

## Holy Trinity Church Headington Quarry

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 online

**Present:** Laura Biron-Scott, Felicity Wallendszus, Peter Garside and David Smith (Churchwardens for the year 2020–21), together with an estimated 40 parishioners.

**Apologies for absence:** These were taken at the preceding meeting for the election of churchwardens.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, having been circulated, were approved unanimously.

#### Elections/Appointments (1)

- **PCC:** The following, being the only nominees as members of the PCC, were duly elected: Dominic Vickers, proposed by Janet Masters, seconded by Elizabeth Knight  
Diana Harrison, proposed by Helen Day, seconded by Philippa Logan  
Frances Farrar, proposed by Roz Smith, seconded by Bernadine Farrar.  
It was noted that Andréa Taylor would be co-opted onto the PCC at the next meeting of the PCC.

Retiring members of PCC were thanked sincerely for all they had contributed and those newly elected were warmly welcomed onto the PCC.

- **Deanery Synod:** The following nominees as members of the deanery synod were elected: Janet Masters, proposed by Andria Kouvaritakis, seconded by Lucy Vickers. Mark Poolman, proposed by Margaret Taylor, seconded by Derek Taylor. It was noted that the allocated number of deanery synod representatives for Holy Trinity has risen from three to four as the number on the electoral roll has also increased and that all four vacancies have now been filled.

#### Financial Statement (2)

**Annual financial statement:** (2.1) Dave Smith presented the annual accounts for 2020 on behalf of Richard Stoneman (Treasurer). He confirmed that the finances are in a sound position, thanks to the continued generosity of our church's community despite the pandemic but that a slow decline in income needs to be taken into account over the next 5-10 years. He noted that the figure for unrestricted revenues for 2020 was artificially inflated by a windfall £10K legacy. Dave also mentioned that donations for the building fund continue to come in and that fundraising is currently proceeding as planned.

Dave warmly thanked Richard the finance team for all they have done in these uncertain times and asked if there were any questions that might be answered now or referred to Richard for more detailed answers.

(2.2) There was a question regarding the possible drop in income for 20 Binswood and Laura replied that we may have a curate in 2022, which would mean a loss of the rental income. Whether or not a curate will be appointed will become clear by September.

(2.3) A question was raised about Gift Aid and that the accounts seem to suggest that we have a year and a half currently unclaimed. Laura replied that Sally has now taken on Gift Aid and as a result there has been a delay in HMRC authorisation. It was agreed that this was not an issue at the moment as Gift Aid can be claimed for up to four years.

(2.4) There was a question regarding the Parish Share and Laura confirmed that the PCC paid £64K in 2020, which was £2.5K less than in 2019. In 2020 we were able to negotiate a further reduction and 2021's Parish Share will be c. £59.5K.

(2.5) In response to a query about the building project, Laura explained that Phase 1 is complete – with new lighting, decoration and a sound system. We are over half way towards the total target fundraising figure.

(2.6) Laura said that a charity review is planned and also agreed that our pledge to overseas giving is important and should be maintained. She confirmed that donations to charities have remained the same and that this includes the Gate House and Food Bank as in previous years. She confirmed that giving, with an emphasis on those in poverty, would be put to the newly formed PCC.

**Independent Examiner:** (2.7) It was proposed that Svetlana Duncalf be reappointed independent examiner. This was proposed by Dominic Vickers, seconded by Janet Masters and approved unanimously.

## **Receiving Reports (3)**

**Electoral Roll:** (3.1) Joan Jones, as Electoral Roll Officer, announced that the new roll comprises 168 names. Two thirds of those on the roll live within the parish boundary, and one third further away. Joan confirmed that the increase in the electoral roll means that Holy Trinity is now eligible to have a total of four deanery reps.

**Church Activities Report:** (3.2) Laura thanked all those involved in contributing to the report, particularly Mike Wooldridge for his work with Radio Cherwell, the online services and 'Soul Space'. She noted the challenges of the last year and asked if there were any comments on the report.

(3.3) There was a question and comments about Home Groups and how publicity for these would be welcome.

(3.4) There was some discussion about starting a Bible study group. Laura replied that she would be very happy to support this if anyone would like to take a lead. Elizabeth Knight said that anyone would be welcome at the Mothers' Union Bible study group.

**Wardens' Report:** (3.5) Peter expressed his gratitude to Laura, Andrew Colleran (previous treasurer), Richard Stoneman and Dave Smith for all their support during his time as Churchwarden. He also wished Margaret Taylor well in her new role in this position.

Laura and Dave both warmly thanked Peter for all he has done as Churchwarden, particularly during both a Vacancy and a pandemic.

#### **Matters for General Discussion (4)**

No questions were brought up or raised in advance.

#### **Vicar's Report (5)**

(5.1) Laura thanked everyone for all that they have done to help with the running of the church and announced that her report would be available on the website so that it was available to all those who were not able to be at the APCM.

(5.2) Laura referred to 'seeds in adversity' which have become apparent in the last year: Love for our church building; outdoor spaces and worship and children's ministry; online worship and prayer; C.S. Lewis connections; fundraising. She said that she feels that now is a time to look forwards, to allow these seeds the space to grow. She said that it was important to take this time of recovery to reflect, pray and listen to God and to discern what changes may be necessary in the future in order to allow space for the new.

(5.3) Laura asked if there were any questions or comments about her report. There was a comment that it was both positive and forward-looking. Laura replied that this is just the beginning of the conversation about the future and that it will continue as we gradually move out of lockdown.

(5.4) There was a question about building updates and Laura replied that the buildings committee have been discussing how best to do this, along with other necessary updates e.g. fundraising. This will be done via the notices, newsletter and website.

(5.5) The need for someone to take photographs of the church to show progress of the building work was mentioned.

**Date of next APCM:** Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Dates of the PCC meetings in 2021/2: these dates will be circulated to PCC members.

Date of the next Standing Committee: Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Date of the next PCC meeting: Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

There being no further business, the Chair led prayers, and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**Signed**

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