

MINUTES OF GREAT BRICKHILL ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING,

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2018 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-2019/>

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. Mary Maley. Mrs. Turner was duly elected.

On behalf of all present the Rector thanked Mrs. Turner for carrying the responsibility of Church Warden over the past year when there had been many challenges with the roof situation.

PART II: THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

APOLOGIES were received from 4 people.

An Attendance Sheet was circulated. A total of 15 parishioners were in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2017

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. Janet Pritchard and seconded by Mrs. Angela Northen).

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 all that they had contributed over the last twelve months and was pleased that they were all willing to stand again.

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 | Julia Turner |
| Mary Maley | Julia Turner | Phillipa Cook |
| Angela Northen | James Northen | Phillipa Cook |

Margretta Smith

Andrew Smith

Julia Turner

Joy Wilson

Christine Agambar

Anne Marlow

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

As the number of Nominations was five there was no need to hold a vote - 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 29th May 2018.

The current Deanery Synod Representative is Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson - the three-year term of office comes to an end in 2020 when there will need to be an election. The second post remains vacant.

b). Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018.

The Treasurer said that Mr. David Beatty had acted as Independent Examiner for this year and was willing to continue. Proposed by Mrs. Joy Wilson and seconded by Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson, Mr. Beatty was duly appointed as Independent Examiner for 2018. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to Mr. Beatty.

d). Appointment of Sidesmen.

The Rector gave the names of those who currently serve as Sidesmen:- 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, more people would be asked to assist with this role.

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. The Accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, falling in line with most other churches and thus avoiding the onerous regulations that apply to accruals accounts.

The Church had a deficit of £457 for the year giving a balance in Unrestricted Funds of £24,777. Due to one very large donation in 2016 the figure for Gift Aid Donations is well down compared to last year. The total Expenditure for the year has increased by £1,913 from 2016, mainly due to the increased cost of the Parish Share and a rise in heating costs. The amount of Outside Giving was £500, the same as the last three years.

The P.C.C. paid its Parish Share of £24,098 in full, an increase of 5.0% from last year. The Parish Share for 2018 will be £25,615, a further increase of 6.3%.

The Rector explained that the Parish Share pays for the cost of clergy and housing. Each person on the Electoral Roll has an effect on the level of the Parish Share, the cost being about £500 per person. The number on the Electoral Roll is only one factor in the calculation of the Parish Share. When the current Electoral Roll comes to the end of its six-year period, next year the Electoral Roll will be renewed – when asked to complete the Electoral Roll Form people would be advised of the cost per person.

David Middleton queried the Bell Ringing funds – the Treasurer said that the funds had always been in the Accounts, nothing had changed.

The Rector was pleased that the PCC had met the payment of the Parish Share and thanked everyone for their commitment in direct giving and fundraising efforts. There would be a challenge in meeting the target figure as it increases and there is a change in level of giving in the parish. Regular planned giving across the Benefice had decreased.

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.

The Rector thanked the Treasurer for his work on the accounts and Mrs. Phillipa Cook for the written Report.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

Mr Jeremy Hopkinson reported that the number currently on the Roll was as at the end of 2017:- 52.

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

FAMILY SERVICE AT BRICKSTOCK

AUCTION OF PROMISES

HARVEST SERVICE AT RECTORY FARM

THE NATIVITY AT THE OLD RED LION

LADIES WHO LUNCH

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION – LOADING THE LORRY

SNOWDROP WALKS 2018

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:-

“I am continually thankful for all the help and support I receive. Firstly, I would like to thank those who regularly take our services throughout the month, John, Sister Hazel, Jeremy and Phillipa. Thank you, Marian, for arranging other visiting clergy. We were delighted that the Archdeacon, Guy Elsmore, was able to attend our Harvest Thanksgiving service in September, and to stay afterwards to meet so many of our congregation. Our Family services on the whole are well attended. Thank you, Angela and Margretta, for arranging all sorts of craft for the children to make. The attendance at Sunday morning services is small but with good congregations at Christmas and Easter. There have been a number of Baptisms, but not many weddings. We have lost dear friends over the last twelve months, they shall always be warmly remembered.

We greatly appreciate the commitment given by our regular organists, Susan and Jerry, and members of the choir who give us support at the services throughout the year, and especially at Christmas. When Jerry was unwell, Juliet Bennett and Sue Malleson stepped in, and did a great job of sorting out the Carol Service, and John Wearmouth was able to play the organ. I'd like to mention Rosemary Howell who also has played for us, sometimes at very short notice, and Andrew and Margretta Smith for the music they play mainly at the Family Services. Thank you to them all.

Thanks Phillipa for providing the weekly Pew Sheets and for keeping the website updated.

I would like to thank those who decorate the church with flowers for the altars each week and the windows for the festivals, also the many helpers, whether it be the sidesmen or readers, grass mowers or coffee makers who strive to keep our church 'welcoming'. A quick look in the Visitors' Book recently revealed visitors from Italy, Ireland and Peru. Often there is a message of appreciation for this lovely church, for keeping it open, and for the comfort and peace that is found here.

Two annual events, the Snowdrop Walk and the Plant Fayre were again very successful and enjoyable. Our sincere thanks to Sally and David Duncombe, and to John and Celia Hall. The Auction of Promises held in the Parish Hall last October was a great evening. Celebrity auctioneer, Charlie Ross, as enthusiastic as ever, worked very hard to make us part with our money. Val and Gill organised a super supper and many others made delicious puddings.

One other source of revenue for the church has been the collection of newspaper and cardboard for recycling, and I must thank Henry Clark for picking up around the village. Frank and Betty Kinsey

started this some years ago and it has brought in a significant revenue over the years. Unfortunately, the price of waste cardboard has declined and Cawleys decided it was no longer viable for them to pay us for the cardboard. We are very grateful to those who gave up their early Saturday mornings to load the paper.

Your support for these and other fund-raising events is much appreciated, especially as we are facing challenges in the near future to meet our Parish Share and to keep the church warm and welcoming, as well as giving to those whose need is greater than ours.

Last April saw an extremely dry spell, with no recordable amount of rain for several weeks. The PCC had hoped to be progressing with the proposed toilet facilities. But dark clouds were indeed forming. The theft of lead from the north and south aisles has been very challenging. The clouds broke, the rain fell, (and goodness didn't it rain?) Although the roofing contractor had fitted a waterproof membrane after the lead had been stolen, the rain poured in. It is said that every cloud has a silver lining, and I am extremely grateful to the help given from Rosie Dawson and Andrew Smith in particular on that Monday evening. Buckets and plastic sheets were positioned all down the south aisle and the vestry, and at other points within the church. I know Andrew was very diligent in securing the flapping roof sheets on several occasions, but I was very concerned the plaster from ceilings could fall down given more rain.

As Warden, I felt I had to do something quickly. Following a meeting with the architect and contact with the DAC to no satisfactory conclusion, but with the approval of the PCC, the local roofing contractor laid a temporary roofing felt. This has given us some time to raise the money to fit a permanent covering of terne coated steel.

On a more positive note, to create a safer area for making the refreshments we have moved this area to the back of the church beyond the font. It is hoped to give more space around the font for Baptisms by reordering this corner, and to make a welcoming gathering area. To this end new architects have been appointed, and Gill Wilson has joined us as project manager to take this and the toilet facilities project forward.

It is, for me, a privilege and pleasure to be Warden of this beautiful old building.

A large part of this church is the people who come, whether to worship, or just visit and enjoy the peace and history within.

I will step down from the role of Church Warden next year, but will be happy to assist in any way I can the next Wardens. We all bring something to the community of this church, and I would ask that we encourage others to join us.

If I may quote the Bishop of Oxford, Stephen Croft, 'Seek always to be a blessing to the communities we serve.' I will keep trying."

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES:

The Rector said that progress has suffered due to time spent resolving the problems with the roof. Surveys have been done and a new architect has been appointed to produce drawings for the PCC to consider – a WC extension and a servery.

Gill Wilson has joined the sub-committee to project manage the work.

David Middleton asked where we were with the additional facilities. Mrs Turner said that we were making no progress with the old architects and new architects were appointed at the start of 2018. Outline plans were being drawn up for the refreshment point inside the church and the toilets in an outside extension. David Middleton felt that the original plans could have used and the work phased as there is allocated money for the toilet. The Treasurer confirmed the amount of Restricted Funds:- £59K for the Facilities and £39K for general fabric work. David Middleton asked that the new architect consider plans for the facilities through the north door.

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:

The Rector spoke about the spiritual life of the church and gave thanks for all that people do – it is never taken for granted. He reflected on those we had lost in the last twelve months – Clare Amies, Elsie Russel and recently Valerie Vestergaard. Clare's death had been a shock to everyone and he gave thanks to God for all that Tim and Clare had brought to the church, and remembered Clare's deep concern for all and her outreach.

The Bible Course originally held at Clare's house was being repeated using a new version of the material, which would later be repeated in Stoke Hammond.

Weekly Prayer Meeting. A new initiative had started, meeting on Thursday mornings for tea and coffee at 10.30am - an informal gathering in the Lady Chapel with an opportunity for quiet, private and open prayer. The Rector thanked Mrs. Mary Maley for organizing this and also for her work on "Thy Kingdom Come", a national initiative "Call to Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost".

The Rector spoke about the Bishop's Call to be Christ like, the Beatitudes, the subject of the recent Lent Course using the study material produced by the Bishop. The Untied Benefice service at the end of the month will focus on reflections from that course.

The Rector mentioned another book by the Bishop featuring John Chapter 11, the Raising of Lazarus, "Christ calls us continually back to new and abundant life". He read a passage from this book.

GDPR General Data Protection Regulations. The new regulations come into force on 25th May. Mr. Jeremy Hopkinson and Mrs. Phillipa Cook had attended a course on this subject. Some changes will have to be introduced to make sure that the PCC is compliant.

The Rector thanked all those who give their time voluntarily for the good of the church. He thanked David Middleton, the Tower Captain, who had produced a report, which is appended to these Minutes. More ringers are needed to continue ringing all eight bells. There has been difficulty in getting enough people to ring for the Sunday services.

Mrs. Janet Pritchard thanked Mrs. Phillipa Cook for all her communications, making sure that all are aware of what is going on.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Pat Clark asked if consideration could be given to having a Sung Eucharist from time to time.

Mrs. Margretta Smith was thanked for the work she has put in to making the Monday morning Coffee Club such a success.

The Reverend John Waller thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded with Compline at 8.45pm.