



MINUTES OF ALL SAINTS' CHILTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 pm VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

The Rector, the Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey was in the Chair and 12 parishioners were present, including the Reverends Pam Rolls and Jan Radford.

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting, and expressed his gratitude to Allan Macarthur, Churchwarden at St Matthew's, for hosting the Zoom meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Mrs Yvonne Sanderson and Mrs Audrey Hayes.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Meetings The minutes of the last meetings had been circulated (with the other reports to be accepted) via the church website, and were accepted unanimously and duly signed.
The Rector thanked Pam for producing these minutes, which were a clear record.
3. Election of Churchwardens. The Rector thanked Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Russell for their diligence in undertaking these roles over the last year, with the difficulties caused by the pandemic. Both were prepared to stand for another year, and there were no other nominations.

Mrs Yvonne Sanderson proposed by Mrs Carol Pigott, seconded by Mrs Hazel Benton.
Mrs Judith Russell proposed by Mrs Carol Pigott, seconded by Mr Andrew Hayes.

They were duly elected unanimously.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Elections/Appointments

1. Deanery Synod Representatives We are entitled to 2 representatives, to serve from 2020 to 2023.
No nominations had been received so both posts lie vacant.
2. PCC Members There were 3 vacancies for 3 years.
No nominations had been received so these posts lie vacant, but people could be co-opted during the year, if anyone came forward.

3. Independent Examiner Jane Moreton, of Harwell, was prepared to continue as our Independent Examiner.

The Independent examiner was proposed by the Rector, seconded by Mrs Audrey Slater, and accepted unanimously. The Rector expressed thanks for this work that Mrs Moreton undertakes for us.

4. Receiving the Reports

The reports for this year had all been published on the Church website.

The reports are:

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting
- b. PCC Annual report for 2020, Including the Electoral Roll report
- c. Fabric report
- d. Financial report and Accounts

The minutes had been approved by this meeting, with the minutes of the Annual Parochial meeting (above).

The reports and accounts had been approved by the PCC at its previous meeting.

(The Fabric report, and Financial report, were included in the Annual report. The Accounts were separate.)

5. Deanery Synod report for 2020.

6. Number on Electoral Roll is 68, with no changes to parishioners enrolled. 2 had moved out of parish, but stayed on the roll.

(The list of sidesmen used to be presented to this meeting for approval, but has now been delegated to the PCC to approve at their next meeting)

7. Discussions, Questions and Tabling Resolutions

- i. Finance Stuart Gibson, commenting on the finance section of the Annual report, said there was very little to add. In spite of the pandemic situation in 2020, we had managed to cover all our commitments, including Missions Giving. Some large amounts had come in at the end of the year. The Rector thanked Stuart for the countless number of years he had acted as treasurer, and for managing to steward our finances so successfully. This was due to the generosity of a lot of people, known only to Stuart, so the Rector wished to thank these anonymous donors also.

- ii. Fabric The Rector also wished to thank Andrew Hayes, for the multitude of tasks undertaken over the year, as listed in the Annual report.

Andrew reiterated his thanks to all those on the team who do the work of maintaining the fabric of the church, and churchyard. He also wished to take this opportunity to speak of the south boundary wall "with its cross over the arch and head stones resting against it, providing a secure and tranquil backdrop to our beautiful peaceful churchyard".

(Background information: The Diocese sold the old rectory in 1950 (and the new owner subsequently divided into three dwellings and sold them on in 1953), without stipulating who owned/was responsible for the boundary wall. Over many years PCC has attempted to clarify the situation, and negotiate responsibility with the three owners of the property. The section of wall

at the end of the garden of remembrance has been deteriorating, and during the pandemic was demolished and replaced with a fence by the previous owner of West House).

Andrew said that recent changes to the wall in the garden of remembrance - undertaken without prior approval - remind us that the wall's future cannot be taken for granted if the church is deemed to have relinquished ownership and control. Ownership of the wall would normally be determined by what is recorded in the property deeds. The PCC draft minutes of 4 February 2020 however, imply that other recently discovered documents are the deciding factor. Andrew understood that altering a wall surrounding a listed church without consent may be a criminal offence. For the protection of our neighbours and ourselves therefore, could he please ask Jonathan to allow the experts in ecclesiastical law at the Diocesan Registry, the opportunity to comment on the standing of our recently discovered documents, before any further discussion takes place?

In the following discussion, it was noted that Pam had unearthed 1934 and 1940's surveys of the rectory (then one house) that had the boundary wall, fencing, and stabling (including the wall fronting onto Church Hill) all included. These were the documents that caused PCC to believe it does belong to the house, as it wraps around that, rather than the church itself.

These papers would have been shared in a meeting with the owners of the houses, but the pandemic caused this meeting to fall through. The situation had been complicated further by the owner of West House moving away.

Judith has had conversations with the owner of East House, who believed he had responsibility for that section of the wall, had been repairing it, and taken out a liability insurance on it.

The retrospective faculty had been granted, this being obtained on behalf of the owner of West House.

Audrey Slater was concerned that a precedent had been set. The other sections of wall could be demolished in future, and replaced with sub-standard fencing. She had a copy of the 1959 Quinquennial which included a report on the boundary walls and fences, and stated that some attention was needed to the tile coping in one place, thus indicating that the church was considered responsible for the repair. There might also be a problem with the fallen headstones placed against the wall, if we do not have ownership of the wall.

Andrew was saddened that the whole section of wall had been replaced, when it was only the end section that was in dangerous condition. However, his main concern was the ownership question, for which he believed the free advice we could obtain from the Diocesan Registry would be useful, to ensure we had not given away church property.

Jonathan said the Registry may not have a definitive answer, but might still have some suggestion for the way forward, such as the earlier idea that was being pursued, that each take care of their own side of the wall. He accepted PCC may not have been in an ideal position regarding the faculty, but they should be entrusted with pursuing this discussion further with the Diocesan Registry and the house owners.

As in all families, we will always have differences of opinion, but do still value each other's gifts and qualities.

8. Rector's Remarks Commenting on the Annual report, Jonathan noted that for three quarters of 2020 we had been in pandemic, forcing us to do things differently, such as Zoom meetings, but there were positives which we will take forward. Digital use will be useful in future – for those working away, the housebound, etc. He was looking forward to restrictions lifting, so we could get back to face to face worship, and social events, such as barn dances. Going forward, our services will need to build on what is good from the old and also using some of the new, to help us in our aim to grow the body of Christ Closer, Deeper and Wider. He mentioned a housebound lady (in Nottingham), who had been given the link to our online

services, and found them a great asset. We had also held services outdoors quite successfully, for Carols, Remembrance, etc. Pam and Jan had taken Generation Gold services “out” into the community, delivering goodies and relevant bible passages to parishioners’ doors. Home groups, Alpha, Christianity Explored, and the Prayer Course had all worked well online, as had prayer meetings. There are lots of ways to move forward, including running online groups/courses alongside groups held in person.

Jonathan went on to thank Pam and others on the ‘staff team’. He hoped Jan, newly retired from her chaplaincy role at the hospital, would become even more closely involved with our ministry. He had already thanked PCC and Churchwardens, but wanted to thank Deborah Evans too. Having started as maternity cover, she was now permanently employed in the church office. Her job description had changed enormously since she joined us, and she had adjusted marvellously. Melanie Shields and Sarah Barrett have also done a fantastic job during the pandemic, adapting their ministry to Children and Families, and reaching out to the new mothers and families who have been isolated.

There were also very many volunteers in various roles he wished to thank, but too many to list!

The Rector wished to give special thanks to Andrew Hayes, after his faithful service over very many years as Chair of the Fabric Committee. He was now retiring from this role, so this will be his last APCM as chair of the committee. We have yet to find a replacement, which will be no easy task.

9. Closing prayer

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 8.50 pm

..... (Chairman)

Carol Pigott
(Secretary)