

**CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETINGS
held in Church on Sunday 29th May 2022**

Meetings commenced at 11.25 am

Chair: Clare Boulton, Churchwarden (CB)

The Rev'd Dr Chrichton Limbert, Vicar requested CB chair the meeting due to his recent bereavement.

Prayers: led by Fr Chrichton

In attendance: 30

CB said that the meeting would be recorded to help with minutes.

Apologies for Absence: Patricia Ashby and Jackie Anderson.

(1) **ANNUAL MEETINGS OF PARISHIONERS**

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting of Sunday 30th March 2021 were accepted nem con.

Proposed: Patricia Hawkins; seconded Mick Meur.

2. **Matters Arising**

None.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**

Serving Churchwardens Kate Carroll (KC) and Clare Boulton (CB) indicated their willingness to continue in their roles.

Proposed: Ronald Lo; seconded Philip Miall. Elected: nem con.

4. **Any Other Business.**

None.

In the absence of any other business, CB formally closed the meeting and invited those not on the Electoral Roll to withdraw.

(2) **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting of 30th March 2021 were accepted nem con.

Proposed: CB; seconded: Judith Limbert.

2. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

3. **Consideration of reports**

CB referred everyone to the Annual Report which had been made available in church and online via the church website.

3a. **Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

KC presented the report of Patricia Ashby, the Electoral Roll Officer in her absence, which stated that now in its 3rd consecutive year, membership of the current roll had increased a little. 13 new members had been added to the number since the last report, but it had been necessary to remove 6 other names: 4 members had died and notification had been received of 2 members leaving the area and no longer attending Christ Church.

In conclusion, the overall total of the roll had increased by 7 from 220 in May 2021, to 227 in May 2022.

CB recorded her thanks to PA for her work in keeping the roll up to date.

3b. **Consideration of the Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish**

CB referred everyone to the report and said she did not propose to go through it in detail. In summary, she said that it covered the second of the covid affected years operating under a 'new normal'. She said the church had been closed for about 3 months at the beginning of the year but there had been a gradual re-opening including a reintroduction of music and that now things were returning to more normal.

She asked if there were any questions or comments – there were none.

3c. **Fabric Report**

KC referred everyone to her Report. In addition, she commented on the following:

- Chancel Floor: KC said quotes had been received and a Faculty had been applied for which she hoped would be received as soon as possible after which the work would go out to tender to specialists to give detailed quotes. KC said that the work would be a huge undertaking and that parts of the church would be unavailable for several months, but once completed, hopefully it would keep the church going for many, many decades.
- Organ: KC said this needed significant work and Richard Brain, Director of Music, had compiled some recommendations to put first to the Finance & Standing Committee and then to the Parochial Church Council. She said this would be another big fundraising effort.
- Quinquennial Report: KC said this had gone well and there were no hidden surprises.
- Boundary Wall: KC said major work had been carried out on this to the great satisfaction of both the church and the neighbours.

KC asked if there were any questions. There were none.

KC noted her thanks to the Fabric Committee for all their hard work.

3d. **Finance Report and Acceptance of the Audited Accounts**

CB referred everyone to the Annual Report and the Accounts.

- CB said that the audited accounts covered all 4 main funds ie the Parish Centre, the church, the Spire and Social Responsibility Committee, and the total income was £226,020 which was up £30,129 on 2021 but down about £35,000 on pre pandemic levels. She said this was mostly as a result of the reduced income from the Parish Centre which had either been closed for most of the time due to the pandemic or functioning with reduced lettings. Across all 4 funds expenditure was £234,788.
- CB said the unrestricted income of the church fund was £177,432 (which was up on 2021) and that expenditure was £141,885 leaving a surplus of £16,815 in the unrestricted fund (also up on the previous year).
- CB said the church's restricted fund income was £5,439 and expenditure was £16,635. The fund therefore showed an £11,196 deficit but she said that as the fund was always used for one off capital projects, unless a large amount of money came in, it was expected for it to show a deficit.
- CB said that Mick Meur, as Stewardship Recorder, had done a sterling job in both encouraging new people to join regular giving and increasing stewardship amounts which had help the church meet day-to-day expenditure which continued to go up.
- CB highlighted that the cost of gas and electricity had increased by staggering amounts last year – a 268% increase for gas and 240% for electricity and therefore, going forward it was important to consider how to continue to cover the cost of heating and lighting the church, especially when one month's winter gas bill could be as much as £2,000.
- CB also highlighted the need for significant repair work on Flat 7 which had not been watertight over the winter months and therefore had not created acceptable living conditions.
- CB said that overall the income was good, especially compared to many other churches, but it was important to be aware that expenditure was going up and to think, going forward, about how to address both the day to day and larger projects such as the chancel floor and the organ, in particular.

CB wanted to record her grateful thanks to the people that helped manage the money – counting it after the services, the SRC, and in particular Mick Meur for his stewardship services and support.

Sandra Anderson asked which energy supplier was used - CB said the church used Bulb. CB said she was aware that Bulb was now in 'special administration' but that in the current climate there was no other company to move to and in addition, Bulb had been recommended by the diocese, as the contract had been negotiated for the whole of the Church of England.

CB proposed the acceptance of the accounts; seconded by Sandra Anderson.

Proposal accepted: nem con.

3e. **Deanery Synod**

CB referred everyone to the Report. No further comments were made or questions asked.

4. **Elections and Appointments**

a) Representatives to the PCC

There were 5 vacancies on the PCC.

Imogen Cooper applied for election to the PCC.

Imogen Cooper

Proposed: Kate Carroll

Seconded: Freya Carroll.

Following a vote Imogen Cooper was elected nem con.

b) Anthony Croft Ezekiel Independent Examiner/Auditor

CB proposed the reappointment of Anthony Croft Ezekiel for the following year.
Seconded: Hilary Meur. Proposal accepted: nem.con.

5. **Any Other Business**

a. CB gave advance notice that on 3rd July Bishop Chris Foster would be returning to preach at the 10th Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr Chrichton and Rev Hazel Miall, when Rev Paul Ellerby would also join as curate. CB said there would be a bring and share lunch in the Parish Centre afterwards with a cash bar run by Clive Woodhouse of the Christ Church Association.

b. CB reminded everyone about the Big Jubilee Lunch picnic in the Vicarage garden after the special Matins service at 11 am on 5th June in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

c. Sandra Anderson referred everyone to her Eco Report and said that Fr Chrichton had been leading an Eco steering group for the diocese to encourage other churches to join the programme and would be organising a conference in London in October.

She stressed that Christ Church continued its work as an Eco Church but that this was not something that she could not do alone and asked anyone who had any interest in any aspect of it at all, to come forward and offer help as there was masses to do, including getting registered as a Fairtrade church. She said a lot had already been achieved, that they were very proud of the Rocha Silver Eco award and that it would be lovely to achieve the gold but that was separate to keeping everything else going. She said the garden projects were slow but continuing and reiterated that only as much could be done as people power allowed. She thanked those that had already come forward, encouraged more to do so with ideas and practical help and would be very grateful for any help and outreach that could be done.

d. On behalf of herself and KC, CB thanked:

- all the people serving on Committees and the PCC;
- Richard Brain, Kate Macpherson and the choir for their contribution to the music and noted how delightful it was to have music and the choir back.
- RB extended his own thanks. He said because of the financial support and good management of the church; the loyalty of the choir members and the love and support that had come from the congregation, music had continued to flourish during the pandemic. He said it had been a joy to be back in church properly since September 2021; that the choir was in a great was in a great place; that they loved doing what they did and the feedback from the congregation meant an enormous amount to them.
- On behalf of CB and herself, KC thanked all the Sidesmen, Servers and Readers who were all so integral to the weekly worship and so appreciated by both the regular worshippers and visitors.
- KC said Christ Church was very blessed to have such a wonderful and extraordinary team of Clergy and Lay Readers, which continued to grow and were so important. She extended her huge thanks and gratitude to them, to Rev Hazel Miall and Fr Chrichton Limbert and made a point to thank Judith Limbert for all her hard work and support.

e. Ronald Lo thanked the two churchwardens, Kate Carroll and Clare Boulton for all their hard work during the year and looked forward to supporting them next year.

In the absence of any other business, CB thanked everyone and brought the meeting to a close.

Date of next Annual Meeting to be confirmed

CR: 01/06/22