

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, FRINTON**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meetings**  
**held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in the Church**

**1. Opening prayer**

The Rector, Don Smith, opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from Psalm 30.

**2. Appointment of Clerk**

Heather Ursell was appointed Clerk to the Meetings.

**3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Val Barnes, Alan Brient, Debbie Clarke, Mike & Pat Denny, Alison Eldridge, Chris Glasby, Anthony & Pam Hanson-Abbott, Rosemary Heddle, David Hepworth, Sue Jenkins, Margaret & Michael Knell, Bob Mills, Renee New, Enid Nicholson, Chris & Sally Perry, Ginny Richardson, Jerry Russell, Helen & Richard Whybrew, Janette Wiggins.

91 people were present.

**MEETING OF PARISHONERS**

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 were accepted with a comment from Keith Lindsey who said that his point had been that, for a long-serving PCC member to step down for a year only, did not seem sufficient.

2. No Matters arising

**3. Election of Churchwardens**

Thanks were given to the two current wardens, Malcolm Bryden and Susan Hare. Two nominations had been received: Malcolm Bryden and Peter Wood. Both were duly elected to serve for one year.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 were accepted and signed.

2. There were no Matters Arising.

3. To receive:

**1. The Annual Report on the Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll Officer, Jim Clarke said that the Roll was now made up of 272 people who lived within the parish and 40 outside. The previous figures had been 265, with 44 outside. Jim thanked David Draper for his help with the Roll and the Rector thanked Jim for his continued hard work in compiling it.

**2. The Annual Report on the work of the PCC and Church in general**

This had been produced by Susan Hare, and was appreciated and accepted.

### **3. The Audited Accounts** - for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

Marion Bullock presented these visually, using the church PowerPoint system. She thanked many people, including Clifford Clift, David Draper, Susan Hare, Malcolm Bryden and the Rector for their help in preparing the budget for the next year. She also thanked Wendy and Denzil Watson (gift-aid), Jim Clarke (recording of free will offerings) and Derek Abbott, John Woodman and Scrutton Bland staff for all their support and advice.

Due to recent changes in legislation, and while our annual income is under £250,000, we no longer need to produce "accruals accounts" but the simpler "receipts and payments accounts."

As had already been made clear to the church, our year's expenditure had significantly exceeded our income, by nearly £36,000. £12,000 of that figure was spent on general running costs, and the rest was capital expenditure on large projects such as the church carpet, a new boiler and the church projection system. The accounts showed that 2010 commenced with £75,654 in the bank, including £6,172 restricted to organ expense and £68,490 in a CCLA deposit account. We also still have around £10,000 worth of shares. £4,504 is also due from Inland Revenue on gift-aided donations.

Some Action Groups now have their own budget, to enable them to carry out their responsibilities, and any profit may be carried over to the following year.

Most of the church income is direct giving from members of the congregation, greatly enhanced by gift-aid tax recovery. Most of the expenditure goes on maintaining and running the two churches. Thanks to PCC and Chris Perry for their scrutiny of expenses, to try to ensure that we are as efficient as possible.

Marion said that she would very much appreciate having more help with all aspects of her work as treasurer.

There were no questions from the floor. Marion was thanked for her report and her hard work on behalf of the church.

### **4. Fabric Report (including Tree Report) & 5. Deanery Synod Report**

Malcolm Bryden asked if there were any questions regarding these reports, all of which had been circulated, but there were none.

### **4. Elections and appointments**

1. No tellers were required.

2. **Parochial Church Councillors.** There were five vacant places on PCC. Jill Cullen, Brian Allen and Chris Perry were re-elected, and Sue Jenkins was elected, all unopposed. Brian Allen and Chris Perry were also re-elected unopposed, as deputy churchwardens. Following the death of Harry Holford during the year, there were two vacancies on Deanery Synod. Cate Wilby was elected to join Malcolm Bryden, Bridget Hibberd and Wendy Watson, representing the church in this way.

3. **Wardens of the Old Church.** Jim and Jean Clarke had agreed to continue in this role and both were thanked for their faithful work over the past years.

4. **Electoral Roll Officer.** Jim Clarke was re-appointed to this position and again, many thanks were given for his work in this capacity.

5. **Clerk to the Disclosure Process.** David Draper was thanked for agreeing to continue in this position, regarding the CRB process. He was also thanked for all his work as church administrator.

6. **Sidesmen.** There were no additions.

7. **Auditors to the Council for 2010.** Macolm Bryden proposed and Derek Abbott seconded the motion that Scrutton Bland be re-appointed as independent examiners for this current year. Carried unanimously.

### **5. Rector's Address**

Don Smith thanked all those who had served the church and helped him over the past year, and particularly Susan Hare for her six years as churchwarden, including the interregnum and easing Don and Karen into the church. Susan was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and in turn thanked church members for all their support over the years. Don continued to thank the many who serve in different ways, contributing to St Mary's being a "great example of Christian community."

The three strands of church services – Traditional, Contemporary and Exploring – have all flourished, and wonderful Christmas and Easter invitation cards helped draw visitors to excellent services. Other innovations (church branding, directory, website and projection system) aid communication within the church and beyond, in the community. A greater focus on prayer is developing, alongside different courses to help the development of people's faith, their preaching ability, and understanding of the Christian faith itself. Welcome Teams, Pastoral Training events and Women's (and Men's?) Fellowship groups have all helped strengthen relationships with old and new church members.

Earlier in the year, following the explanation of our difficult financial circumstances, 49 people responded to the appeal to reconsider their giving to the church. This resulted in a likely £15,000 increase in giving. Over twenty people also responded to the need to form a team to help bring children and families into the church through the "Fresh Expressions" monthly initiative, "Messy Church," which is soon to commence.

Don ended by reminding the church that as we seek to play an active part in the Kingdom of God, the evil one will also be active in trying to undermine fellowship, marriages, health, prayer life and our commitment to following Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We must all be united, prayerful and vigilant, confident in our walk with God and in his love for us through Jesus.

### **6. Any Other Business**

Although no matters had been submitted by the previous evening, as required, some matters were raised at this stage.

- a. Malcolm Bryden proposed a vote of thanks to Don and Karen for their loving care and enthusiasm over the past year. It was hard to remember that they had only been in Frinton for less than two years as they had done so much in that time. The well-tended Rectory garden gives some indication of their dedication and hard work. Last year there had been seven Action Groups, now there are ten. Attendance at all services is creeping up, as are financial giving and Electoral Roll numbers.

Malcolm thanked the Lord for sending Don and Karen to us in Frinton, and thanked Don for being our teacher, rector, pastor and friend. Karen was presented with flowers as a small token of our appreciation.

- b. Keith Lindsey expressed concern regarding aspects of the traditional services, which he felt were moving towards non-conformism, and he made a plea to maintain the purity of the Book of Common Prayer. This was particularly with reference to clergy not robing at 8am Communion. He thought it would be helpful to know the reading and who was preaching at traditional services in advance, week by week. He disapproved of the use of extemporary prayers in place of the words of the prayers in the Prayer Book. He also indicated his dislike of the regular use of the shortened form of the Ten Commandments at traditional Communion services.
- c. Elizabeth Leaman suggested that wafers instead of bread should be used at communion.
- d. Wendy Watson echoed Marion Bullock's plea for assistance with financial matters; she and Denzil would like new people to share in administering the Gift Aid system.
- e. George Hare mentioned that concerning point c. above, the Book of Common Prayer states that the bread used should be, "the Bread ... such as is usual to be eaten."

In response, Don Smith thanked people for their comments and assured them that, where relevant, the points would be discussed at Action Group and PCC meetings.

### **7. Date of the next Annual Meeting**

Palm Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011 following a Joint Service at 10.30am.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.20pm.

*HRU – 4/5/10*