

APCM 28 APRIL 2022 @ 7.30pm in St. Marys Church, Woburn

Apologies

Ross Kennedy
Janice Winton
Linda Cudjoe
Judy Knapman
Sarah Atkinson-Clark
Malcolm Curtis

Item 2 – Minutes of APCM meeting 15 April 2021
Ian proposed, George seconded

Item 3. – Election of PCC members
Rather than electing the entire PCC annually, 3 or so come up every 3 years

Vacancies – Steve Apted as he is now a Church Warden
Malcolm Curtis resigned effective 30 June

Nomination 1 – Ross not present due to illness
Nomination 2 – Maurice

Both confirmed

Rich and Pauline stood again and have confirmed their intention to continue as PCC members

Item 4 – Finance David Knapman (refer to notes)

Item 5 – Electoral Role report – John Adamson

Steve commended John for the clarity of the report and also the spreadsheet compiled. Numbers submitted to PCC

Item 6 – Safe guarding

Steve said there was no need to go through the policy that had been written and directed the APCM to defer to Paula with any questions. He thanked her for her laid back but steady work behind the sense. He confirmed that the safeguarding policy is published on the notice board for all who wanted to see it

Steve also confirmed that other reports ie

- Health and Safety
- Fabric
- Pilates

Are not normally read at APCM but mentioned that reports are available for examination.

Item 7 – AOB

Nothing to discuss

Item 8 – Rectors report

Steve reminded the APCM of the church's mission to Know, Grow and Go

He also referred to the faith and identity statement of the Anglican church. He said the new incumbent on starting will affirm the faith and identity statement on the steps to the congregation. This statement is available in the church for anyone who would like to have it.

Steve said a few "thank yous"

- church leadership and all who have served in various capacities of the SC and leadership in his term

Church wardens will lead the church in the vacancy. He reminded the PCC that no changes were expected to be made in the vacancy period. He pleaded with the APCM to give the church wardens support by praying for them.

There was a review of the year particularly through lock down and the various restrictions touching on how we as a church dealt with them and also mentioned the fluctuation in numbers through this time.

Pastoral and fellowship groups that were formed in this time was mentioned and key to that was the establishment of new relationships in the church congregation.

Prayer ministry resumed in an ad hoc way but this is being revitalised with Ann Barker and Chris Langford

Steve said thank you to Malcolm in absentia for his help and support. He came primarily to support Steve and he has been absolutely loyal in his service around the villages and in Woburn.

Janice was mentioned as a force behind the scenes and Steve thanked her for her support

Jenny Nuth was also mentioned by Steve as her rock and support in hard times.

PCC and all church workers had a mention with thanks. Steve has so many to thank and said how grateful he is for all the support that he has had over time.

Steve handed over presentation to George Atkinson-Clark to present the way post Steve's resignation

George and Steve Apted gave an update on how the church would be ran once Steve leaves.

Steve Apted outlined progress that has been made so far to secure clergy to take services in the vacancy period. He confirmed that people had been drafted in from as far as Kent. Sadly familiar clergy like Dr Sam are not able to support this time because he has his own parish. Steve Apted confirmed that there are still some gaps and confirmed that we cannot always guarantee that services will always be as we are used to because of lack of clergy in some weeks.

Regarding pastoral care, Steve Apted said the vacancy will give us the perfect opportunity for all of us to step up to support each other. This something that we are good at in St Mary's and he said this family atmosphere and love for each other is what drew him to the church.

George gave an account of visitors who were drawn to the church because they were so impressed by the website. Further to that they commented that they were drawn to the warmth of the church when they came in. We are all encouraged to continue in this spirit of love

Moving on to the vacancy, George outlined the process of selecting the new incumbent. This would involve setting up a selection committee of representatives from all the benefice, compilation of the benefice profile and then advertising of role. Shortlisting meeting will be held to short list the applications before proceeding to interviews for selection of incumbent.

Timescales

Realistically could be up to 9 months of vacancy as a worst case scenario.

George and Steve are trying to manage the process to hurry it up where possible but also not to be rushed into accepting an incumbent that we do want.

George and Steve answered a number of questions regarding the appointment process and timescales and also securing cover for Sunday services

So far we only need cover for 3 Sundays for the rest of the year. Steve Apted clarified that there would be some form of service every week regardless of whether there was a guest priest or not. The issue is communion when as this must be administered by a registered clergy.

The issue of communion by extension was discussed and George responded that the Bishop does not like communion by extension. Even though Bishop Richard has said in the past that his authorisation must be sought for communion by extension, he has always declined the request when his authorisation has been sought.

Steve Apted expressed thanks to Anne Barker who has agreed to cover 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month

Steve called for prayers from everyone through this period of vacancy recognising that we will be faced with significant challenges with a lot of unknown. We need prayers and the grace of God to get through this. George cautioned that despite all the preparation and planning, things would not always run smoothly and urged everyone to be patient with them.

Janice will be the hub of information in this period so everyone was encouraged to defer to Janice rather than George and Steve Apted through this vacancy period.

Steve Nuth advised the church to be forward focussed and look to God for what he has in store for us

Steve Nuth read a prayer of thanksgiving from Ephesians 1:18-19. He stressed the bond in the church with the deep friendships, the love and the care that is palpable in the church. He is certain that the special bond and warmth will carry us through this period. He said that our eternal destiny should and always informs our lives here.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and a blessing from Steve Nuth.

