

## Holy Trinity Church Headington Quarry

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens, held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Present:** Laura Biron-Scott (Chair), David Smith, Margaret Taylor (Churchwardens), together with an estimated 47 parishioners.

**Opening prayers** were led by Laura Biron-Scott

**Apologies for absence:** Anne Tarassenko, Lionel Tarassenko, Adrian Wood, Rob Gilbert, June Thompson, Margaret Jackson, David Blackman, Liz Owen.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, having been circulated, were approved unanimously.

#### **Elections:**

**Elections of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2022-2023.:** (1) Two nominations were received:

Margaret Taylor, proposed by Maureen Cooper and seconded by Bernadine Farrar  
Janet Masters, proposed by Maureen Cooper and seconded by Helen Day

Laura explained that Janet Masters has agreed to stand for one year. She asked for anyone who is willing to stand alongside Janet as a deputy or apprentice to speak to herself or a former warden for more information.

**Election of members of the PCC:** (2) The following, being the only nominees as members of the PCC, were duly elected:

Felicity Wallendszus, proposed by Dave Smith, seconded by Frances Farrar  
Joan Jones, proposed by Anne Tarassenko, seconded by Naomi Lawrence  
Richard Stoneman proposed by Margaret Taylor, seconded by Helen Day

**Election of members of the Deanery Synod:** (3) The following, being the only nominees as members of the Deanery Synod were duly elected:

Raj Patel, proposed by Dominic Vickers, seconded by Lucy Vickers  
Yue-Yi Hwa, proposed by Adrian Wood, seconded by Hilary Rollin  
Tom Crook, proposed by Peter Jordan, seconded by Helen Day  
Janet Masters, proposed by Helen Day, seconded by Frances Farrar

The election of those nominated was proposed by Andrea Taylor and seconded by Hilary Rollin. All were duly elected.

## Financial Statement Jan-Dec 2022

**Annual financial statement:** (4.1) Richard Stoneman (Treasurer) presented the annual accounts for 2022. He confirmed that the current financial situation is slightly better than predicted with an increase in regular donations and the fall in overall income being less than expected.

(4.2) Richard gave details about the application of a £250K loan authorised by the PCC which will enable building work to begin within the deadlines for the use of current grants and planning permission. He emphasised that he was satisfied that the project costs are realistic and that the work will be completed on time. He explained that 20 Binswood Avenue is a guarantee against the loan but that it is anticipated that the necessary money to pay back the loan will be raised within the next five years. He also mentioned the strategic review of finances by Professor Paul Hare which also provides clear options for increasing income in the future.

(4.3) Richard asked if there were any questions or comments about the financial report. These were as follows:

- Whether or not the decision on the loan should be made by the PCC alone.

Laura replied that the duty of the PCC is to represent the congregation and that it is elected to make these decisions.

- How the congregation can have confidence in the PCC's abilities to decide.

Richard gave assurances that he has extensive experience in this area and although no one is infallible, he is confident that the appeal to help defray the loan in the early years will be successful. He accepted that there are concerns around increasing interest rates and inflation but that inflation is unlikely to go back to what it was in the 1970s.

- If there is a contingency fund.

Richard replied that because of the loan, we are cash rich and by the end of 2028 this will still be the case.

- How the Parish Share has been successfully reduced.

Richard explained that the formula used by the deanery helps poorer parishes but discourages richer ones and that he had asked for a reduction on this basis.

- If the final cost of the building work (£700K) is realistic, taking into consideration rising building costs and unforeseen challenges.

Richard emphasised how much work the Buildings Committee has done to confirm this figure. He felt reassured by both companies that tendered that we will still be able to work within this budget while also recognising that the unexpected can happen. Laura said in response that this is a journey of faith and trust and that risks will be mitigated. She confirmed that the work has been scaled back and no work will be done in the chancel – the improved facilities and a clear West End being the priorities.

Laura thanked Richard for his excellent report and expressed her gratitude for God's providence in our being able to continue with the vision of drawing people into the church community with a sense of hospitality and welcome. She recognised that we are serving both present and future needs and that we will be leaving something for those who come after us. It was felt that there would now be greater scope for activities and that this is an exciting development.

Laura asked for a round of applause for Richard and expressed her gratitude for his expertise in his role as treasurer.

**Independent Examiner (5)** It was proposed that Svetlana Duncalf be reappointed independent examiner for a further year. This was proposed by Nicholas Rollin, seconded by Pat Whitehouse and approved unanimously.

## **Receiving Reports**

**Electoral Roll:** (6.1) Joan Jones, as Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the new roll comprises 176 names. 114 people live within the parish and 62 outside.

Joan explained that the dates for application to be on the electoral roll are set by church law and that the list has to be published 2 weeks before the meeting. 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 and that the list re opens immediately after the APCM. She asked anyone who would like to go on the roll to contact her and reminded anyone who would like to stand for election that they must have been on the roll for a minimum of 6 months.

There were no questions.

**Church Activities Report 2022:** (6.2) Laura thanked all those involved in contributing to this report. She asked if there were any comments on the report and thanked Helen Day for her work in putting it together.

**Wardens' Report:** (6.3) Dave expressed his opinion that Holy Trinity is a beautiful building which is both warm and inviting and which offers a sense of belonging to all. He also felt that the church grounds are a sign of God's creation – of renewal, beauty and growth. Margaret Taylor said how important it is to have a sense of collective responsibility for keeping the church clean and tidy and so giving a sense of welcome to all those who visit. She invited everyone to join in the vision for this, as well as caring for God's creation through a commitment to the eco/sustainability agenda. She gave her personal thanks to Dave – especially for his level-headedness and sense of humour and said how much she had valued working with him.

**Questions/comments:** Thanks were expressed for this sense of welcome offered by the church

Laura also thanked Dave for his prayerful commitment to the role of warden as well as his sense of fun, joy and humour and said that he would be missed.

**Deanery Synod report:** (6.4) Janet Masters (deanery synod representative) gave a brief report regarding the deanery synod meetings in the last year. She said how much she valued the sense of fellowship and also that there are great things happening in the deanery. However, it was acknowledged, too, that there are challenges to be faced. In particular, she noted the fact that difficult decisions would have to be made in the next few years regarding the parish share and the number of clergy it will be possible to support in the future.

## **Vicar's Report**

(6.5) Laura said that she understood the issues around the parish share and that we hope to contribute more to the share when our building work is complete.

She referred to Ephesians 4.1-6 and our church being the body of Christ built up in love and how we are called to support one another spiritually and to work together with open minds. She reflected on 2022 having been a time to recover after the pandemic and expressed the need for us to keep listening with patience, gentleness and prayer as we move forward into a more exciting phase of building and creativity, building each other up with a united vision and focus.

There were no questions about the report.

**Date of next APCM:** Wednesday May 22nd 2024.

Dates of the PCC meetings in 2023/4: these dates will be circulated to PCC members.

Date of the next Standing Committee: Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 8pm

Date of the next PCC meeting: Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 8pm

There being no further business, the Chair led prayers, and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Signed**

**Date**