

# The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence



## **DRAFT APCM Minutes** **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6.15pm** *(within in the context of the Eucharist)*

There were 32 members present and 12 apologies

All those elected confirmed they were eligible to stand for their various positions and had been proposed and seconded by members of the Electoral Roll.

### **Vestry meeting**

There were 2 candidates who had proposers and seconders:

Bernard Oakley

Darren Nicholson

These were duly elected. The Rector thanked them for serving in the previous year.

### The 2021 Annual Report

- The Electoral Roll Report
- The PCC Report
- The Financial Statements of the PCC
- The Church Fabric (Buildings Group)
- The Deanery Synod.
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James spoke to the Financial report. James informed the meeting, as previously known, that we run out of money next year. He said it was a grave situation. The Annual Report was proposed by Darren Nicholson and seconded by Rob Kelly. Unanimously approved.

### Appointment of Independent Examiner

James Laidler proposed John Schofield. Seconded Tony Checker. Unanimously approved.

## Chairman's remarks.

Fr. Neil outlined the two options that had been previously shared with the congregation, the consequences being an exciting future or managing decline and closure. Despite requests, no one had come forward with any alternative proposals to what the Rector had outlined in both the February congregational meeting and the APCM itself. Whilst everyone is working extremely hard, and the current situation is no criticism of anyone, the task ahead is one that is beyond our own means and resources.

After reflecting on the two options as illustrated, during a time of prayer those present were asked to indicate which option they preferred. The **unanimous** outcome was to explore an exciting new future for St. Laurence's.

Fr. Neil said that, if we claimed we loved St. Laurence's, the mature response to saying that is to do something about it! Saying we loved the church, but allowing it to be neglected and to fall into disrepair, is not a mature response to the love of God. Neither is allowing it to decline and close. These are matters of spiritual life or spiritual death.

### An exciting exploration of our future

Plan for the future with confidence

Continue to build on our ministry of hospitality

Continue to see our congregations grow

Continue to develop our outreach and community support, in partnership with other bodies (NHS, International Aid Trust, Chorley Help the Homeless and CAP)

Reorder church interior for greater church and community use

Become eligible for substantial grant funding to enable significant repairs to our building

Sell Park Road to help invest funds in the project

Receive a grant for a 3-year project manager/Ops manager in order to manage the transition

Pass on the legacy of Chorley's oldest building church to the next generation

### Manage decline and closure

Move to part-time or house for duty priest-in-charge by end of 2022/start of 2023 (if the parish can still afford a half-time stipend).

Alternatively, run Sunday services by a series of supply priests for remainder of time open (more realistic)

Work to manage closure of current activities and handover to other churches/organisations (Help the Homeless, Living Waters Foodbank, URC).

Consult Diocesan Pastoral Committee about new pastoral scheme for possible dissolution of the current geographical parish

Explore worshipping community in another church or community building

Handover of Civic responsibilities and support to St. George's

Look to St. Peter's or St. George's for support for our church school

## Election of PCC members and Deputy Wardens

Michelle Wareham and Elle Greenhough were re-elected as Deputy Wardens  
James Laidler, Betty Kelly and Joyce Fielding were elected to join the PCC.

A vote of thanks was offered to the Chairman and the evening concluded with the singing of a final hymn and the blessing.