



St Bartholomew's United Church, Quorn

Minutes of Vestry Meeting & Annual Church Meeting

held on 9th April, 2003

Chairman: Rev. David Leese

1. David Leese opened the meeting with thoughts of the issues to be considered and prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence:

G. Maltby, J. Iveson, R. Allwood, K. Allwood, J. Hutchinson, K. Hutchinson, A. McKechnie, R. Bond, D. Goodman, M. Goodman, T. Bowler, H. Fulford, M. Holt, V. Hopper, J. Slater.

3. Vestry Meeting: (Election of Churchwardens)

John Gretton and Heather Fulford had both offered to stand for a third year.

H. Fulford proposed by A. Mosley, seconded by D. Bird and elected unanimously.
J. Gretton proposed by D. Slater, seconded by D. Snelling and elected unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of 24th April, 2002:

With the exception of some corrections to the spelling of some names, the minutes of the last ACM were approved and signed by the chairman.

5. Notice of "Any Other Business". For Item 13.):

Four items were tabled for Item 13.

6. Matters arising from the minutes of ACM held on 24th April, 2002:

There were no further matters.

7. Electoral Roll Report:

N. Fuller reported that he had received no new applications and there were currently 169 names on the Electoral Roll. This compared with 171 at the last AGM. (There had been two deaths in the past year.)

8. Annual Report:

D. Bowler had sent copies of the report to the Diocese and the Circuit Superintendent.

M. Bird requested that the Annual Report be put on the Church's web site.

9. Finance Report:

The Treasurer reported that financially the Church had had a good year and total funds had increased by approximately £10,000. An operating surplus of this level accruing annually would provide a build-up of reserves to cover increased costs expected over the next three years. Our Parish Share will increase by 3.5% to £38,000. The Circuit Assessment is expected to rise to £7,500, an increase of 7.9% (still below the level being paid five years ago). Approximately £9,000 of current funds is ring-fenced. (Grants to our Primary School, upkeep of certain graves, Mothering Sunday flowers and Parish Share arrears of £2,000 which may be waived but has to be accrued for.)

The accounts are accurate and thanks given to our independent accountant Gavin Gerrie and the finance team particularly Roger and Kathleen Allwood and Jean Musker.

J. Siddons asked whether in light of the Diocesan decision to allocate Quorn Parish 0.65 of a Vicar some time in the future, the Treasurer had or would be negotiating an corresponding reduction in the Parish Share. The Treasurer told the meeting that he believed that the formula for calculating Parish Share took account of the adjustment in clergy allocation. In reply to a further question from the floor regarding the time scale, the Vicar offered to speak on this subject in "Vicars Comments".

a) Approval of Accounts:

Approval of the Accounts was proposed by D. Slater, seconded by M. Arthur and approved unanimously.

b) Appointment of Auditor:

Gavin Gerrie (CAACMA), our Auditor for several years, was happy to be re-appointed. Proposed by M. Bird, seconded by C. Cox and approved unanimously.

The Treasurer invited the meeting to consider leaving legacies to the Church and left leaflets for individuals to take away.

10. Churchwardens' and Steward's Report:

H. Fulford sent apologies and regrets for being unable to attend the meeting. The Vicar thanked both the Wardens for their work and support during the last year. The only update on the Warden's & Steward's section in the Annual Report concerned stonework renovation. Our stonework consultant Graham Wright has recommended a particular mason who could complete the work this year at a cost of approximately £15,000. Under a new government scheme we should be able to avoid paying VAT on this work. A potentially dangerous large tree in the churchyard is owned by Charnwood Borough Council who will inspect it and carry out any remedial surgery or fell it if necessary, at no cost to the Church. The Methodist Steward expressed his thanks to the Wardens for their support and work.

11. Ministers' Reports:

The Vicar reported that he and Church Warden Heather Fulford recently attended a meeting with the Archdeacon to learn more about the Deanery Plan. According to the Sheffield Formula for assessing clergy, Quorn is rated 0.65 of a clergy (rounded down to half a priest) but this does not appear to take into account statutory responsibilities such as governorship of parish schools which impose a heavy load on incumbents. The official response has been that items such as governorship of schools has to be worked out at a local level. Our vicar has the freehold of the parish but could be asked to undertake additional duties in adjoining parishes. The plan is that by 2005 three priests should be running the southern cluster of parishes comprising Quorn (0.5), Barrow with Walton (1), Wymeswold and Prestwold with Hoton (0.5)

and Mountsorrel (1) until someone leaves. Any new incumbent in Barrow will be expected to become team leader for all the parishes. Diocese staff will also be reduced by sharing some facilities with Coventry. N. Fuller was concerned that the whole strategy was being looked at piecemeal rather than as a more comprehensive plan over a wider part of the diocese. He proposed that the chairman accepted a motion that **“This meeting expresses its concern that the planned parish reorganisation is being talked about in small units rather than on a more comprehensive basis.”** J. Siddons wanted to take a stronger line saying that **“and we believe that Quorn warrants a whole clergy and we in Quorn insist on this remaining the case and will not accept the reductions proposed by the diocese”**. The meeting also wished it to be recorded that the Methodist Ministry in Quorn should not be taken into account when assessing the Anglican cover in the parish. D. Leese said that the Methodist Circuit has written to the Bishop to say that the Circuit would like to be involved in order to organise their resources in line with any changes made by the Anglican Church. After a positive response nothing further has been heard. The Treasurer advised that the Church can afford to support a whole vicar together with a quarter Methodist Minister. L. Hearn suggested that the meeting agree to the motion in principle but leave it to the Church Council to prepare a statement to be sent to the Archdeacon. After further discussion a vote was taken on the motion and passed with no opposition and one abstention.

12. Election of Church Council members:

The following Church Officers and Council Members were appointed without any objections:

a) Deanery Synod Representatives (3): (Two to attend Church Meetings in Rotation)
Diane Bird, Christine Cox and David Slater all volunteered to continue.

b) Methodist Steward:
David Cockrell expressed his willingness to continue but requested back-up and support of a second steward. The position is open to anyone from the United Church but one of the aspects of the job is to represent the United Church at meetings in the Methodist forum within the Loughborough Circuit. The matter will be taken back to the United Church Council for further discussion.

c) Treasurer:
Mike Bird was re-appointed.

d) Secretary:
Geoff Hearn was re-appointed.

e) Advisory Group Chairs/Convenors:

Pastoral Group	Lesley Whitwell
Worship Group	Jean Musker
Finance	Michael Bird
Property	Neil Fuller
Mission & Outreach	David Bowler (Temporary Chair)
Youth Forum	Joy Chapman together with Diane Bird
Communications	Mike Bird
Church Rooms Rep	Neil Fuller

f) Notice of Ex-Officio members of the United Church Council:

Vicar	David Bowler
Methodist Minister	David Leese
Methodist Circuit Steward	Nigel Cox (Replacing Alistair Riach)
Verger	John Maltby
Sacristan	Colin Dean
Organist	Angus McKechnie
Diocesan Readers	Vacant

Methodist Local Preachers Alfred Mosley

g) Church Members (4):

Keith Croysdale
Diane Bird
David Bodicoat
Vacancy (1)

h) Notice of Numbers of Sides Men and Women and Sound Stewards:

Derek Snelling read the list of the names on the various rotas and thanked all for their support. 25 sides-people served approximately 150 services and a request was made for more volunteers to ease the burden.

13. Any Other Business (Agreed with the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting) See Item 5:

a) Communication:

K. Gibson requested that copies of Council meeting minutes be posted on the Church notice board. The chairman confirmed that the Council has agreed for this course of action.

b) D. Bird gave notice of a shared breakfast on Easter Sunday and the summer Holiday Club run by the United Churches in Quorn.

c) Church Meeting Dates:

The Vicar proposed a timetable of Church Council Meetings alternating between Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

10th June, 2003
24th September, 2003
11th November, 2003
14th January, 2004
9th March, 2004
9th June 2004

Dates of meetings will be posted in Quorn news and on notice sheets.
The next Annual Church Meeting was set for Tuesday 20th April, 2004.

d) The Secretary advertised a concert being organised by the Social Committee to be given in Church on 16th May by the Three Counties Musical Society supported by the Rawlins steel band "Raw Steel".

14. Closing Prayers:

The meeting concluded at 8.38pm with the saying of The Grace.

Reminders:

**Next Church Committee Meeting: Tuesday 10th June at 7.30pm
in The Wesley Room**

**2004 Annual Church Meeting: Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm
in the Church Rooms**