

# **MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,**

**HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 16th MAY 2023 AT 7.30pm.**

Attached to these Minutes are PDF files for the 2023 Annual Meeting Presentation slides, the Warden's Report and a Deanery Synod report - available on the website on the following page:- <https://brickhillchurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/annual-meeting-202/>

## **The Reverend John Waller took the chair.**

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed all those attending, including Gavin Merrylees, the Deanery Lay Chair.

## **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 Christine Agambar. Julia Turner was duly elected.

The Rector gave huge thanks to Julia Turner for standing again and for all that she does for us.

## **PART II: THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**APOLOGIES** – None received.

A total of 12 parishioners were in attendance.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 19th MAY 2022**

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

### **ELECTIONS:**

#### **Deanery Synod Representative.**

There has been a vacancy for this position since 1st October 2020. No nominations were received – JW said that the post can be filled at any time. Jeremy Hopkinson serves on the Deanery Synod as Treasurer but is looking to stand down when a replacement is found.

#### **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. All four were willing to continue and nominations had been received for Phillipa Cook, Clare Hankins-Lewis, Diana Williams and Joy Wilson. Two additional nominations had been received for Stuart Jones and Sophia Walmsley. With a total of six nominations, no vote was required and all six 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 Tuesday 27th June at 7.30pm.

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023.**

The Treasurer said that David Beatty had again acted as Independent Examiner for this year and was willing to continue for the 2023 Accounts. Proposed by Joy Wilson and seconded by Jeremy Hopkinson, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2023. 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. The death of Jean Poynter was noted. The current number of people on the Electoral Roll was reported as 36, 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 PCC secretary presented slides showing events and activities that had taken place over the last year and referred to the main points in the written Annual Report, which had been made available in advance. The events covered from the last Annual Meeting to the end of 2022, and also the current year 2023 to date:

- A summary of the services including the special services
- High Ash services and news
- The Jubilee weekend
- The passing of the Queen
- Weekly activities
- Christmas activities
- Snowdrop Walks
- Plant Fayre
- The Coronation
- Update on the New Facilities and the Roof

Other items on the slides included:-

### **THE POLICY DOCUMENTS:**

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

### **THE TREASURER’S REPORT INCL. THE ANNUAL REPORT:**

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been made available in advance of the Meeting. The Treasurer, Neil Cook, presented the financial statements for the year to 31st December 2022. He referred to the “Church Finances for 2022” section in the Annual Report. Slides were shown highlighting the main points.

The treasurer noted the low payment of the Parish Share, only £8k, as outlined in the Annual Report. He hoped that this figure would be much higher for 2023 as the year had started well with the two big fundraising events. The Rector added that payment of the Parish Share is not taken lightly, as much as possible has been paid in recent years when there has been a deficit in the accounts. He added that the two pages of the accounts do not reflect the hard work that goes into the fundraising and direct giving. He thanked the treasurer for his hard work throughout the year.

The Annual Report is the written narrative report plus the accounts. Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Joy Wilson and seconded by Jeremy Hopkinson. All in favour.

### **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 and invited Gavin Merrylees to report on Deanery matters. Gavin gave thanks for his welcome and had enjoyed listening to and watching the reports and presentation. He noted that there is no formal Synod representative from Great Brickhill but said anyone from the parish would be welcome to attend the Synod meetings although they would not have a formal vote. He said that the problems here with falling attendance at services and difficulty in paying the Parish Share are seen across the country.

Gavin gave an outline of the year's events and activities in the Deanery. His written report is attached to these Minutes.

**REFLECTION FROM THE RECTOR:**

The Rector thanked everyone for their contributions to the life of the church. He gave a few moments of reflection on the Bible verses Colossians 3: 13-15.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which concluded with Compline at 8.25pm.