

MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON THURSDAY 19th MAY 2022 AT 7.30pm.

Attached to these Minutes is the 2022 Warden's Report. This is available as a PDF file on the website on the following page:-

<https://brickhillchurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/annual-meeting-2022/>

The Reverend John Waller took the chair.

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed all those attending, adding that following two Covid years, the meeting is back to being held at the normal time of year.

PART I: THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

ELECTION OF THE CHURCH WARDENS:

The Rector reminded the meeting that Church Wardens are elected by residents in the village. The current Warden, Julia Turner, was willing to seek re-election. Her nomination was proposed by Phillipa Cook and seconded by Jeremy Hopkinson. Julia Turner was duly elected.

The Rector gave huge thanks to Julia Turner for all that she has been doing and for standing again.

PART II: THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

APOLOGIES received from Janet Pritchard.

A total of 9 parishioners were in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 28th JULY 2021

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been made available in advance. There was no requirement to formally approve these Minutes.

ELECTIONS:

Up to six Members of the PCC.

The Rector informed the Meeting that the number of PCC members allowed for the size of our Electoral Roll is 6. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2004 provision was made for the annual appointment of representatives on the PCC. There is also facility for two people to be co-opted on to the PCC during the year if there is good reason to add more people.

The Rector thanked all the members of the PCC for their contribution over the last twelve months, especially Margretta Smith who was standing down, having served since 2014. All others were willing to continue and nominations had been received for Phillipa Cook, Clare Hankins-Lewis and Joy Wilson. An additional nomination had been received for Diana Williams. With only four nominations, no vote was required and all four were appointed by a show of hands.

The Treasurer, Neil Cook, would be co-opted on to the PCC at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting. One other person could be co-opted at any point during the year.

The Rector noted that the ex-officio members of the PCC are himself as incumbent, Julia Turner as Warden and Jeremy Hopkinson as LLM. The Rector informed the meeting that the PCC meet on five occasions, at bi-monthly intervals – the next meeting is in church on Thursday 30th June at 7.30pm.

Deanery Synod Representative.

There is a vacancy for this position - the post can be filled at any time. Jeremy Hopkinson serves on the Deanery Synod as Treasurer. Next year is the end of the three-year term and full elections will be held.

Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022.

The Treasurer said that David Beatty had again acted as Independent Examiner for this year and was willing to continue for the 2022 Accounts. Proposed by Joy Wilson and seconded by Jeremy Hopkinson, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2022. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to David Beatty.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

The Rector advised the meeting that every 6 years a new Electoral Roll is formed, the next time that will happen is 2025. Three people on the Roll had died in the last twelve months – Pauline Waller, Iris Jones and Kay Seaman. The current number of people on the Electoral Roll was reported as 37, of whom 3 were not resident in the parish. These figures would be passed to the Diocese.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH

The Rector went through the main points referred to in the written Annual Report, which had been made available in advance as paper copies and on the website. The activities covered the period up to the end of 2021 and had again been affected by Covid-19 as detailed in the Report.

The Rector referred to the section in the Annual Report “Policy Documents”. The annual Safeguarding report had taken place in November – for the year to 31st October the report is a “nil report” and no safeguarding incidents have been reported since then.

TREASURER’S REPORT INCL. ANNUAL REPORT:

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been available in paper form and via the website in advance of the Meeting. The Treasurer, Neil Cook, presented the financial statements for the year to 31st December 2021. He referred to the “Church Finances for 2021” section in the Annual Report.

The Accounts showed a deficit of £1,444 for the year to 31/12/21. In light of the projected deficit, only £17K of the allocation of the £22,094 Parish Share was paid to the Diocese. (Due to the effect of Covid, £11K was paid in 2020). The Parish Share allocated to Great Brickhill is extremely high - discussions are ongoing with the other three Benefice treasurers to try and make the Great Brickhill allocation more equitable.

The treasurer reported that the fundraising activities so far in 2022 have been badly affected by the weather and Covid. Payment of the Parish Share for 2022 will depend on the financial situation at the end of the year. All the funds in the St Mary’s New Facilities have now been used, following payments to the building contractor.

As broadband has been installed in the church, it is now possible to accept payments via two credit/debit card devices at services and events.

The Rector said that in all the parishes there are challenges with the accounts, a lot of effort goes into fund raising etc and thanked everyone for their generosity.

Joy Wilson thanked Neil Cook for the preparation of the Accounts and for his work as Treasurer.

The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted as one single document - proposed by Joy Wilson and seconded by Jeremy Hopkinson.

WARDEN’S REPORT ON THE CHURCH BUILDING AND ITS FABRIC:

Julia Turner gave her Warden’s report for the year – see separate file.

The Rector thanked Julia for all her hard work through the year.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

The Rector referred to the Deanery Synod section of the Annual Report detailing the proceedings through the year of the Deanery Synod. He added that the next Deanery Synod meeting is at Great Brickhill on 28th June.

OTHER MATTERS OF PAROCHIAL OR GENERAL CHURCH INTEREST:

Not included in the 2021 Annual Report - since the start of 2022, the following updates were given:-

i). Coronavirus Information Update 2022:

Update 28th January:

Following the lifting of plan B measures in England from Thursday 27th January, "Face coverings were no longer mandatory in any setting but may be recommended in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet".

- At services in Great Brickhill it remained up to individuals to decide if they wish to wear a face masks or not.
- Communion was still to be administered in the form of bread only.

Update 21st March:

New guidelines were issued by the Church of England on 21st March 2022. The following changes were then made:

- The collection plate would be passed round as before the pandemic
- The peace would be shared in whatever way is deemed appropriate for those attending; parishioners would be asked to be mindful that there are some who need to be more cautious than others.
- It was agreed at the Benefice Wardens' Meeting on Thursday 7th April that the chalice would be offered at all four churches but there would be no pressure on parishioners to receive the wine if they prefer not to do so.

ii). New Facilities 2022 Update:

The remaining items are taking a long time to complete. As the Planning Department took until November to give permission for the colour of the rendering, the work had to wait until the temperature is constantly above seven degrees.

The rendering has been applied but there is a problem with the colour, which is being sorted out with the architect. The path work will take three days and will be done after the Jubilee weekend. The snagging items still have to be completed.

We have been delighted to see the benefit of having the new facilities:

- Refreshments after morning services (so much easier to do than previously with just a tap in a cupboard in the church)
- Teas were served on the afternoon of the Open Gardens
- Occasional Coffee Mornings have been held in the church on Saturday mornings
- Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th December
- Monday Morning Coffee Club from 9.30am – 11.30am
- Teas at the Snowdrop Walks on 13th & 20th January
- Plant Sale on 9th April

We would welcome requests from village groups who would like to use the church to hold community events. We now have fibre optic broadband which can be used by anyone visiting the church.

iii). Other Projects:

Roof Work:-

The architect has this week produced detailed drawings and will be applying to the DAC for the Faculty. He will also be approaching firms for tenders. Grant applications will be made once the tendering process is complete and the cost of the work known.

Audio Visual Equipment:

An application has been submitted for a grant to install a screen, projector and associated equipment, with thanks to Pelham Warren for his expert advice.

iv). Report Activities in 2022:

Since the start of the year:

- Snowdrop Walks were affected both Sundays by very bad weather
- Plant Sale was held at the church in place of the annual Plant Fayre at the Parish Hall
- Monday Morning Coffee Club for anyone, not just mothers & toddlers, 9.30 – 11.30am
- Coffee Morning this Saturday, 10.30am – 12 noon, donations for Christian Aid
- Jubilee weekend. Refreshments will be available on three of the days:
 - Thursday 2nd June:- teas from 3pm - 5pm
 - Saturday 4th June:- coffee from 10am - 12 noon
 - Sunday 5th June:- cream teas "Time to Unwind" from 3pm - 5pm
- Teas Open Gardens, Sunday 3rd July

Weekly practices for the choir on Monday evenings and bell ringing on Wednesday evenings have started again. There is also occasional ringing by visiting bell ringers. David Middleton would welcome more bell ringers. Singing has recommenced in services. Thanks to Jerry Breslin and the choir for their contributions.

REFLECTION FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector gave a word of thanks for people's understanding in December when Pauline died, and thanked all in the Benefice for their understanding of her symptoms and for including her in church services over the years. Particular thanks to Rosie Dawson for all her help and to those who were on the list of people who visited her at home. The Rector said that he is now 5 months into this new, unexpected stage of his life.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which concluded with Compline at 8.18pm.