

## **Minutes of the Annual Meetings of Christ Church Eaton, in the church and on Zoom on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The meeting began at 7.30pm, led by Patrick Richmond (PR), Vicar, with a prayer. PR welcomed the 15 people present in the church and those attending the meetings remotely on Zoom and thanked Alistair Bolt (AB) for making the meetings technically possible.

### **A. The Meeting of Parishioners**

#### **1. Election of Wardens:**

PR thanked Vivien Humber (VH) and Catherine Jeffries (CJ) for all their support during a very difficult year to a round of applause. He said this would be VH's sixth and final year as Church Warden, after which she would be required to take at least two years off and a new Church Warden would be needed. As theirs were the only two nominations he declared them re-elected and closed the meeting.

### **B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

1. Apologies were received from: David Scott, Dee Scott, Mike Brookes, Stephanie Brookes, John Ladd, Kathy Ladd, Sarah Scott, Sue Harris, Leisa Devlin, Bridget Archer, Alison Green and Caroline Gibbs.

2. Minutes of the 2020 Meetings: PR thanked SM for the minutes of the Annual meetings held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and wished to make a correction at A 1: "PR reminded those present that only those on the church electoral roll could attend and vote at the APCM meeting. The meeting of parishioners can also be attended by those on the local government roll of electors, who can vote in elections for Church Wardens." Ruth Vaughan pointed out that in the list of apologies 'Sarah King' should be amended to 'Sarah Ping'. With those corrections the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: PR said he was really delighted to have received several offers to fund the new altar frontal and matching vestments. The Broderers' Guild will be producing a matching set of vestments, extracting Renate Melinsky's embroidery for the new items to match the altar frontal before it fades. VH said the Broderers have a backlog of work due to the pandemic but will start in August.

#### **4. Vicar's Report and PCC Secretary's Report:**

PR said that the Vicar's Report and the Secretary's Report had been circulated in advance and said he was grateful to Sue Mitchell (SM) for her report. There were no questions or comments on the reports.

#### **5. Report on the New Electoral Roll:**

PR reported the electoral roll now stood at 148, down by three since the 151 reported to the APCM in September. He said that Sarah Scott could not be present tonight but had retired as Electoral Roll Officer and would retire as editor on the Parishes Magazine. There was a round of applause for Sarah. PR said he was very grateful to David Archer (DA) for taking over as Electoral Roll Officer.

#### **6. Presentation and Approval of Accounts for 2020:**

PR said that the Accounts for 2020 had been circulated in advance and invited the new Treasurer, Garry Wheatley (GW), to say a few words. GW said he initially did one report and then another longer one. He thanked DA whom he said was responsible for two thirds of the year. He said there had been bright spots in the year as, although collections were down considerably, very generous donations had been received. With only a few repairs required to The Cottage and Kinchen Hall these assets had proved their worth, both by serving the community and in providing revenue to the church.

Whilst inheriting the same revenue and costs as in 2020, he felt that the prospects for 2021 should be the reverse of those in 2020. Whereas 2020 began well and then things went downhill once the coronavirus pandemic struck, in 2021 we should see the volumes increasing as government restrictions are relaxed. He wanted to say a big 'thank you' to DA as he had relied on what the latter had built.

He expressed his gratitude to all who contributed to the financial running of the church, such as those who banked money and the Church Wardens who gave their assistance, including coming in early to open up the church. People could feel the church was currently run with confidence and competence. PR said it all looked very financially sound.

The Accounts were unanimously approved to applause for both GW and DA.

#### 7. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish:

PR said the Report had been received in advance in the Accounts and proposed it be approved. The Report was unanimously approved to applause.

#### 8. Church Wardens' Report including the Fabric Report for the Church and Report on Kinchen Hall and Cottage:

PR said that the Fabric Officer, Mike Brookes (MB) was in Canterbury, but the Church Wardens were here and also Chris Mitchell who assisted Mike, if there were any questions. He said that progress was being made with the church fabric after the snow fall in the winter which caused several leaks. There being no questions, he thanked VH, CJ and MB for their reports.

#### 9. Presentation of the Church's Terrier and Inventory:

VH said she and CJ had done a further inventory six months after the previous one. They verified that everything was where it should be and the only item to report was the one small glass bottle still missing from the safe. She said they both wanted to thank everyone who had been phenomenal in their support throughout a very difficult year. She felt that everything that was allowed to be done had been done but sometimes in a different way. There was applause. PR thanked them for searching everywhere and said, knowing it was a bottle rather than a carafe missing, he would search again.

#### 10. Diocesan and Deanery Synod Reports:

PR said that he was the Rural Dean as well as Chair of the House of Clergy at the Diocesan Synod. He added that Richard Butler had retired as Diocesan Secretary and would be replaced by Tim Sweeting. Tim had been to speak to us about the YMCA and PR looked forward to working with him.

#### 11. Thanks and Presentation of tokens of thanks:

PR again thanked Sarah Scott for her work as Electoral Roll Officer and as an editor for the Parishes magazine. Although she was not at the meeting VH showed the gift to be presented to her and there was applause.

VH then made a presentation to DA, thanking him for all his work as Treasurer, to further applause. DA gave some words of appreciation.

#### 12. Elections and Appointments:

##### a) Election of members to the Deanery Synod:

PR explained that the Deanery Synod is elected every three years and that three of our members were elected at the 2020 APCM. CJ subsequently became our fourth member so we were now fully represented and he expressed his gratitude to the representatives. He said the lay representatives to the General Synod would be elected for five years this summer by lay members of deanery synods. There was applause for our members.

b) Election of members to the PCC:

PR said there was one nomination to the PCC which was Mike Brookes, proposed by VH and seconded by SM. PR said he was grateful to Chris Mitchell who was retiring from the PCC and to MB for returning to the PCC. SM was re-elected, proposed by VH and seconded by Caroline Gibbs. There was applause.

c) Group Council:

PR explained that there were no vacancies on Group Council at present, either for PCC or co-opted members, and there was good representation on the Council, reflecting what the PCC and parish thinks.

d) Appointment of Sides People

PR said he was grateful to Alistair MacDougall (AM) for organising the Sides persons. Catherine Jeffries said she had spoken to AM. With things being so uncertain at the present time they had decided to go with the existing list of names and then ask everyone if they were willing to continue to serve once normal services are restarted. She read out the names of those proposed as Sides persons:

10am - Jeff Arden, Charles Bartram, Mike Brookes, Enid Erskine, John Harrison, Christine Hide, Don Hobbs, Alistair MacDougall, Chris Mitchell, Sue Mitchell, Ian Parkes, Robin Quine, David Scott, Jacky Sutcliffe, Mary Sword, Tony Sword, Ruth Vaughan.  
8am/6.30pm – Rowena Atkinson, Antony Colman, Jane Colman, Gerald Cooke, Thelma Cooke, David Edmonds, John Elbro, Andrea Middleton, Richard Middleton, Garry Wheatley and Joan Wheatley. They were appointed en bloc to applause.

e) Election of Independent Examiner: It was unanimously **agreed** that Aleathia Mann be reappointed, proposed by Garry Wheatley and seconded by PR.

13. Discussion on new logo design:

PR said that four versions of a new logo design featuring the church in silhouette had been developed for free by the diocese using a professional designer. The four were displayed, two above the other. Two versions on the left had a glow effect and two on the right had beams of light. The two lower versions only had one colour, black or blue, with the white; the top two versions used multiple colours. He said the logo, which is not the finished article, is part of our identity which we are renewing and asked if anyone felt we were getting it wrong.

David Edmonds replied that he had consulted with others and concluded the bottom right version looks scary or ghostly whilst the top right version with the beams of light was a sharp image which will reproduce well in print. Ros Wright said she liked both top versions and Ian Parkes said he preferred the versions on the left with the glow effect. Jess Pitt asked how the lower right version would print on a letter head and PR replied that logo versions for the website could be as colourful as we liked using one of the top two versions, but one of the two lower versions needed to be considered for monochrome printing purposes. The two chosen versions ought to match, either with the glow or the beam effect. Roger and Wendy Glenwright liked the versions on the right. Sarah Verger asked whether we should just be focussing on the church building and PR replied that this was the direction given at the last APCM and taken by other local churches. He added that he felt the inclusion of light, representing the light of Christ, added something.

PR proposed to consult the whole congregation for more feedback but for the PCC to then decide. This was unanimously **agreed**. PR said the new strapline had yet to be decided and needed to appeal to those who were not regular members.

14. AOB:

PR said the General Synod had recommended to the Church of England a Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing. We are to report on adopting the Covenant at the 2022 APCM

and the whole Covenant could be read on the Church of England website and there was a video of him talking to CJ about it on the diocesan website and our Facebook.

CJ then read out the following statement from the Church Wardens:

“The Covenant is the Church promising to promote the welfare of our clergy and their households. Their wellbeing has been more under pressure with the pandemic. The local church commits to ensure e.g., that the minister takes rest and is available for pastoral ministry and also commits to recognise the minister is a public figure serving both church and community, e.g., attending school assemblies and there should be a balance. The Minister’s household should be the concern of the local church but at the same time their privacy respected. The Covenant recommends the whole church having a “Big Conversation” to increase understanding. At our recent meeting the PCC divided into groups to reflect on how this might usefully happen.

Everyone agreed that this was very important though one group commented that it was a big and complicated document. The Church wardens might be the first to know where and when help for the vicar was needed and the PCC have a role to play in looking after their vicar like a school board of governors with their teachers.

Perhaps people need to know more about the daily activities of the clergy. Patrick is on a lot of committees and I don’t think even Vivien and I know about all of them.

It is important to remember that it is not just about Patrick but all clergy. The pandemic has brought new pressures in every walk of life. What further clergy support might be needed and where should it come from? CCE has a congregation with time and talents (e.g., 4 co-hosts now in Zoom Services) but what about clergy without this in their parish?

One suggestion was could congregational group discussion take place on a facilitated Away Day? Anyone any further thoughts?”

CJ concluded by saying that the Church Wardens would have to take this in hand and asked for ideas. PR said he was grateful to the Church Wardens but they could not be expected to do everything. The Covenant encouraged us to have a big conversation and involve everyone. Ros Wright agreed this should be thrown open to everyone and pointed out that the skills possessed by the clergy for preaching were specialised and not something all can provide. PR said he was grateful to those who helped him to care for people and appreciated support given to his whole household.

Alistair Bolt on behalf of the meeting thanked PR and all his family for everything they had done in the past year when even communicating had been a struggle.

#### 15. Closing Prayers and the Grace

The meeting closed at 8.30pm with the Grace.

Signed .....  
Chair

Date .....