

Holy Trinity Church Headington Quarry

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens, held on Wednesday 25th May 2022

Present: Laura Biron-Scott (Chair), David Smith, Margaret Taylor (Churchwardens), together with an estimated 42 parishioners. Diana Harrison joined the meeting after item 5.

Opening prayers were led by Rob Gilbert

Apologies for absence: (2) Sheila Allcock, Frances Farrar, Yue-Yi Hwa, Becky Morris, Sue Saville, Roz Smith, Anne Tarassenko, Lionel Tarassenko, Deirdre Twycross, Adrian Wood, Michael Wooldridge

Approval of Minutes: (3) The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 26th May 2021, having been circulated, were approved unanimously.

Elections:

Elections of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2022-2023.: (4) Two nominations were received:

David Smith, proposed by Kevin Masters and seconded by Adrian Wood
Margaret Taylor, proposed by Adrian Wood and seconded by Janet Masters

Election of members of the PCC: (5) The following, being the only nominees as members of the PCC, were duly elected:

Monika Blackwell, proposed by Judi Tarrant, seconded by Rachel Walding
Helen Day, proposed by Frances Farrar, seconded by Felicity Wallendszus
Jan McLeod proposed by Diana Harrison, seconded by Karl Wallendszus
Nicholas Rollin, proposed by Michael Wooldridge, seconded by Janet Masters
Andrea Taylor, proposed by Dominic Vickers, seconded by Felicity Wallendszus
Michael Wooldridge, proposed by Nicholas Rollin, seconded by Pat Whitehouse

Financial Statement Jan-Dec 2021

Annual financial statement: (6.1) Richard Stoneman (Treasurer) presented the annual accounts for 2021. He confirmed that income stabilised in 2021 despite the pandemic and that the current financial position is positive.

(6.2) He did, however, recommend that a wider, long term review of church finances is carried out due to a number of factors, including the upkeep of 20 Binswood Avenue. A personal contact of Richard's, Paul Hare – Professor Emeritus of Economics at Heriot-Watt University - has agreed to undertake this review on a voluntary basis. Richard encouraged members of the congregation to arrange to speak with him either in person or via Zoom in order to discuss issues or raise questions regarding this.

(6.3) Richard also referred to ongoing plans to look in more detail at the parish share system in the deanery, which Paul Hare would also be involved with.

Richard asked if there were any questions or comments about the financial report.

(6.4) There was a comment about the current parish share system having been originally set up to benefit the poorer parishes in the deanery. Richard agreed that this was a principle that he strongly supported but that there are more effective ways of doing this which should be now be explored.

(6.3) Richard clarified a question about how the parish share system works by confirming that different deaneries use different formulae to calculate parish share and that he and Paul will be investigating these in the course of the financial review.

Laura warmly thanked Richard and Paul Hare for carrying out this review.

Independent Examiner: (6.4) It was proposed that Svetlana Duncalf be reappointed independent examiner. This was proposed by Richard Stoneman, seconded by Dominic Vickers and approved unanimously.

Receiving Reports

Electoral Roll: (7.1) Joan Jones, as Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the new roll comprises 169 names – one more than last year. She also explained that changes to the electoral roll can be made at any point during the year and not just at the time of the annual revision.

Church Activities Report 2021: (7.2) Laura thanked all those involved in contributing to this report and noted the amended version following an update from one of the home groups. She asked if there were any comments on the report and thanked Helen Day for her work in putting it together.

Wardens' Report: (7.3) Dave said how much of an honour and privilege it was to be a churchwarden, and expressed both his and Margaret Taylor's gratitude at having been re-elected.

He summarised some of the highlights of their role in the past year, including a quiz(!), safeguarding, health and safety, inspections and submissions. He acknowledged all those involved in the upkeep of the church – cleaning, mending, flower arranging etc and thanked them warmly.

Questions/comments: (7.4) There was one question relating to rumours of a bomb found recently in the Vicarage woodland. Laura confirmed that the bomb disposal team had identified it as being an inactive mortar used in WW2 training exercises.

Deanery Synod report: (7.5) Janet Masters (deanery synod representative) gave a brief report regarding the three deanery synod meetings in the last year, including one in person on 'spiritual renewal' with Bishop Steven.

Vicar's Report

(8.1) Laura thanked all those involved with the running of the church and encouraged the whole church community to come together with 'the mind of Christ' as we step back and review what we are doing individually and collectively to build up our community. She reminded us of C.S. Lewis's 'signposts of joy' – experiences that surprise us and bring us out of ourselves into a deeper divine reality - which have marked her journey over her three years of ministry at Holy Trinity.

(8.2) Laura also noted the significant progress with the building work and fundraising. She acknowledged the concern regarding rising costs, while at the same time remaining positive that the final target will be reached as we keep in mind the underlying values and vision at the heart of the building plans: welcome, inclusivity, imagination, service, wisdom and hospitality.

(8.3) Laura asked if there were any questions or comments about her report and Helen Day thanked her for all her hard work and spiritual leadership, which was met with sustained applause.

Matters for General Discussion

(9.1) a request was made for some different hymns as we come into 'ordinary time' (e.g. those by Stuart Townend) and for 'more lively services'. Laura encouraged anyone with thoughts about worship to be in touch so that the parish planning group can discuss them.

(9.2) Laura confirmed that we will be welcoming Emily Hockliffe Essex as our new curate. Her first Sunday will be July 3rd, when she will be able to meet the different congregations at all three services that day. Emily trained at Cuddesdon and previously studied at Oriel College, where she was also a chorister. Laura asked that she be kept in our prayers and that she is supported in her training while at Holy Trinity.

Date of next APCM: Wednesday May 24th 2023.

Dates of the PCC meetings in 2022/3: these dates will be circulated to PCC members.

Date of the next Standing Committee: Wednesday June 22nd 2022

Date of the next PCC meeting: Wednesday July 6th 2022

There being no further business, the Chair led prayers, and declared the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Signed

Date