

St Matthew's Annual Church Meeting 15th May 2016

Agenda

1. Minutes of the previous meeting
2. DCC & Deanery Synod elections
3. Finance Report
4. Children's Ministry Report
5. Youth Ministry Report / Video
6. 5pm Congregation Video
7. 7pm Service
8. Vicar's Report
9. Questions

Minutes

The meeting started with worship and prayer.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2015 ACM were agreed, with no matters arising.

2. Election to the District Church Council & Deanery Synod

There was a vacancy on the DCC for which Bee Shaw was happy to stand again. She was proposed by Jane Richardson and seconded by Dee Harper. No-one stood for election to the Deanery Synod so this election will take place later this year.

3. Finance Report

Giles took us through the Finance Report for the last time before standing down as Treasurer. Karen Hickson-Smith asked about how Helen Clark's legacy would be used and Chris replied that the DCC had decided this should go towards a specific project rather than helping with the Church's running costs. Simon Payne asked how much regular giving helped towards income and Giles said that we are good at Gift Aiding our donations, getting close to £30K back from the Inland Revenue, but that any extra income would always help.

Michelle Shirley felt that it was amazing how much the Gift Day had contributed to the Young People's Ministry.

Chris presented Giles with a case each of wine and beer to say thank you for his nearly 20 years of service as Treasurer. Kate Whitehead would be taking over from him at the next DCC meeting in June.

Chris explained to the Congregation about the impetus from the Church of England to get our energy from as "green" a source as possible and asked them if they were for or against the £500 it might cost to be "greener". 24 people voted in favour and there were no votes actually against it.

4. Children's Ministry

Jon went through the year's highlights. Deeper, the disciple group for children, now numbered just under 40, with many of the children bringing their non-church friends along. He had asked for help with the Team and been pleased to receive it.

He had split Bright into 3 groups which were following the New Wine curriculum. One group was now meeting regularly in the Bethel Hall and each was finding value in being a small group. He thanked all those involved with running them.

Jon had a good relationship with St Matthew's School, taking assemblies and running an intervention lunchtime group with the help of Mike and Antonia Harrowing. The SIAMS report had been full of praise of the link between the school and St Matt's.

Communion services now regularly included the children. He felt that the 5th Sunday set up was not just about bacon butties but rather about getting the church around tables and different generations interacting with each other.

He felt that he was passing the children on to good Youth Work (!).

Karen Hickson-Smith thanked Jon for all he was doing with the group and said her sons were talking about getting baptised; were there any plans in place for this? Chris replied that if she and they saw him about, he could explain more.

5. Youth Ministry

Prior to Claire's report, a video made by Sarah Johnson about Ignite was shown. Claire then thanked all her helpers and said she has a great team to work with and that she was encouraged that the Congregation welcomed the Youth.

She felt that Ignite was a good place for our Youth as well as the Youth of the community to meet and had over 30 youngsters regularly attending.

Encounter had had to be split to cope with the numbers. The Unite service happened once a month and was open to the Youth townwide. She encouraged parents to let their youngsters come to this service.

The Noise went well in April. She was also mentoring in secondary schools and wanted to develop this further. She had completed her Youth Work Course with Cliffe College and would now have more time to give elsewhere.

Claire Smith thanks Claire for blessing her girls whose faith had grown considerably in the time they had been attending Ignite. Chris also thanked her.

6. 5pm Congregation Video was shown.

7. 7pm Service

Jon said that he had made some changes to the 7pm service format after consulting with his 7pm Leadership Team. There had been 2 weekends away, one at Ashburnham, at which different things had been done at each. The new format for Sunday evenings would be: 1st Sunday = Celebration Service, 2nd Sunday = Holy Communion / Meal at people's houses, 3rd Sunday = "Hungry" style worship in Church, 4th Sunday = Share in the Church Centre, 5th Sunday = No Service. Jon felt that everyone who comes to church has something give and share with each other.

8. Vicar's Report

Chris thanked the Wardens, DCC, Leadership Team and staff for all their support over the last year. He also thanked Clare Caless for her support over the last 2 ½ years and announced she would be standing down as Administrator later this year; she was given a round of applause.

Chris said that the Gift Day generosity had made such a difference to being able to fund our Youth Work. He felt that we are the church rather than just a building and asked if we were defined by what we do or what we are. Do we judge church by how well it's doing?

He mentioned that our demographic had changed and that there were not so many people around church during the week. It was now more a case of church supporting the congregation where they were rather than providing events / groups for people to attend yet "doing" helps us to quantify numbers.

Housegroups/Pods were helping to grow discipleship and leaders which in turn was releasing ministry in all of us. Jesus had to be at the heart of it as we have a living faith and he felt we were on a journey of re-discovering the expectation of God in our lives. He felt that we needed to pursue this and that the Hungry evenings were a great way to do so. He recognised that when we're with Jesus, we're different and this was transformative. He issued a call and a challenge to renew our passion for the One who loves us.

9. Questions/AOB

Simon Payne said that he felt if everyone gave just a little extra, it would wipe out any potential deficit and he encouraged everyone to do that. Chris agreed but did not want to pressurise folks into giving if they could not.

Jessica Brierley thanked those who move the furniture, week in, week out, and said that it **was** noticed! She felt that those who served in this way were so kind and humble and she was amazed how there were never any accidents, given the children rushing round whilst this was happening!

Linde Horseman said how impressed she was with the numbers of people who work in the caring professions here at St Matt's. She felt that the Kingdom is more vivid that we think and she was inspired by what people do here.

Mark Gabriel asked if there would be events or times when we could bring non-church friends to St Matt's. Chris wondered how effective that would be but would be talking about it later this year.

Hannah Mwesigwa thanked Chris and Carole for their leadership of St Matt's and mentioned how good they were at recognising people's gifts and talents. The Congregation agreed.

The meeting ended with an offertory song and blessing.