

CHRIST CHURCH WARLEY.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held in Church and on Zoom on Sunday 23rd May 2021 at 11.00 after the morning service.

22 Members present and 4 on Zoom

1. Introduction – Rev. Stuart Hull welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Prayer.

He said that he hoped everyone had seen a copy of the Reports and Financial Statement.

2. Apologies for Absence- Olive Law, who was leading the Service at St. Mary's Church; Brendon Horrocks, Nichola Webber and John Carruthers

3. Minutes of A.P.C.M. for 2020 – it was proposed by Sylvia Partridge, seconded by Harry Stimpson and unanimously agreed that these be accepted as correct and were signed by The Chairman.
There were no matters arising.

4. Electoral Roll Report – Jan Broderick reported that we currently have 71 on the roll, 27 of these were not resident in the Parish. During the year 6 members had been added and one person had passed away. Thanks were expressed to Jan for all her hard work in keeping these records.

5. Report on PCC activities – Sylvia Partridge reported that during 2020 despite the Covid-19 lockdown, we still managed to hold 4 meetings via zoom, with an average attendance of 8 members. The sub-groups didn't meet in their normal manner, but work continued via phone calls and zoom Wardens Meetings Discussions during the year have included continuing Ministry both on-line and in person, outreach, re-starting Toddlers group and re-starting Prayer meetings.

6. Fabric Report – SH stated that the full report, including the tree report, had been published prior to the meeting. He expressed thanks to the group of very dedicated people who took great care of the building and the grounds. There were no questions on the report.

7. Financial Report – John Kettlewell attended the meeting from Ireland, via zoom. He outlined the following points from the Annual Account:-

Resources 31st Dec 2020

- Value of investments £439,482 made up of
 - Endowments £33,144 (£32,607)
 - Aged and Infirm £83,384 (£100,887)
 - Thorndales sale £322,954 (£302,174)
- Fabric Fund £559
- Building Trust £12,096
- Aged and Infirm £3,030 (excluding investments)
- General Fund £7,246

General Fund 2020

- Income £83,093
 - Expenditure £87,178 – Parish share biggest item £65,470
 - Deficit on year £4,085
 - Surplus on A&I transferred £3,627
 - So overall deficit on General Fund £458
 - Balance on General Fund £7,246 BUT
 - No longer pay Parish Share in full
- No longer give 10% of income to charity

JK explained that our biggest expenditure was the Parish Share and that this was now calculated for the Benefice, so includes St.Mary's. Again in 2020, Christ Church had not been able to meet the full amount, but we had covered the cost of Ministry.

How does Parish Share work

Benefice given figure to split.	
Cost of Ministry	£81,079
Transition Fund – offered	£10,621
Gross Share Assessment	£91,700
Voluntary additional offer	£2,292
Amount due	£93,992
Less fee credit	£1,119
Net assessment 2020	£92,873

Average cost of Ministry – one Vicar

Stipends, Nat ins, pensions	£40,351
Council tax, clergy housing	£10,746
Clergy direct costs	£51,097
Future ministry training	£14,487
Services to parishes	£ 8,800
Other – admin, finance etc.	£ 5,800
Total	£80,184

Parish Share 2020

- Diocese request to benefice £92,873
- Christ Church share £77,275
- Christ Church paid £65,470
- Cost of ministry net of fee credits £80,741

Benefice paid

- St Mary's £15,964
- Christ Church £65,470
- Total £81,433
- Average Parish Share paid in deanery 73% - Christ Church 88%

JK explained that although he had predicted a larger deficit on the General Fund for 2020, the dividend from investment of money raised by sale of Thorndales, increased giving by some members and a reduction in expenditure, due to Covid restrictions, this was only £485.

JK then gave an outline for 2021 – we had to carefully consider whether we could meet our full Parish Share or only again cover the cost of Ministry.

Financial position 2021

- Working balance of £7,245 to support 2021 budget
- But if utilised no balance to support 2022 budget
- Budget for 2021 assumes not back to “normal” until July
- If don't pay parish share we pass problem to Diocese
- 2019 pre covid Diocese had £3million deficit
- £1.356 million shortfall in parish share 2019
- In 2020 Brentwood Deanery had £235,000 shortfall in parish share
- Diocese has to reduce costs

JK said that at last year's meeting he had been asked what percentage increase in giving would be required to meet our full Parish Share. This is detailed below:-

Increase in giving needed in 2021

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Parish share requested | £74,617 |
| • We are paying | £65,470 |
| • Shortfall in share | £ 9,147 |
| • Reserves used | £ 7,246 |
| • Increase in giving needed | £16,393 |
| • Giving already assumed in 2021 | £63,535 |

Percentage increase needed 25.8%

SH thanked John for all his hard work in keeping our accounts and producing them for end of year review.

He confirmed that the Diocese were looking at their costs and the possibility of making clergy members redundant. He explained the financial difficulties of both the Deanery and the Diocese. He said that they were running at a huge deficit and would need to cut their costs, which would mean a loss of clergy. Benefices were judged on a 'green, amber and red' basis. Currently we are judged as 'green' but this would be re-viewed in 3 months' time. This is mostly based on our financial giving and although we did not make our full payment, we are one of the higher contributors within the Diocese. We must maintain this, or do better, to ensure we keep a full-time clergy member in the future. There is a real possibility that if we dropped to amber or red, we would lose the incumbent.

8. **Appointment of independent examiner** – it was agreed that we would ask if Neville Reid would review the accounts for 2021.
9. **Election of Church Wardens** – SP reported that we had received nomination forms for Suzanne Galliers and Louise Kearns. It was proposed Sylvia Partridge, seconded Jan Broderick and unanimously agreed that these nominations be accepted.
SH thanked both for agreeing to stand as Wardens and also thanks to BH, in his absence, for all his work over the years. He would be thanked in person at a later date.
10. **Election of PCC Members** – SP reported that we had received nominations for Heather Bradshaw, Alison Coates, Brendon Horrocks and Harry Stimpson. It was proposed Mark Townsend, seconded Suzanne Galliers and unanimously agreed that these nominations be accepted.
SH thanked them all for standing for election and stated that they were all already carrying out important roles within the Church.
11. **Deanery Synod Representative** – SH reported that Olive Law was prepared to continue in this role. It was unanimously agreed to accept this offer.
12. **Vicar's Remarks** – SH said that he knew how difficult 2020 had been for everyone, but that the Church family had supported each other by on-line Services, phone calls, parcels, and letters. We had also supported the wider Brentwood area through the Community Hub with donations of goods and finance. We had managed to maintain Services via Facebook and run the Youth Group, Fellowship Group and Prayer Breakfast via zoom.
As we were now coming out of lockdown restrictions he was pleased to report that Kidzone had re-started and we looked forward to other groups and activities starting soon. We needed new ways of engaging the community and as our recent Sermon series showed, we are all Stewards of the Church with the commission to share the gospel.
13. **A.O.B.**
 - a) Jane Montaigu expressed the thanks of everyone to Stuart and Suzanne, for all their hard work and leadership throughout a very difficult year.

Rev. Stuart Hull again thanked members for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed with Prayer at 11.50 a.m.

The date of the first meeting of the new PCC would be notified.