

**DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER - ARCHDEACONRY OF CHELTENHAM
NORTH COTSWOLD DEANERY**

**UNITED BENEFICE OF STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, CONDICOTE AND
THE SWELLS**

**ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
TUESDAY 20th APRIL 2021 AT 19.00 HOURS**

On Zoom

Present: Rev. Martin Short, Christine Babbedge, Robert Barnett, Susan Brattin, Peter Dixon, Marjorie Fennessy, Eileen Harrison, Lesley Hounslow, Jeannie Kennell, John Kennell, Barbara Lee, Susan Liphthorpe, Bernice Magson, Derek Magson, Caroline Nelson, John Parkes, Diane Peake, Robin Peake, Chris Reeve, Linda Reeve, Chris Robinson, Janet Robinson, Trish Short, Helen Smith, Barbara Simmons, Tony Whitaker

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. The Revd. Martin Short opened the meeting with prayers.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Clive Beckett
3. **Minutes of the previous Annual Vestry and Parochial Meeting** of 27th October 2020 were approved.
4. **Election of Churchwardens:**
Robert Barnett was selected as churchwarden, proposed by Barbara Lee, seconded by Eileen Harrison. This was approved unanimously. There is still a vacancy for a second churchwarden.

The Rector duly closed the Annual Vestry Meeting.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. **Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting** on 27th October 2020 were approved.
2. **Report on the Electoral Roll:** The Electoral Roll Officer, Derek Magson, confirmed that the Electoral Roll had been updated and now consists of 92 members. Two members had died, and six people had joined the Electoral Roll.

3. Election of three members to the Parochial Church Council:

Members elected for the year 2021/2022 were:-

Revd. M Short, Rector - Ex officio

Dr. D Neill, Lay Reader- Ex officio

Peter Dixon was re-elected to the PCC, proposed by Helen Smith, seconded by Robert Barnett. Sadly, Dougie King had resigned from the PCC. Two vacancies remain and no other candidates came forward. The Rector pointed out that it is always possible to co-opt members onto the PCC during the year.

4. Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31 December 2020:

The Treasurer, John Parkes, presented the accounts. He had two points to make. Firstly the year ended, remarkably, with a small surplus of £3,500, despite a loss of income from the church having been closed. He thanked everyone who had helped to bring this about. Secondly, he confirmed that £40,000 - the largest item in the budget - had been paid to the Diocese, but this was less than the Diocese had asked for. This year the PCC had agreed to increase the share to £47,000 (same figure as 2018). This would still be below our quota but we would struggle to keep to this commitment and he requested that people continue to help.

Barbara Lee (and many others) thanked John for his hard work this year on the accounts, which had been an interesting year but had completed our recovery from the hiatus in 2018.

Lesley Hounslow proposed that the accounts be adopted, seconded by Peter Dixon.

5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of Accounts: John recommended that William Hinton Ltd, the Chartered Accountants, be asked to continue as independent examiner of the accounts. This was approved unanimously, and John confirmed that all work is done on a pro bono basis. JP will write and thank them for their work. The Rector was happy to donate wine to them too.

6. Appointment of Sidespeople: The appointment of sidespeople was based on those from the previous APCM, plus a couple of additions and re-elected en bloc for another year as follows: Robert Barnett, Susan Brattin, Cath Brown, Peter Dixon, Graham Golby, Hazel James, Gillian James, Lesley Hounslow, John Kennell, Jeannie Kennell, Dougie King, Alan Lane, Susan Liphthorpe, Bernice Magson, Derek Magson, Chris Robinson, Janet Robinson, Trish Short, Anne Varnish.

Alan Lane had agreed to be with Dougie King when opening the red safe

in church. AL would be the second person counting cash with DK, who had kindly agreed to become cashier as Christine Babbedge has stood down from this duty.

The Rector requested that if anyone else is willing to become a sidesperson they should contact him.

7. The PCC Annual Report 2020/2021: The PCC were thanked for meeting so regularly in the last year, including the move to PCC meetings on Zoom. The report stated dates and issues covered by the PCC. There were no questions relating to the activities of the PCC. The Rector encouraged people to feed back their views on patterns and changing of services as they evolve.

8. Building Management Fabric Report:

During the time without a churchwarden, tasks were shared out and Derek Magson had taken on the role of buildings management, keeping the log book of who visits the church to attend to items which require servicing, e.g. the roof alarm.

His report had been made available on the website and covered issues such as the proposed handrail in the churchyard, the CCTV and roof alarm, the new locks in church and the clock. There were no questions.

9. Updating St Edward's:

Two information sessions for the parishioners had been held on Zoom and RB had had several conversations with the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Commission) regarding updating St Edwards's Church. The advice from the secretary to the DAC, Adam Klups, was to pause activity until the 5th May when Adams and his boss Kath Hilsden, Senior Church Buildings Officer, would visit St Edward's.

They would then report to the DAC on 6th May and recommend a full visit by the DAC in June. The Committee would want to consider the full range of our proposed projects and recommend how we should take them forward in individual faculty petitions, probably beginning with our AV plans. There would be a separate public consultation exercise built into the consideration of each faculty process. MS thanked RB and invited questions.

10. Report on the proceedings of the North Cotswold Deanery Synod

The report had been published on the website. MS stressed that it was a busy and important time in the life of the Deanery, with the Strategic Plan

being developed and it was hoped that by mid June we might have some idea of the Deanery proposals for this part of the North Cotswolds. There was a requirement for each Deanery in the Diocese to find savings of two stipendiary posts as part of the Review, one of which would be used to fund youth ministry across the Deanery.

11. Rector's Report

The report had been published on the website earlier. There was great praise for Tony Whitaker, the Rector and Trish Short who were involved in making the Zoom services so successful. There were no questions.

12. Safeguarding Policy:

The safeguarding policy had been updated to include additional Health and Safety procedures in the light of Covid -19 but had not been modified since it was adopted in 2020. MS stressed it was important to confirm that the policy is still acceptable. This was unanimously agreed.

13. Other matters of business or general interest, as permitted by the Chairman, or notified to him in writing by the start of the meeting:

Nothing had been notified.

14. Closing prayers

The meeting ended with prayers, at 7.41 pm.