

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Knowle Parishioners (item 2 only) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

### **Attendance**

91 people attended.

### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Steve Johnson (SJ) welcomed everyone on behalf of the vicar to the annual meetings and opened with prayer.

### ***Annual meeting of Parishioners***

### **2. Appointment of Churchwardens**

SJ advised that nominations had been received for Liz Welton and Rod Street and declared them to be duly re-elected as churchwardens until the APM in 2024.

### ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

### **3. Worship**

Emily Spencer (ES) led the worship with songs, prayers and a thanksgiving slideshow, particularly focussing on all that was happening at KPC, and we have a lot to thank God for.

### **4. Associate Vicar's Reflections**

SJ quoted Eph 3:20 and we have 'Immeasurably More' than we can ever know. SJ went through the KPC Vision Statement – **Visible** – a shining light is visible, and God's light is visible to all. Villagers see what is happening at KPC all around the village and the value of conversations we all might have with offerings of prayer, help, invitations etc. **Beating Heart** – at KPC we are so blessed to have had the many gifts available, for Stewart Wallace and Paul & Anna Holden. James and Angela who have tended the music group and choir. Helen for the music rota and her gift of administration. For all the singers and musicians and for Alex when he starts in June. **Serving** – in Knowle, the Deanery and beyond. For our generosity with love and giving, particularly how well our appeals for funds have been supported. The Weekend Away was an uplifting experience. We also support other churches and community groups wanting to transform lives and our neighbourhood. SJ also remembered those that had passed away in the last 12 months.

### **5. Children and Youth report**

Sarah Covington (SC) celebrated the ministry and the new team members within the under 5s and the new part time children's minister. KPC is already seeing growth in these areas, bumps and babies are overflowing, links are getting stronger with Stepping Stones and relationships building with KPC Kids. SC said how excited she is by the future and to see how we are being led.

Amy Dowdy (AD) spoke of her appreciation to Paul Holden for the quality and number of volunteers in the Youth Groups. Her focus is now on the older youth and how the weekend away has led to an older youth group being set up. AD referred to the value of relationship building through the 1-1s she is having. However, there is an urgent need for a Youth Assistant to allow these groups and other age groups to flourish.

- 6. Questions were invited – Was the Youth Assistant post re-advertised? Yes, and all avenues are being explored.**

### **7. Churchwardens' thanks**

Matt Baggott (MB) spoke of his recent vision of a ship, fully equipped, to be on an adventure with the Holy Spirit. He thanked all those that helped steer the ship especially at the beginning of his tenure as Church Warden during the interregnum. MB thanked KPC clergy and staff for being thoughtful and adventurous and what a privilege it was to have a great leadership team. A team that listens as we embark on this new adventure.

Liz Welton (LW) thanked MB for his service to the church as warden. His unity as a vision and heart of the church – Col 3:12-14.

## **8. Annual Report and Accounts for 2022**

The Treasurer, Steve Mort (SM) asked the meeting to approve the appointment of new auditors – Thomas and Young, a small local practice. Proposed by SM, seconded by Nick Houghton and duly appointed by the meeting.

SM explained the 3 funds, Restricted, Designated and General.

As of 31 March, Restricted had received gifts of £25k towards the £32k boiler costs;

Local Support Fund had received gifts of £15k and paid out £10k.

Designated has money set aside for property maintenance but this is barely enough to meet our current needs. The Legacy fund supports special projects as determined by the PCC.

Question – How do we draw on these funds? SM advised that PCC, the clergy, or himself would welcome requests and then put these to PCC for discussion.

General Fund – SM advised that Covid had decimated the level of income from activities such as hall rentals and wedding fees, but it was now seeing a return to pre-covid levels. However, our costs have gone up and it has been a turbulent 3 years – God is good and provides.

For 2023 finances, SM sees a deficit, however he hopes his predictions of increased giving will keep these to around £12k.

Questions about general costs and giving to the Diocese - where this money came from.

## **9. Election of up to 8 PCC members & up to 6 Deanery Synod members**

SJ thanked those standing down.

Nominations for 8 including 3 to be co-opted had been received and all were duly elected. SJ asked for approval from the meeting for the Deanery Synod members to be elected at the first PCC meeting – this was agreed. The following were elected to PCC: Nick Houghton, Carol Kay, David Pickering, James Thorne, Claire Carter; 3 co-opted Kelly Purdey, Chris Beard and Roxanne Chung.

## **10. Minutes and other reports**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2022 were accepted. The Fabric/buildings, Electoral Roll and Deanery Synod report were accepted.

SJ referred to the Re-ordering Project and that a meeting had been held with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). We are encouraged to seek out architects and pray for the process and what the project might look like. Other churches are being visited. A developed statement of inheritance has been prepared for the DAC.

SJ referred to the appointment of a new Bishop of Birmingham and the need to pray for the new incumbent.

## **11. Opportunity for questions**

There were no further questions.

## **12. Close of meeting**

SJ concluded the meeting with a song and prayer.