

**MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,**  
**HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30pm.**

These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the presentation of slides. This is available as a PDF file on the website on the following page:-

<http://brickhillchurches.org.uk/great-brickhill/annual-church-meeting/annual-meeting-2018/>

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

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed all those attending.

**PART I: THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

**ELECTION OF THE CHURCH WARDENS:**

The current Warden, Mrs. Julia Turner, was prepared to seek re-election. Her nomination was proposed by Mrs. Phillipa Cook and seconded by Mrs. Chris Baker. Mrs. Turner was duly elected.

On behalf of all present the Rector thanked Mrs. Turner for carrying the responsibility of Church Warden and added that he was very pleased that she is willing to continue.

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

**APOLOGIES** were received from 4 people.

An Attendance Sheet was circulated. A total of 16 parishioners were in attendance.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2016**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been made available in advance. The Minutes were approved and signed by the Rector as a true record (proposed by Mrs. Joy Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Julia Turner).

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

None.

**ELECTIONS:**

**a). Nine Members of the PCC.**

The Rector informed the Meeting that the number of PCC members allowed for the size of our Electoral Roll is 9. 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 the members of the PCC for serving for the last twelve months. All had agreed to stand for re-election – there were no new nominations.

Details of all the Nominations, received prior to the meeting:-

<u>Name of Nominee:</u>	<u>Proposed By:</u>	<u>Seconded By:</u>
Phillipa Cook	Christine Agambar	Mary Maley
Mary Maley	Christine Agambar	Phillipa Cook
Angela Northen	James Northen	Margretta Smith

Margretta Smith

James Northen

Chris Baker

Joy Wilson

Simon Bennett

Jeremy Hopkinson

**Total = 5 ( Maximum No. to be elected = 2 )**

As the number of Nominations was five there would not need to be an election - all five were duly elected to serve on the PCC.

The Treasurer, Mr. Neil Cook, had been co-opted on to the PCC at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting on 23rd May 2017.

**b). Deanery Synod Representatives (Maximum of Two).**

The serving Deanery Synod Representative was Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson who is also the Deanery Synod Treasurer. The three-year term of office comes to an end and so an election was necessary. The Rector thanked Mr. Hopkinson for serving as our representative. He was willing to stand again - proposed by Mr. Andrew Smith, seconded by Mrs. Julia Turner – he was duly elected. The second post which we are allowed was not filled. The Rector said that it is possible for others from our parish to attend the Deanery Synod Meetings – there are two meetings scheduled for 2017.

**c). Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017.**

The Treasurer said that Mr. David Beatty had acted as Independent Examiner for this year and was willing to continue. Proposed by Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson and seconded by Mrs. Val Baldwin, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2017. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to Mr. Beatty.

**d). Appointment of Sidesmen.**

The Rector gave the names of those who currently serve as Sidesmen:- Clare Amies, Chris Baker, Pat Clark, Phillipa Cook and Betty Kinsey. All were re-appointed to serve for a further year.

The Rector thanked them for fulfilling the role of Sidesman, saying that this in its own way is a simple but important role, as part of the welcome that we give.

**TREASURER'S REPORT INCL. ANNUAL REPORT:**

Copies of the Annual Report had been available in advance of the Meeting. The Treasurer, Mr. Neil Cook, presented the Accounts and referred to the "Review of the Accounts" section in the Annual Report. He reminded the Meeting that the accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

There was a surplus for the year of £14k due to one very large donation. Total disbursements to charitable causes represents approximately 11% of Income Received. The daily running costs of the Church are currently in the region of £90 per day, excluding any major restoration costs. Ecclesiastical Insurance have paid £15k (2 amounts of the maximum £7.5k per annum) as a result of one theft of lead occurring in one insurance year to end of September 2016, and the other after September.

The Parish Share payment to the Diocese had been paid in full, £22,955 (an increase of 3.1%). Bow Brickhill had kindly taken some of the increase that had originally been allocated to Great Brickhill. The Parish Share for 2017 will be £24,098 (a further increase of 5%).

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for his work on the accounts and recorded his thanks that the accounts showed people's commitment in direct giving and their hard work in fund raising, thereby enabling us to meet our responsibilities, thanks to regular giving, one-off events and support for fund raising.

David Middleton queried the cost of the permanent repair to the roof. It had been confirmed from the diocese that we would be able to use a substitute material for the permanent repair, not having to replace the lead – it would still be an expensive repair (the cost is not yet known) but this would not be an attractive proposition for any thefts.

The Rector confirmed that the majority of the Parish Share is used to cover the cost of clergy.

The written Annual Report. The Rector thanked Mrs. Phillipa Cook for writing the Report. He added that from 10th January 2017 Mrs. Joy Wilson has assumed the role of the second Foundation Governor, replacing Mrs. Juliet Bennett who resigned at the end of 2016. Mrs. Louise Eaton has tendered her resignation as Head Teacher from the end of the coming summer term. Two candidates have been short-listed for the post with the interviews taking place later this week – the Rector asked for prayers for all involved with the recruitment.

Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson and seconded by Mrs. Janet Pritchard. All were in favour of the adoption of the report.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL:**

Mr Jeremy Hopkinson reported that the number on the Roll at the end of 2016 was 52. Sadly, there have been three deaths but the number remains at 52. Anyone may join the Electoral Roll at any time.

There then followed a **PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW** of the last twelve months, covering the following events:

SNOWDROP WALKS

HISTORY WEEKEND

THE NATIVITY

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

PLANT FAYRE

EASTER SUNDAY

Mr. David Marlow was thanked for taking the photographs of the various events held throughout the year.

### **WARDENS' REPORT ON THE CHURCH BUILDING AND ITS FABRIC:**

Mrs. Julia Turner presented the Warden's report:-

“ Cast your minds back to 2011. A mere six years ago, and here was I giving my final report before stepping down as Churchwarden. How quickly the years pass by! And here I am again.

I must thank Christine and Val for the order in which they left the records and created files with information and lists of contacts.

I thank John and all those who take our services, and Marian Ridgeway who helps to arrange the clergy amongst other things. I am very grateful to Jerry Breslin for playing the organ and organising the choir. I give my thanks also to the other organists and musicians, the sidesmen and readers, the bell ringers and mowers, flower arrangers and cleaners.

Whilst numbers at the main festivals are good, in general our congregations are smaller except for the family services. It is great to see the children gathering around for a bible story before moving to the Lady Chapel to create something that Angela and Margretta have prepared for them, from book marks to pancake batter, it's amazing.

Over the years there have always been challenges to face, in maintaining this beautiful old building, whether it is leaky pipes or crumbling masonry, these can be fixed by the plumber or the mason. When one is faced with rain coming in because the lead has been stolen... well it becomes more personal somehow, and I feel very responsible. There are more details in the Annual Report. I would just like to say that each time lead was taken, the roofing contractor Leow Knight, came as quickly as he could to lay protective covering, ensuring minimal damage was incurred, for which I am very grateful. We are waiting for the architect to confirm costs for a new roof of terne coated steel.

I am pleased to report that an electrical survey was carried out earlier this month, and was found to be satisfactory. The National Churchyard Regulations have been updated from 1st January, and the Parish Council have approved them.

We have some very successful fund raising events. The Snowdrop Walk; this is a lovely event enjoyed by many, some from outside the village return year after year. Thank you to the Duncombe Family for letting us walk through the Park, and Betty Kinsey for organising the teas, over £1375 was donated. This year the sun shone on the Plant Fayre. A lot of people worked very hard to make it such a success, bringing in £2,730, a huge thank you to Celia and John Hall. Although Gill Wilson and Val Beardmore have moved from the village, they both still support us by arranging events. The Ladies Lunches are great fun and last year raised £1468.

I am continually thankful for all the help and support I receive from many people. On this occasion I would just like to thank Joy Wilson who has turned her hand to weeding the drains, making posies for Mothers' Day and with her daughter Alexa made the bacon sandwiches in St Mary's Cafe! Also Mac Head, who came to the rescue, crow bar in hand, as panic set in when the chain on the closed church gate was firmly wedged, with an hour to go before the Remembrance Service.

This year we have lost some dear friends. I would like to mention in particular Elsie Russell and Janet Simpson so much a part of our church, greatly missed.

To the future, I hope we can welcome you to our fund raising events, our concerts and services. I am looking forward to welcoming the Archdeacon to our Harvest Festival in September.

Lastly I must thank Phillipa, for her invaluable and unstinting support.

We have many things to be thankful for.”

The Rector again thanked Mrs. Turner for all her hard work during the last year and this was endorsed by all those present.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT:**

The Rector gave an informal report, highlighting the following points:

Personal thanks from the Rector for the support for Pauline, especially from those who come to the house to spend time with her. It has been ten years since Pauline spent a long period in hospital and her circumstances changed dramatically – it has been a shared journey since then.

The Bishop of Oxford, Rt Revd. Dr Steven Croft, has visited every deanery in the Diocese in this first year since his appointment. He came to our deanery in March - at the open evening held at Little Brickhill he spoke about our call to be a more Christ-like Church in the coming years. He referred to The Beatitudes in Matthew Chapter 5 and asks what it means to be a church at this time that is:

- “Contemplative” (time for prayer and worship with God at the core of all that we do)
- “Compassionate” (show love, care and support for one another)
- “Courageous” (being bold, seeking out to share the good news, seeking justice and peace)

These themes are both helpful and challenging and will be the focus of the Bishop's ministry in the Diocese.

The Rector gave an update on the Additional Facilities. A new architect has been appointed and a feasibility study is being carried out. On behalf of the PCC Mrs. Angela Northen has been the contact with the architect. The necessary surveys are being arranged. The Rector said that the PCC is keeping Sir David Duncombe and family informed and are grateful for their support.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Gill Wilson asked if consideration could be given to charging a fee or asking for a donation from any organization that holds a fund raising event in the church, a contribution towards the cost of heating etc.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded with Compline at 8.40pm.