



### **Minutes of the Annual Church Family Meeting held on Zoom – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 but was postponed when Coronavirus lockdown restrictions came into effect. The Church of England subsequently extended the deadline for Annual Meetings to 31st October and agreed that these could be held online where it was not possible to have all members of the Electoral Roll physically together.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham who began with reading Psalm 26v3 and opening the meeting in prayer.

Paul pointed out that whilst we were waiting for the meeting to start we were listening to one of the songs written by Tom Buckler & Debs Davis. This was one of the many songs coming out of the Christ Church song writing collective. Paul encouraged the meeting to continue to pray for them as they write new songs of declaration and praise.

Paul asked those gathered on Zoom to remember Val Moore awaiting test results at Southmead hospital.

Paul took the opportunity to congratulate Brendan Biggs who has been successful in his election onto the General Synod.

Paul then explained how the meeting would work on Zoom given the unusual circumstances of this year's meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**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 – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

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 were proposed, and the vote taken clearly indicated that the minutes were approved.

**3. Matters arising.**

None raised.

**4. Election of Churchwardens.**

Nominations for the role of Churchwarden must be received in writing in advance of the meeting.

**Nominee**

Catherine Simmonds

Graham Stuart

**Proposer**

Caroline Buckland

Paddy Sykes

**Secunder**

Neil Buckland

Simon Hygate

As there were only 2 nominations for the two vacancies, Paul as chair declared them as elected.

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

In accordance with Christ Church customs, some of the business of the meeting is 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, 22 names have been added to the Roll and 13 removed. The revised roll therefore stands at 363.
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner**  
Burton Sweet has been reappointed as our 2020 Independent Examiner
- **Apologies**  
Apologies received from Charles Kinsey and Sian Lowe. Graham Stuart after offering his apologies was able to attend.

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

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. There were no changes proposed and the minutes were therefore approved.

### 2. Matters arising.

None raised.

### 3. Elections and Appointments.

#### Elections to the PCC – 4 vacancies

| <u>Nominee</u> | <u>Proposer</u>    | <u>Seconder</u>   |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Rachel Ambler  | Catherine Simmonds | Caroline Buckland |
| Hannah Gibney  | Julia Loveless     | Sophie Brown      |
| Susannah King  | Amy Silcock        | Jenn Ellis        |
| Dave Vernon    | Graham Stuart      | Richard Hill      |

Rachel and Hannah had been co-opted onto the PCC earlier in the year but are now standing for an elected place. As there were four nominations for the four vacancies, no election was required, and Paul declared that each of those standing was elected.

#### Elections to Deanery Synod

Every 3 years the Deanery Synod membership is wiped and lay members stand for re-election.

Two nominations have been received for the five elected lay places available to Christ Church

| <u>Nominee</u> | <u>Proposer</u> | <u>Seconder</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cluff Noon     | Chris Saunders  | Oni Milne       |
| Sara Wadsworth | Val Moore       | Di Noon         |

As no election was required, Paul declared the two nominees as elected.

Paul explained that the Church of England has 4 layers of Church governance:

- Parochial Church Council
- Deanery Synod
- Diocesan Synod
- General Synod

Paul explained that if anyone elected to any of the Synods they are automatically ex-officio members of the layers of governance below that to which they have been elected.

Paul paid tribute and gave thanks to those standing down from their roles on PCC and Deanery Synod:

- David Troughton (PCC)
- Errol King (Deanery Synod)
- Ryan Langdon (Deanery Synod)
- Val Moore (Deanery Synod)

Paul then led the meeting in praying for those elected and those moving on to serve God in other ways. Paul encouraged the meeting to continue to pray for our PCC – the next meeting is being held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### **4. Finance Report.**

David Newton, PCC Treasurer, gave an overview of the current Church finances. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 would normally be presented at the APCM and can be found on the church website. Normally the meeting would focus on these accounts, but due to this year's APCM being delayed, David's focus will be the current financial position.

David gave an overview of the General Fund which showed a graphic of a set of scales with weekly income and costs on either side. The biggest item of income is our giving and the biggest cost item is our parish share. At the start of 2020 the Finance Team had budgeted for a small deficit with a plan to launch an appeal in the spring. This was never fully implemented due to lockdown.

At the end of Quarter 3 the income is down, showing reductions in giving, rental income and events income. In terms of our regular giving, 21 new people have started giving and 23 people have stopped during the year – this is about average. Costs are also down including items such as staff training, cleaning, events expenditure etc. However, there were also some unexpected building costs with lead replacement and stonework repairs. Overall, the 2020 deficit is currently approximately £600 per week or £30k for the year. This is significant, but having spoken to other treasurers, David reported that we have not been as badly affected as a lot of other churches by COVID.

The Finance Team will shortly be preparing the budget for 2021 and realise the challenges are far from over with the impact of coming out of furlough, and the potential of further lockdowns, not yet known. Clearly careful attention to managing costs is going to be very important. David concluded by saying that we look to God to have his arms around everything we do and to support us as he knows where we are heading.

## Questions on the Finance Presentation:

**Hannah Gibney** – are there any innovative income streams planned?

- **David:** Has had a call with other treasurers who are in churches bringing fundraising events online. We have started to look at income from the church, for the Renew Project. We are going to need to be innovative as we can't carry on doing things in the way we have before.
- **Paul:** added that our current vision booklet took us to 2020. One of the things the new PCC will be doing is seeking God for a fresh vision with a particular response to the extraordinary set of circumstances we find ourselves in.
- **Graham Stuart:** Highlighted Amazon Smile – you can nominate Christ Church as your charity and for every purchase you make on Amazon a percentage will be given to us. David can send details to anyone interested.

**Fay Price** – What is the annual income and expenditure of the church?

- **David:** General Fund – c.£600k income and expenditure. A £30k deficit represents 5%.

Paul formally gave grateful thanks to the Finance Team: David Newton, David Daniels, Patrick Bolster and Mark Parsons.

## 5. RENEW Team update

Paul gave praise and thanks to the members of this extraordinary team chaired by Mike Innes: Hannah Gibney, Simon Hygate, Dave Newton, Mark Parsons, Graham Stuart, Paddy Sykes, Jan Tyrell (who has since left the team but gave such a huge amount) and Sam Wright. Paul noted that the PCC has a huge amount of confidence in this team and the professionalism and experience they bring to this project.

Simon Hygate then shared a video walkthrough of the crypt taken the previous week, showing the works carried out so far by the Contractor.

Mike Innes echoed what Paul had said about the team and then gave a brief update:

- The project budget is c.£1.57m
- Available funds are c.£1.3m – a shortfall of c.£270k
- We are in unprecedented times but our funding will not run out till May 2021, so we still have time to raise the shortfall.
- We are making a number of grant applications.
- The local community will also be engaged and encouraged to donate.

## Questions for Paul:

**Chris Davis:** There is currently a shortfall in excess of £200,000 in funds to pay for the crypt refurbishment as planned. Several grant applications have and are being made to plug this shortfall, and hopefully they will be successful in doing so. However, if there are insufficient funds to pay the contractors' invoices as and when they fall towards the latter stages of the works, where will the cash come from other than from the personal pockets of PCC members?

- **Mike:** If we were unsuccessful with the fundraising (and we hope and pray we will not be). Then we would seek interest free loans from the congregation. If all else fails, we would have to go to a commercial lender. This would have an adverse effect of c.£12k/year on our budget. This is not what we want to happen and would inhibit what we are trying to achieve. This is a matter for prayer.

Paul took a moment to pay a tribute and give thanks for the Pre-school Team, both staff and trustees, for the way they have adapted to their temporary home during the RENEW works.

## 6. Vicar's Report

Paul gave his talk based on his earlier reading from **Psalm 26:3**

*I have always been mindful of your unfailing love  
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.*

### **Faithfulness – God**

Biblical writers use the reality of God's faithfulness as

- **Safety net** – recalibrate, re-centre, aligns future and past, re-set compass for true north: we proclaim this ultimate truth in the face of anything which suggests otherwise
- **Springboard** – response, future, asking that we may become faithful, as the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, **faithfulness**,  
<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:21-23*

### **Faithfulness – God's People**

There are so many amazing people in our church family: what a joy it is to be here! Paul received an email one hour before this meeting began, which contained the words:

*"Doesn't Christ Church have some great talent?!!"*

Paul specifically mentioned our Churchwardens, the members of the PCC, the members of the RENEW team for their extraordinary gift of professionalism and time, and for the Staff Team who had worked harder than ever to adapt to the needs and restrictions of COVID. He also thanked the numerous volunteers who had served the church so faithfully during this season.

The meeting then paused to recall the faithfulness of members of the church family who had died in the past year:

January

- Edris Williams 28/1/20

April

- Rev Glenys Mills 16/4/20
- David Warlow 16/4/20
- Eddie Bardgett 16/4/20
- Anthony Melksham 20/4/20
- Anne Tomlin 21/4/20
- Terry Willmott 22/4/20

September

- John Collins 17/9/20

October

- Pat Briggs 4/10/20

Paul then thanked the whole church family for showing such grace and such genuine appreciation of our efforts in these difficult months. He highlighted the single livestreams held during the first lockdown, where members of all four of our previous gatherings were represented. This was so positive, and encouraging and a real indication of the culture here at Christ Church. Jackie and Paul feel so privileged to be surrounded by such wonderful people.

### **Faithfulness – The Future**

God is and will be faithful ... that's guaranteed: it's who he is

*if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. 2 Timothy 2:13*

What does he ask of us?

As individual believers, we each face different life realities: we're called to support each other and to share one another's burdens.

But it seems that the church of God, biblically speaking, can only be optimistic about the future, simply because God is faithful, and God will be with us. And that gives us the courage to respond with our own faithfulness.

Take our financial situation, for example. We've deliberately not talked about money much in these uncertain times ... but the Finance Report makes the need clear ...

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our response of faithfulness to this need within our church family meant that we could start 2021 without a deficit?

£30,000 is a big number, but is not insurmountable: it could be met by...

- 60 members making a one-off gift of £500
- 120 members making a one-off gift of £250
- 240 members making a one-off gift of £125
- 480 members making a one-off gift of £62.50

Let us together trust God, who has been faithful in the past, to lead us into his amazing future.

### **7. The meeting closed at 9pm with a prayer.**