

Minutes of the Aldridge Parish Church Annual General Meeting 2023
Held on Sunday 14 May 2023
at 1pm in the Church Centre

	PRESENT: 90 attendees (see attendance list attached).	
	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & PRAYER Thank you to Karen and Gary (and team) for the soup and roll.	SD
1.	APOLOGIES 9 apologies (see Attendance List attached)	
2.	<p>FINANCE REPORT Thank you to Ian Bryant for offering to take on the position of Treasurer in September 2022.</p> <p>Thanks to Maureen who does a lot of the heavy lifting, to Chris Leng who deals with Gift Aid and to Phil Young who does the parish accounts and is on hand to support.</p> <p>January-December 2022 Overall income: £258,700 Overall expenditure: £258,169 Difference: £ 531 Reserves: £102,384</p> <p>Grateful to Phil for his help creating the 2023 budget. Budget suggests that income will be £67,903 less than expenditure.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Income has dropped. 2. Expenditure has increased. New energy contracts (following existing fixed term contracts) have trebled from 2022. <p>Solution: Cut budgets which brings the deficit to £44,993. At the end of 2023, reserves will be halved, and struggles will ensure in 2024.</p> <p>Solution: Increase income. Income has decreased significantly over the last 4 years. Stewardship project to take place in June to bring the issue to the wider congregation. If everyone were to give £20 per month more, our financial issues would be resolved.</p> <p>Leo: Why is income down? Less people are giving by Standing Order. Some people who were committed givers have left the church and others who have joined the church have yet to start giving.</p> <p>Mark: Long-term plan regarding energy? How are we looking at renewables with the CofE? We have taken a 1-year contract due to price fluctuations. The electric bill in the church centre is 10 times that of a house. The church building consumes significant amounts of gas to heat, and the Church Centre incurs an expensive electricity bill.</p>	SD IB

	<p>Mark: We are not the only church to struggle to heat an energy inefficient church, so who, in the Diocese, is on hand to help us resolve this? Fiona.</p> <p>Fiona: The Diocese does not have an Environmental Officer, but they are looking to recruit one. Fiona can talk to us about solar panels or renewables. It's difficult to successfully insulate a listed building. We could look at solar panels for the Church Centre.</p> <p>David: How effective has the Giving Station been? Giving Station donations have been allocated separately in the accounts since January 2023 only, so it's hard to say. Consistent Standing Orders, which cost the church nothing, are preferable to ad-hoc giving.</p> <p>Detailed accounts (currently still subject to audit) are available on the church website.</p>	
3.	<p>WHAT MATTERS TO APC? CONSIDERING OUR PRIORITIES</p> <p>At the last AGM, we created our three words going forward after the pandemic: <i>Loving, Learning, Living</i>. We're doing work at PCM to see how we can better love, learn and live. However, it's all a bit general so SD would like us to do an exercise to gain some more concrete ideas.</p> <p>The exercise covered 5 Greatest Strengths, Weaknesses and Values.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Children's work • Preaching and teaching • Wednesday worship, house groups, etc. • Culture of excellent lay workers and volunteers • Size of congregation (of a wide age range) • Mission giving • Church facilities and location • Worship and musicians • Office • Evangelism and community outreach • Welcome • Family oriented second service • Pastoral care between individuals • Prayer • Communion • Committed disciples 	SD

<p>3.</p>	<p>WHAT MATTERS TO APC? CONSIDERING OUR PRIORITIES (cont'd...)</p> <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability (increased expenditure/decreased income) • Insufficient number of house groups • Corporate prayer and listening to Holy Spirit • Outreach (particularly secondary schools and community) • Number and breath of volunteers and musicians (possibility of recruiting a Volunteers' Manager/Mentor and looking for volunteers amongst the 20-40 age bracket) • Integration of congregation between the two Sunday services • Delegation • Lack of co-ordination • Poor communication (within church, to community, on website) • Unclear overall strategy • No hospitality team. • Inconsiderate church groups • Lack of community in church • Diversity and unity are poor. • Strengths of the congregation underutilised. • Evangelism, profile in the community and social media presence • Pastoral care structure, especially for our more vulnerable members • Local church liaison • Discipleship (particularly families and young people) • Global issues and the environment <p>Values</p> <p>The congregation were asked to rate the importance of the following values at APC at the moment. 1 (weak) to 5 (strong) and also to circle one option from the above list that should be of the most important value.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 1355 1278 1615"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>circled</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Evangelism</td> <td>11</td> <td>19</td> <td>18</td> <td>10</td> <td>2</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worship</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>14</td> <td>35</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prayer</td> <td>3</td> <td>27</td> <td>19</td> <td>14</td> <td>3</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Action</td> <td>26</td> <td>24</td> <td>12</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Service Overseas</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>26</td> <td>23</td> <td>9</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discipleship/Nurture</td> <td>5</td> <td>19</td> <td>30</td> <td>8</td> <td>2</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Note: Total numbers across each value are not identical as not all forms were filled in accurately.</i></p> <p>All will be discussed at PCM.</p>		1	2	3	4	5	circled	Evangelism	11	19	18	10	2	8	Worship	3	4	14	35	12	11	Prayer	3	27	19	14	3	10	Community Action	26	24	12	3	3	9	Service Overseas	1	5	26	23	9	1	Discipleship/Nurture	5	19	30	8	2	25	<p>SD</p>
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<p>4.</p>	<p>ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT</p> <p>241 on electoral roll. 10 people removed. 18 people added.</p>	<p>SD</p>																																																	
<p>5.</p>	<p>REPORTS, Q&A</p> <p>No questions or comments on reports. SD invited people to email the church office with any questions G@P meet every other week. Report not included.</p>	<p>SD</p>																																																	

6.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING Agreed.	SD
7.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2022 MINUTES No matters arising.	SD
8.	ELECTIONS List of nominees (and those who nominated them in brackets). PCM (4): Chris Wyle leaving the PCM. Thanks to him for his service. Three places available and three nominations: 1. Annette Cook (Grace Sadler/Pam Cooper) 2. Maureen Rouse (Colin Flenley/Jane Leighton) 3. Matthew Young (Maureen Rouse/Annette Cook) Dutifully elected. DEANERY SYNOD (4): 1. Barbara Leach (Jen Ford/Jenny Doel) 2. Heather Ford (Jane Leighton/Maureen Rouse) 3. Pete Ford (Jen Ford/Tony Philips) 4. Mark Chapman (Pauline Stanford/Maxine Roberts) All elected to the Deanery Synod with our heartfelt thanks. WARDENS (4): Jen Ford stepped down after 6 years of faithful service. Personal thanks from SD for Jen's support and guidance since he took up the post at APC. Grateful thanks from all of us especially during inter-regnum and for new Vicar. JF thanked everyone for their support and she's looking forward and praying for where God is leading us in future. Despite challenges, she's found being warden exceptionally rewarding. 4 nominations for Church Warden 1. Colin Flenley (Maureen and Chris Leng) 2. Chris Stanford (Patrick/Maxine Roberts) 3. Janet Lee (Elaine Beason/Sheila Wright) 4. Angela Luik (Debbie Flenley/Sue Bud) SD invited us to pray for our wardens who do a lot behind the scenes and support him well. He is grateful to these 4 people of deeply committed faith.	SD
9.	PRAYER	

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Monday 22 May 2022 @ 8pm in the Church Centre
 Annual District Church Meeting (provisional): Sunday 12 May 2024