



Minutes of the Annual Church Family Meeting held – Sunday 21st May 2023

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.

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

Apologies received: Paul Crocker, Mair Davies, Chris Shaddick, Lynn Sayer, Martin Sayer, Gaye Senior Smith, Brian Strode, Margaret Strode, Graham Stuart, Maggie Stuart, Andrew Wilkinson and Wilma Wilkinson.

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 – 22nd May 2022.

These were displayed on the church website at www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising have been raised.

The minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

Lucy D’Orton Gibson had stood down as Churchwarden during the year. Paul Lanham offered his grateful thanks on behalf of the church family for her service. She had brought inspiration and challenge to the Leadership Team and done a fantastic job.

Paul then introduced those standing for the office of Churchwarden:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Di Noon	Emelye Chanot	Mair Davies
Mark Orriss	Tavi Price	Nick Price

There were no other nominations, so as chair, Paul Langham declared them as elected.



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Family Meeting – Sunday 21st May 2023

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, 19 names have been added to the Roll and 72 names removed. The revised roll therefore stands at 328.
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor.**
Burton Sweet has been reappointed as our 2023 Independent Examiner/Auditor.

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2. Elections and Appointments.

Paul thanked those who were standing down from the PCC this year: Beth French, Matt Nixon and Oni Milne.

Nominations for election to the PCC:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Barney Collins	Mark Parsons	Adrienne Walker
Andrea Jeanneret	Rachel Ambler	Andy Hains
Susannah Mason	Jennifer Ellis	Danish Gill
Philip Miles	Graham Stuart	Paik Sun Green
Jack Reed	Chris French	Jonathan Hendry
Hannah Rodgers	Rachel Shaddick	Chris Shaddick
Chris Shaddick	Jonathan Henry	Nicholas Carter
David Vernon	Paul Cardinal	Kate Cardinal
Kamran Zahid	John Butler	Andrew Martin

There were 9 vacancies, and 9 nominations so no election was required. Paul Langham declared all the candidates elected to the PCC.

Nominations for election to the Deanery Synod:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Rachel Ambler	Sara Wadsworth	Emilia Fuller
Cluff Noon	Sara Wadsworth	Paddy Sykes
Diane Noon	Emelye Chanot	Mair Davies
Sara Wadsworth	Mei Yen Furey	Cluff Noon

There were 5 vacancies, and 4 nominations so no election was required. Paul Langham declared all the candidates elected to the Deanery Synod.

3. Safeguarding Update.

Guidance is provided by the Diocese and details of our Parish Safeguarding officers are on our website.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officers are:

- Valerie Groves – Children
- Sam Wright – Vulnerable Adults
- Jonny Bowden – Children
- Sara Wadsworth – Vulnerable Adults

Valerie mentioned that this is a shared responsibility and an ‘everybody issue’ for all the church family. If anyone has any safeguarding concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the team.

Kirsten Fowler stepped down as a Parish Safeguarding Officer during the year –thanks was expressed and blessing to her as she moves to her local church.

4. Finance Report.

Chris Brown acknowledged that we have not had a treasurer for some time, however our finances are being well managed via a shared responsibility in the Finance team comprising of:

David Vernon, Patrick Bolster, Annabel Reed, Susannah Mason, Mark Parsons

Suzannah Mason – Introduction:

For anyone looking for the detail of the church finances please refer to the Annual report.

We need to steward our finances, people and buildings well.

The Finance Team are subgroup of the PCC so all financial decisions need to be agreed by the PCC.

Every cost is scrutinised line by line by the Finance Team and we look for how we can use our assets to generate income.

The team meets monthly to review all costs and income.

Patrick Bolster: Big picture view of church finances:

A few misconceptions:

- People sometimes believe that the national church has lots of money to give all its parishes, but this unfortunately is not the case. Apart from the 20% tax relief via Gift Aid from the Chancellor we receive no external funding.

- All parishes give to something called Parish Share and this is given to the Diocese of Bristol who then pay stipends and accommodation costs to paid clergy and also pay for training new vicars and curates of the future.
- Another financial reality for all churches is they rely on people giving regularly and in most cases newcomers are slower to start giving than leavers are to stop.
- Another reality since Covid, that charities have experienced, is that giving has halved from 2020 to 2022 and churches nationally have seen a drop of 20% -30% drop as well.
- Our Income, as mentioned, is mainly from giving of the church family plus the tax relief from Gift Aid.
- Our main outgoings are our mission partners, our staff team, and Parish Share
- Full details of our expenditure can be found within the annual report.

Annabel Reed – how are Church Buildings are used:

Main Church Building

On weekly basis the main church has the following going on:

- Pre-School
- SPEAR (supporting 16-24yr olds to get in or back to work or education)
- 7 Cakes Café – open 3 days a week

Then each day the following taking place:

- Monday - Mental Health Group
- Tuesday – English Lessons for those who English is a second language, Student gathering
- Wednesday – Midweek Gathering/lunch, Bible Study Group, Tutoring for refugees
- Thursday – Toddler groups, Worship team rehearsals
- Friday – Ukraine Welcome Hub, Meeting Point (Young people - ages 14-18)
- Saturday – Weddings!
- Lots of tourists visit the building
- Easter and Christmas experience – hundreds of primary school children are invited

Linden Gate

- Used for offices
- First floor has been used to host a refugee Ukraine family
- Top floor flat – this is rented and therefore generates income

60 Clifton Park Road

- Home for Chris Brown (Curate) and his family

Oakfield Road

- Mama Bears have exited the lease on this building

Dave Vernon - Headlines from 2022:

- At the end of 2023 we owed £100k on the Renew Project. We negotiated a low rate of interest on this.
- A legacy from the estate of Pat Briggs enabled us to pay this off.

- There was a £46k loss of rent from Oakfield Road – we are hopeful this will be a short-term issue.
- We reduced our Parish Share.
- We held a one-off gift day.
- The cost-of-living crisis has meant that many of our church family have had to reduce their giving.

Looking forward to 2023:

- Oakfield Road has been put on the market (no more info at this stage).
- Monthly giving in the first 3 months has reduced – but we are encouraged that some new givers have started.
- Rental income will increase.
- Staff costs will decrease.
- We will be spending £1,000 each week on fuel costs.
- We have a balanced budget for 2023.
- We need to have enough in our funds to cover several months of ongoing costs – our policy is to have reserves £123k-175k, and we are just below this at the moment.
- Thank you for your sacrificial giving – please use Gift Aid if you can!
- For higher rate tax payers, there may be more tax relief available – talk to us if unsure.
- It is difficult to navigate the ups and downs of income so advance notice of changes would be very helpful.
- If you are new to Christ Church and want to start giving, please come and talk to us – details are also on the website.

Chris Brown thanked the team and added thanks from the leadership team for the church family's giving.

5. Questions:

John Buckland: Will the church be reappointing a verger? If not how will those many jobs behind the scenes be done? Will anyone take responsibility?

Mark Parsons: The paid element is going to be used to pay an external cleaner. The other parts will need to be covered by Nick Carter and himself along with other volunteers.

Paul Langham: Took this opportunity to express our thanks for Kamran in his role as verger and invited him to accept a gift from the church family.

Jean Diwell: Is there an update on plans to move the offices into the main church building?

Mark Parsons: Essentially no update – there is still a desire to do this as it brings life into the building and connects staff to what is going on.

Jean Diwell: What is the financial position of the Ukrainian Family being hosted in Linden Gate – does the funding from the council go to the Whitwell's or the church?

David Vernon: The arrangement is that the Whitwell's are the nominated hosts. They receive £350 per month as hosts and they keep a quarter with the rest coming to Christ Church.

Alan Goldsmith: With regard to energy costs, does the Diocese give any financial assistance to install solar panels etc?

Paul Langham: There is a group at the Diocese looking into this – it has been badly delayed due to the pandemic.

Jocelyn Cherry: Given all the press around CofE safeguarding issues can you share the background, experience, training and support our Parish Safeguarding Officers have?

Valerie Groves: There is very strict and comprehensive training run by the diocese. Those running the courses in the diocese are from non-church backgrounds, e.g. police, social work. All the Christ Church officers have safeguarding experience from our own jobs.

Jackie Stevens: Are you obliged to appoint an actual treasurer as it looks like the current arrangement is far superior?

Paul Langham: Whilst the team are doing a fantastic job we should ideally appoint a treasurer.

Chris Brown prayed for the Finance team and for Paul as he came up to share God's word.

6. Vicar's Report.

The gathering stood to remember those in our church family who have died since our last APCM:

- Mike McAllister
- Sue Headlam,

Paul read from 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-12

Paul's Talk can be found on the church website:

https://ccweb.org.uk/Media/AllMedia.aspx?show_media=305481&show_file=336212)

Or on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/5q0Jj-L1ggk?t=5443>)