



## Minutes of the Annual Church Family Meeting held on Sunday 22nd May 2022

The meeting was held within the context of a service of worship which started at 10:00am.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham. He began the meeting in prayer.

Paul advised that there would be two opportunities during the meeting to raise questions, the first being finance related and they will be addressed by Dave Newton and Mark Parsons and then general questions that will be addressed by Paul Langham.

Apologies received: Graeme Ambler, Rachel Ambler, Esther Brown, David Daniels, Helen Daniels, Beth French, Chris French, Becky Hodnett, Susan Hooper, Peter Smithson, Susan Smithson, Jan Tyrrell, David Walker.

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

#### **1. Appointment of a secretary to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.**

Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

These were displayed on the church website [www.ccweb.org.uk/agm](http://www.ccweb.org.uk/agm) and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising were raised.

The minutes were approved by the meeting

#### **3. Election of Churchwardens.**

Catherine Murray and Graham Stuart are stepping down as churchwardens and Paul offered his grateful thanks on behalf of the church family for their service particularly given their demanding jobs as medics during the pandemic.

Paul then introduced those standing for the office of Churchwarden:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Lucy D'Orton-Gibson	Rachel Shaddick	Rachel Ambler
Mark Orriss	Chris Tothill	Melissa Tothill

There were no other nominations, so as chair, Paul declared them as elected and Catherine and Graham prayed for their successors.



## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

The APCM followed on immediately after the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and was chaired by Paul Langham.

In accordance with the Christ Church's customs some of the routine business of the meeting was conducted prior to the meeting including the following:

- **Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.**  
Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.
- **Electoral roll**  
Since the last APCM, 21 names have been added to the Roll and 20 names removed. The revised roll therefore stands at 381.
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor**  
Burton Sweet has been reappointed as our 2022 Independent Examiner/Auditor.

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

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The minutes approved by the meeting.

### 2. Elections and Appointments.

Eight nominations were received for 11 places on the PCC:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
John Butler	Colin Havill	Mair Davies
Mark Ellis	Mary Griffin	Peter Smithson
Beth French	Joanna Carter	Rebecca Hodnett
Mei Yen Furey	Alasdair Groves	John Butler
Danish Gill	Patrick Bolster	Krystyna Zahid
Mike Innes	Paddy Sykes	Simon Hygate
Anita (Oni) Milne	Jane Sykes	Emma Morris
Tavi Price	Katharine Hill	Kate Cardinal

As no election was required, Paul Langham declared all the candidates elected to the PCC.

### 3. Finance Report.

David Newton, PCC Treasurer, gave an overview of the current Church finances.

The Finance Group also comprises of Dave Vernon who is on the PCC, Patrick Bolster a former Treasurer, and Mark Parsons our Operations Manager

The financial statements and details are in the Annual Report and Accounts but Dave focused on 3 things:

- What last year looked like in terms of our 'routine day-to-day' finances, that is the General Fund
- How 2022 is shaping up and what challenges and opportunities we are facing
- Where we are on the RENEW project and what happens next with that; the building works are complete but financially we are not quite done yet

#### General Fund – 2021 chart

- Dave presented a chart showing our main sources of income, and the main things we spend money on to operate as a church.
- In terms of costs, the main items are:
  - The costs of employing our staff team, including running the office, equipment and training
  - Our Parish Share, which is our contribution to support mission elsewhere in the Diocese
  - Mission partners we support outside the parish, in Bristol and around the world
  - The costs of running the building, both cleaning, utilities and maintenance and repairs
  - Ministry costs, which are about supporting our gatherings, children's work, seniors etc.
  - Support costs like IT, banking, insurance - things we have to do to function properly
- On the income side:
  - The giving of church family members, plus the Gift Aid
  - Lettings including Linden Gate, and also a property held on trust by the Diocese in Oakfield Road which has been operated by Mama Bears Nursery and has paid us rent
  - There is also a small amount of income from events, fees for weddings, and one-off things like vaccination clinics
- We aim for a balance in the General Fund, but in 2021 our spend exceeded our income by about £900 per week

#### Why was there a deficit in 2021?

- 2021 was another COVID year and that had a big effect on both income and expenditure
- However, giving fell compared to 2020. There was a great response to the Day of Generosity in November, but we were seeking to raise regular giving rather than one off gifts
- Our lettings income was down, partly because the Mama Bears nursery shut down in September, and also the Whitwell family moved into Linden Gate (they do not pay rent because this is taken into account in Chris' salary, like clergy)

## How is 2022 looking?

- In setting the budget, we have reduced our Parish Share in line with the reduction in income. This is in line with a decision taken by the PCC to ensure that our share is in line with our capacity to pay (if income turns out to be higher than planned we can always increase our contribution)
- Staff costs have increased, mainly due to an increase for inflation agreed by the PCC. There have also been increases in training and other staff costs as they return to the office
- The cost of utilities is a concern. Our heating system is now more efficient, and we buy energy through the CoE energy basket scheme, so tariffs are fixed until 30th Sept, but we are not sure how much charges will increase after then.
- Overall, costs are increasing only slightly from 2021
- However on the income side, our main concern is the loss of rental income. This impacted us for the last quarter of 2021 but will be lost for the whole of 2022.
- To balance the budget, we will require a substantial increase in giving.

## How can we increase income?

- Last November's Generosity Day was very encouraging with 34 new givers and 46 existing givers responding
- Overall we saw an increase in giving of 18% with many existing givers increasing their giving by over a third
- We are so grateful to everyone who has responded but we are also aware that many existing givers, who give by standing order have not changed them for some time
- In addition, lots of people have joined in the last 18 months and may not be aware of our financial needs
- So despite the great response to Generosity Day we are still running short of target
- In a national context there was a 20% fall in giving to churches between 2020 and 2021, so we are doing well in that context ...
- ... but if we can't balance the budget it will still mean we will have to reduce some of our activities
- We could get near our target if for example:
  - Existing givers increased their gift by an average of 5%, and
  - We gained 20 new regular givers
- The loss in rental income can't be made up in the short term, but we still have our property assets, so we will be able to replace this in some form eventually
- Remember the four golden rules for giving; give regularly; a planned amount; tell us about it; Gift Aid it if possible.

## RENEW Project

- The works are completed and it's fantastic to see what a difference the new facilities are making
- There is still a significant amount outstanding. We had submitted applications for grants but we learnt recently that they had been unsuccessful
- The PCC will be reviewing the options going forward to taking a decision on how to address the shortfall.

Visit our website at [www.ccweb.org.uk/giving](http://www.ccweb.org.uk/giving) for more details on how to give to Christ Church.

Appreciation and huge thanks were given to Dave Newton, Mark Parsons and the rest of the Finance Team for all they do to look after the church finances.

#### 4. Buildings RENEW – Mikes Innes

Mike Innes gave an update on our Buildings including the houses of 60 Clifton Park Road and Linden Gate. We have fallen behind in addressing some of the issues with these properties, especially with regard to environmental aspects and how they are used. A property team is looking into these issues and this team includes some members of the RENEW team.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May the team will be talking to the architect and a builder about a range of possibilities to incorporate the church offices into the main church building and see the church open and more vibrant, as well as addressing environmental and revenue issues.

#### 5. Questions (led by Chris Brown)

Q: With regard to the renew deficit, how do we bridge that gap? **{DN}** increasing letting incomes of people using the building, the Ukrainian hub and Spear project should /might attract support – we are aware of legacies which might be on their way

Q: £45k/year. Where does the deficit come from if there is no additional income? **{DN}** we carry reserves – but this will need to be addressed if this continues

Q: Ethics of income generation plans? **{PL}** we want to bless our community, but it would have to be within guidelines.

Q: Heard rumours that the Side Chapel may be chosen to house the offices, some people have got grave concerns with this suggestion. **{MI}** there will be different options up for discussion and this is only one of them.

Q: Please can we receive regular communication about plans for the future regarding these offices? **{MI}** – we will be transparent with any plans and options.

Q: What's happened to the "buy-a-brick" prayer wall. Is the wall going to be built and where are the funds accounted for in the accounts? **{MP}** – Jonny Hendry did an amazing job but he is snowed under to complete this project – if anyone is able to take on finishing this project please let Mark know.

#### 6. Vicar's Report

Paul gave thanks for Dave Newton, as he steps down from PCC treasurer, for a steady hand on the financial tiller. Dave has managed to combine a grasp of the financial realities whilst also having faith. Paul also thanked Maria Fenner, Dave's wife, who has helped with the cleaning of our church.

Paul led a moment of quiet for those members of the church family who have died this past year:

- Jane Leatt
- Joyce Wyton
- Geoffrey Lock
- Val Moore

We need to acknowledge the pandemic is not in the past and still continues to leave a wave of effects – especially in its impact on attendance, serving and giving. When we "relaunched" after lockdown we had questions: What was it going to be like? Who would come back? What is God calling us to? Joshua 3 sums up how we felt ... "you have never been this way before". It's the role of the leaders to take up the symbol of God's presence and go forward.

We have done some groundwork on questions of why we exist: To make wholehearted disciples of Jesus. We have made some strategic decisions about our gatherings so they are a place of encounter.

Churches have traditionally put a lot of weight on a single leader and a church council. Alone they cannot lead the church effectively, so churches appoint a Senior Leadership Team to gather around the

vicar. At Christ Church we have a shared leadership team – Janet Lee, Chris & Helen Whitwell, Chris Brown and Mark Parsons. The work of this team is to empower the whole church in Christian mission.

In closing, let's celebrate what God is doing:

- The growth in our other weekly gatherings, especially The 8 on Sunday and the Midweek – Wednesday at 11am
- Our amazing Staff team
- Emelye Chanot who gives 16 hours a week freely to work as our schools community worker
- Our finances may be flat lining but are not dropping 20-30% like other UK churches are
- Our online community – a great way for to keep connected with those who are in hospital etc.
- Baptism and dedication celebrations
- 778 adults connected through our database – a great mission opportunity
- Diversity in our church family
- One Church One Day – 24 hours of prayer organised by Katharine and Richard Hill
- Welcome Hub for Ukrainian refugees on Friday mornings
- Taking Christmas outside our church building – not waiting for others to come in
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea Party – coming up on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June
- The Spear Programme – now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort – the next graduation is on 8<sup>th</sup> June
- 7 Cakes Café – thanks to Krystyna Zahid who is running this

Paul ended by thanking the following:

- RENEW Team – thanks to Mike Innes, Simon Hygate, Paddy Sykes, Jonny Hendry, Dave Newton, Hannah Gibney, Graham Stuart, Mark Parsons
- Lucy & Malcolm Bourne – stepping down from heading up marriage preparation
- David & Adrienne Walker – stepping down from the cleaning team
- Richard Bebb – stepping down as a Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Jake Hodges & Hannah Morris – stepping down from leading student ministry. Paul welcomed Joe Calvey and Deborah Pacht who are taking over from Jake and Hannah and prayed for them.
- Our Small Community Leaders

The APCM closed with a video about the need for team members for the New Wine united summer gatherings.