him for his services to St. John the Baptist Church and wishing well for the future.

b. Vicar's Warden

Chairman and members expressed immense gratitude to Graham for his continuing hard work. Graham thanked everyone for their constant help and support.

c. Parochial Church Councillors

Names of new members of PCC were read out. These members would be signed and sworn in, together with Les Jones (new People's Warden), when Les returns from holiday.

6 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

Graham informed meeting that as the previous Auditor was no longer able to continue with his services to the Parish, he proposed to contact Caerau Church to ascertain their arrangements for the Auditing of their accounts.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Mr Tom Morgan was officially invited to become new Organist at St. John the Baptist Church. Tom accepted the invitation and was warmly welcomed.

b. Graham informed meeting that the new sound system had now been ordered and would be installed shortly.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the congregation for their support and loyalty, and for the warm welcome given to visiting Clergy, especially Rev. Edwin Phillips, and other visitors to the Church throughout the interregnum, and wished everyone well for the future.

**VICAR'S WARDEN'S REPORT TO
ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY MEETING
1ST APRIL 2014**

This is my first Easter Vestry Report since the arrival of our new Vicar, Bev, in this Parish.

Tasks Undertaken

Although we have not carried out a vast amount of work in the Church this year, we have nevertheless done the following:

1. We have had new electrical points installed for the organ and cabling to the main junction box.
2. We also had the floor repaired in the organ area of the Church.
3. The new sound system has now been installed.
4. With a grant from the Communities First Project, we have very recently acquired a fridge and new crockery for the kitchen area.

Ongoing Tasks

Regular checks are made in the graveyard area.

We are waiting for repairs to be made to the rear boundary wall of the Memorial Garden.

Future Tasks

At an ad hoc Meeting of the PCC on 23rd March 2014 it was unanimously agreed to obtain faculty permissions to carry out:

1. Provision of seating and raised flower beds alongside Church porch.
2. Surfacing of car park area, path to north door of Church and seating/garden area in plot on north side of the Church.
3. Removal of four pews from west end [rear] of Church to allow better use of space in that area of the Church.

Events in St. John's during recent months:

1. A very successful Christmas Fete was held in early December 2013.
2. An Evening Concert given by Glyncorrwg Ladies' Choir and soloist Bethan Lewis. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.
3. Wardens' Cream Tea. Again this was a resounding success.
4. St. David's Day Lunch in Church. This involved a cawl lunch and 'bake-off' competition – well done to all who contributed to the day.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and I can assure you all that I will continue to do my best throughout the year ahead.

Graham Stent
Vicar's Warden

People's Warden's Report to Easter Vestry 2014

In my first report, last year, I said that I would concentrate on developing the use of the Seven Sacred Spaces programme as a way for us all to decide how we wanted our church to meet the many challenges of the next ten years or so. A small prayer group had come up with a number of ideas, and these needed to be discussed within the wider congregation, and where they were agreed, put into practice.

We've had some successes over the year, although I often feel progress is slow. With the help of Richard Lowndes and Sarah Perons from the Diocese, we've established some priorities within the Seven Sacred Spaces framework :

- * **Chapter** - how we jointly make and carry out decisions;
- * **Library** - opportunities to learn and develop spiritually;
- * **Chapel** and **Cell** as continuing needs;
- * **Garden** one priority which is progressing well, and which we'll continue to support.

Physical changes to the church building and grounds, to enable both to be used more effectively by the church and the local community, has also been very slow, but we're getting there. Opening up the back of the church is now well advanced, and only the very poor weather across the winter has prevented more progress being made outside. Now we have to go through the faculty process to get approval to continue with our ideas. Ideas have never been a problem, and it's been a joy to take part in the Christmas Fete, the Churchwardens' Crean Teas and Concert, the Sta David's Day celebrations, and much more besides.

My biggest regret is that we still don't have an effective way of considering, taking and implementing decisions. Yes, we have four PCC meetings in our diaries, but there's still no way for decisions day to day to be shared. However, Chapter is our first priority, we've agreed, and it will continue to be mine over the next twelve months.

It's been interesting being People's Warden, but I hope that by next year's Easter Vestry, there'll be someone else wanting to take on this role. Thank you all for your support over the year, it's meant a lot and has made a difference to me. I'd particularly like to thank you all for your good wishes and prayers while I was ill, they really did help my recovery.

Les Jones
People's Warden
April 1st 2014

Mission Report for Annual Vestry Meeting 2014

We continued our Mission Outreach in the Community in 2013 with a Coffee Morning held in Noddfa which, as usual, was a great success.

Our Church Members continue to visit the sick and bereaved. Reverend Bev and I take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound in the Parish, also those who are cared for in Tynant Nursing home and Arwelfa Day Centre, maintaining their important link with God and the Church.

We continue to sponsor Cymer Afan Comprehensive School's Community Awards. The achievement of the students is of a high level and is to be commended.

The other recipients of our Mission giving are Ty Hafan and our Ugandan child Derek who we sponsor through UCDF (Ugandan Child Development Fund).

As an additional part of our Mission giving we support Y Bont by donating our unwanted clothing for recycling. We also support the needy in our community by donating food items to the Food Bank.

Let us give thanks to God for His bountiful gifts which enable us to continue our Mission giving, thereby touching others with His love and guidance.

St John the Baptist Church Sunday School Report for 2013-14

1: Structure

The Sunday School continues to meet during the Sunday Service weekly throughout the year. There are currently 3 regular weekly members of Sunday School, aged between 6 and 12 years of age and we always invite visiting children to join us in the vestry. Attendance is usually between three and six children. Parents and grandparents are welcome to stay with us to give the children confidence. We have a number of regular migratory members, who visit relatives in Glynccorrwg at weekends or during the school holidays.

Our regular and some of our migratory Sunday School children are members of the church choir, and have other responsibilities in the service. Roles include crucifer, servers, sides people and readers. In their roles as choristers, the children also follow the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life syllabus. Three of the children were baptised by The Revd Edwin Phillips in the summer of 2013.

Content

i: Whitsun to Trinity 2013: The Psalms

We explored the history of the psalms, and discovered that they were written by Moses, King David and St Asaph. We wrote our own psalms, including a farewell psalm for Vicar Edwin, and played psalm consequences. We learned that the writers of the psalms were the first to illuminate initial letters, so we tried our hands at illuminated lettering. We illustrated our favourite psalms.

ii: Trinity to Christmas 2013: Caring for God's Acre

We used the schools pack 'Hunt the Daisy' to explore our churchyard. We did a survey of plants and animals, a survey of litter, and we dated our ancient yew trees to over one thousand years. We examined gravestones for inscriptions and lichen. As a result of this project, we have now obtained grant funding to develop the churchyard as a community garden with seating, planting, space for reflection and meditation, a wildlife reserve and easier access.

iii: Christmas to Lent 2014: Prophets and prophecy

We used the Book of Revelation to explore the notion of prophecy. We looked at prophecies of pestilence, with the plagues of Egypt, war, with the Battle of Jericho, famine, with Pharaoh's dream, and death, with Isaiah and the suffering servant. This led us into our next project focussing on the cross.

iv: Lent and Easter 2014: Jesus' words from the cross

We are currently studying the words of Jesus from the cross.

The way ahead

Two of our members are currently attending confirmation classes in preparation for confirmation later this year. Our next project will be on prayer.

Rosie Jones

1st April 2014

Church Choir : Report to the Easter Vestry 2014

Choir Members : Eurllys Phipps, Rosie Jones, Lynne Laskey, Bettie Wright, Erin Jones, Cadi Jones, Amber, Scarlet, Spencer Major, Viv Williams, Les Jones, with Organist Thomas Morgan.

Over the past twelve months the Choir has maintained our weekly sung service. With the arrival of Tom as Organist, Viv has been able to take on a more active role as choir teacher and conductor, and has encouraged the three children to develop their singing. We have been very fortunate in having a dedicated, though small, group of people who have regularly attended practice and services.

The Choir very much appreciate the support received from the congregation, and thank them for their enthusiasm. I think both choir and congregation produce a joyful noise well above what could be expected from their numbers. Please keep singing with us, including the psalms, which again have improved in their singing over the year (although we appreciate that psalm singing is not everyone's favourite part of the service).

The Choir's contribution to services has not been solely musical, but has included providing a crucifer (Spencer), server (Erin), Offertory procession and collection (Cadi, Amber, Scarlet and Spencer), and readers (Erin, Spencer, Lynne, Rosie and Les).

For the foreseeable future, the Choir's main aim will be to continue to maintain sung Communion services on Sunday mornings, and to improve the quality of the singing of hymns and psalms by choir and congregation, including the service settings.

Les Jones (on behalf of the Choir)