

Holy Trinity Church Headington Quarry

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the Election of Churchwardens, held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Present: Laura Biron-Scott (Chair), Margaret Taylor (Churchwardens), Janet Masters (Churchwarden) together with an estimated 36 parishioners.

Opening prayers were led by Emily Hockliffe Essex

Apologies for absence: (1) Richard Stoneman, Mike Wooldridge, Margaret Whipp, Dave Smith, Andrea Taylor, Richard Carling, Sheila Allcock, Hillary Rollins, David Blackman, Flora Alexander, Margaret Jackson.

Approval of Minutes: (2) The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 24th May 2023, having been circulated, were approved unanimously.

Elections:

Elections of Churchwardens to serve for the year 2023-2024: (3) The following, being the only nominees as Churchwardens, were duly elected:

Margaret Taylor, proposed by Becky Morris and seconded by Carrie Barron
Linda Davies, proposed by Janet Foot and seconded by Helen Dancer

Election of members of the PCC: (4) The following, being the only nominees as members of the PCC, were duly elected:

Yue-Yi Hwa, proposed by Helen Dancer, seconded by Jan McLeod
Richard Carling, proposed by Janet Masters, seconded by Maureen Cooper
Diana Harrison, proposed by Frances Farrar, seconded by Rob Gilbert
Frances Farrar, proposed by Rosalind Rogers, seconded by Janet Masters

Laura thanked Felicity for what she has done as PCC secretary and Yue-Yi Hwa for stepping into the role.

Election of members of the Deanery Synod: (5) The following, being the only nominee as member of the Deanery Synod, was duly elected:

Diane Mason, proposed by Helen Day, seconded by Maureen Stanley

Financial Statement Jan-Dec 2023: (6.1) Rob Gilbert, on behalf of the Treasurer Richard Stoneman, gave a brief overview of the annual accounts for 2023. This was a year of significant financial investment due to the building project. A larger loss than expected was incurred due to a variety of reasons. However, a new PCC finance subcommittee has already met to develop proposals to increase income and to create an action plan. This should be ready for implementation in the second half of 2024.

Rob asked if there were any questions or comments about the financial report to pass on to the PCC finance subcommittee. These were as follows:

- How much has been spent so far on the building works?
- Is it possible to maximise donations from C.S. Lewis visitors?

Laura expressed her gratitude for raising the second question as it is something to be explored. She added that the new facilities will help us cater better for visitors.

Richard was warmly thanked for all his work this year.

Independent Examiner (6.2) It was proposed that Svetlana Duncalf be reappointed independent examiner for a further year.

This was proposed by Janet Masters and seconded by Diane Mason and approved unanimously.

Receiving Reports

Electoral Roll: (7.1) Joan Jones, as Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the new roll comprises 176 names. 116 people live within the parish and 60 outside.

Joan explained that this is the last year for the current roll. According to Church of England rules, the roll must be discarded and a new one made every six years. It will therefore be important for everyone to take note that they will not automatically be on the roll next year but that information will appear in spring 2025 reminding people to reapply. Joan asked anyone considering standing for the PCC next year to ensure that they have been on the roll for a minimum of six months and she added that new applications for the electoral roll can be accepted at any time after the APCM.

There were no questions.

Church Activities Report 2023: (7.2) Laura thanked all those involved in contributing to this report. She asked if there were any comments and thanked Helen Day for her work in putting it together.

There was a question about the new 11+ group for children and why this included only girls. Emily replied that this was to make a virtue of the fact that at both churches (HTHQ and Collinwood Road) we only have girls rather than boys of this age group. The hope is that in the future we can partner with other churches to have a broader membership.

Laura then welcomed Andrena Palmer to the meeting – Andrena was licensed as a lay minister in January 2024.

Wardens' Report: (7.3) Margaret Taylor and Janet Masters both spoke about the past year from their perspective as churchwardens. The building project had been key, and they were grateful to Kingerlee for their flexibility in working around church activities. Broadcasting services via Radio Cherwell was able to continue throughout the building work. Health and safety has also been high on the agenda, with weekly cleaning of the church taking place and a new handrail on the steps to the boiler room. The statue of the Madonna has been restored and will be replaced as soon as the building work is completed. Margaret gave an update on the care of the churchyard and recent changes with the Coach House management. All those who volunteer their time and skills were warmly thanked.

Margaret, Janet and Laura were also thanked for all they have done in this particularly challenging year.

Deanery Synod report: (7.4) Janet Masters (deanery synod representative) gave a brief report regarding the deanery synod meetings in the last year. One of the main focus points has been that of the parish share allocation and the mechanism used to work it out – discussions about this are ongoing. Janet also mentioned the clergy vacancies in the deanery this year and that our clergy have been supporting St Mary's Iffley, All Saints Highfield, SS Mary and John and New Marston.

Vicar's Report

(8) Laura spoke about the fruits of the spirit as both powerful and helpful spiritual qualities - especially that of the need for patience, regarding the building project. She noted the enormous generosity involved with financing this, as well as generosity in the giving of time, talent and prayer. Laura also spoke of her own prayers to be faithful to her vocation here, and that she has been inspired by the faithfulness of the congregation as regards the building work. As we move towards completion of the project, she asked for prayers for peace as we look towards the future. She acknowledged that there has been conflict and hostility and that many have been wounded by events during this 'Year to Build'. However, there is a desire to move forward in a spirit of peace, building right relationships with God and building one another up in love.

Matters for General Discussion: (9)

Questions and comments were as follows:

- Could the availability of WiFi be publicised to the congregation? Also the availability of WiFi in the Coach House?

Laura replied that this was something the PCC could explore.

- It was acknowledged that many were excited by the building project but that there are those for whom it has caused significant distress. Specific questions included events during the drainage survey and the replacement of gravestones on completion of the building work.

Laura acknowledged the pain felt by many people involved. She said that no graves had been disturbed during the survey and that diocesan advice had been followed throughout. She added that she was happy to offer a service of prayers when the memorials are reinstated.

- A comment was made about the website needing general updating.

Laura expressed her thanks to the volunteers who give their time to the website but that it would be wonderful if someone would like to help with this task.

- The Village Hall's 90th anniversary next year was mentioned and that it would be much appreciated if there could be church representation on the committee. This meets four times a year.

Laura agreed that this could be brought to the next PCC meeting.

Date of next APCM: (10) Wednesday May 14th 2025.

Dates of the PCC meetings in 2024/5: these dates will be circulated to PCC members, put in the church porch and on the church website.

Date of the next Standing Committee: Wednesday June 26th 2024 at 8pm (Zoom)

Date of the next PCC meeting: Wednesday July 10th 2024 at 8pm (venue to be confirmed)

(11) There being no further business, the Chair led prayers, and declared the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Signed

Date