

Annual Church Meeting Minutes – Monday 16th March 2020

Present:

Matt Trendall (Chair), Pat Sawyer, Sylvia Bennett, Wayne Webb, Gloria Terrelonge, Paul Terrelonge, Ian Corlett, Sandy Grey, Dawn Bromley, Nick Mills, Jane Charman

Apologies:

Alise Trendall, David Sawyer, Keith & Christine Straughan, Jane Lee, Mark & Niki Mitro, Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla, Kimi Wong, Trisha Gifford, Pauline Evans, Brian & Jacqueline Quentin, Sandra Mills, Pauline Ghiradello.

1. **Opening devotions:** the meeting opened with prayer. Matt noted the unusual circumstances and the rapidly changing advice regarding the Coronavirus outbreak, and thanked those attending for what may well be the last event in church for some months.
2. **Election of churchwardens:** Pat Sawyer was proposed by Sylvia Bennett and seconded by Wayne Webb and elected unanimously to serve as churchwarden. Matt proposed a vote of thanks to Pat for her outstanding work over the last 9 years, and reaffirmed that he is actively looking to find a second churchwarden in the near future, to work alongside Pat.
3. **Apologies:** see above.
4. **Minutes of 2019 ACM:** accepted as a true record of the meeting nem. con..
5. **Matters arising:** no additional matters arising.
6. **Reports:** (a) noting the various reports on the church's life and previous year contained in the meeting pack; (b) the Electoral Roll has remained very steady over the last two years: 63 in 2018, 59 in 2019, 62 in 2020. We remain very diverse by church tradition, with 40% of our membership from non-Anglican traditions; (c) Ian gave a short summary/overview of the treasurer's report. The Building Fund is in healthy shape, having paid for all but about £2,000 of the Quinquennial Repairs, with a balance of c£8k at the end of 2019. However, as regards the General Fund, the overall picture is more fragile than for the last few years: our proportion of income from giving has fallen, and was masked in 2019 by a large number of weddings. This means a modest deficit for 2019 of c.£1k overall, and a forecast deficit of c.£2k in 2020. We will look to have a stewardship initiative after Easter.

Nick Mills asked whether giving from Ride'n'Stride was put into the general church account or the building fund. Ian advised that until this point it had been put into the general fund, but we agreed to review this, and to put monies raised into the Building Fund in 2020. Nick also asked if the money raised by the 'Cycle Ride' on p1 of the Accounts could be elaborated to specify that it was from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust: again this was agreed.

Matt proposed a vote of thanks to Ian for his continued excellent work and to Pat for banking the money. Ian Corlett's accounts were formally accepted – proposed by Gloria Terrelonge, seconded by Dawn Bromley, and unanimously approved.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Manish Patel was proposed by Paul Terrelonge, seconded by Pat Sawyer, and re-appointed by the meeting nem. con.
8. **Discussion item:** in light of the Coronavirus, the planned discussion was postponed, and Matt led a shorter discussion on this urgent issue at the end of the meeting.

9. **Update on Quinquennial Works:** Pat gave an update on the works for the Quinquennial Repairs. Almost all works have been completed, virtually on budget. All that is left for 2020 is: work on the base of the pinnacle; on the water chute by the bell tower; and re-pointing in the area near the bees nest. Matt thanked Pat for her excellent management of this project. Matt also noted a possible project this year lowering the porch so that it is step-free access into church. We are awaiting a conversation with the architect to begin planning this. Grants may be available from a couple of local charities.
10. **Safeguarding** and re-appointment of Safeguarding Officer and Responsible Adult (previously known as Children’s Advocate). The policy current (the summary page of which is in the meeting pack) was accepted nem. con. Rachael Jenkins (as Safeguarding Officer) and Sandra Mills (as Responsible Adult) were proposed by Matt, seconded by Jane Charman, and both re-appointed unanimously. Matt proposed a vote of thanks to both for their continued work in this important area.
11. **Elections:**
 - a. Election of Church Stewards, proposed by Matt, seconded by Jane Charman, all appointed unanimously:
 - i. Ian Corlett (Treasurer)
 - ii. Ayokunnu Otunla (Walton Churches Partnership Link Rep)
 - iii. Paul North (Mission & Community)
 - iv. Mark Mitro – role to be assigned
 - v. Carolyn Sanderson (Worship)
 - vi. Gloria Terrelonge (Worship Weddings)
 - vii. Moira North (Special Events)
 - viii. Wayne Webb (Building & Maintenance)
 - ix. Paul Terrelonge (Building & Maintenance)
 - x. Dawn Bromley (Families/Children & Young People)

Matt welcomed Mark Mitro to the stewards council.
 - b. MK/WCP link posts: all current reps are standing again and were unanimously appointed:
 - i. Sandy Grey & Ann Harris (Mission Partnership Link)
 - ii. Carolyn Sanderson & Ayokunnu Otunla (Walton Churches Partnership reps)
 - iii. Carolyn Sanderson (Deanery Synod rep)
12. **Rector’s Report:** attached separately in meeting pack.
13. **Questions/Feedback** – Matt led a discussion on the impact to All Saints of government advice regarding the Coronavirus. There were numerous comments, notably on practical arrangements for Cafe Church, including more spread-out tables and whether to stop refreshments for this (and all services). The general sense was to ‘take it a week at a time.’ *Addendum post-meeting: the rapid increase in restrictions during the following week meant that church services were suspended by that weekend and church buildings closed by 24th March.*
14. **Any other business** – none
15. **Dates** of the next Church Stewards/Congregational Meetings: as per the agenda, concluding with: Monday 15th March 2021 possible date for next ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
16. **Closing Devotions** – Matt led a time of prayer with intercessions written specially for the Coronavirus.