

## CHRIST CHURCH WARLEY.

### Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held following the Morning Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**39 present and Jane Hargrave Montaigu via zoom.**

- 1. Introduction** – Rev'd Dawn Butcher welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and opened the meeting with Prayer.

She said she hoped everyone had seen a copy of the Reports and Financial Statement for 2024 and a copy of last year's Minutes.

- 2. Apologies for Absence-** Brendon Horrocks, Jacqueline Purser and Ian Sutton.
- 3. Approval of 2023 APCM Minutes** - It was proposed by David Fisher, seconded by John Kettlewell and agreed unanimously that the Minutes for 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 be accepted.
- 4. Election of Church Wardens** – DB stated that Olive Law has decided to step down from the Church Warden role. She said that the Church membership was very grateful for all her hard work over the last two years and especially throughout the vacancy. OL was then presented with a rose bush and card. DB said that Sylvia Partridge was willing to continue in the role and we had received a nomination for Jane Hargrave Montaigu. This nomination was unanimously accepted by the meeting.
- 5. Finance Report** As the full report had been previously circulated, John Kettlewell gave a brief verbal outline:-

#### Resources – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Investments	2024	2023
-Endowments	£36,106	£35,474
-Thorndales sale	£364,498	£356,341
-Aged and Infirm	£89,448	£87,176
<b>Total value</b>	<b>£490,052</b>	<b>£478,991</b>

#### Funds

- **Building Trust** £27,284 £26,199
- **Aged and Infirm** £7,938 £3,030 excluding investments
- **General Fund** £30,465 £18,896
- **Pop Up Café** £5,263 £3,691
- **Toddler Group** £1,442 £1,442
- **£60,000 of cash underpinning above funds invested in CBF Deposit Account**

#### General Fund 2024

- **Income** £112,764 (£113,265 in 2023) Giving by church members £85,618 (76%)
- **Expenditure** £101,195 (£100,648 in 2023) Parish share biggest item £68,054 but also Maintenance £11,894
- **No charitable donations made in 2024**
- **A&I surplus not transferred to Gen Fund**
- **Surplus on Gen Fund** £11,569
- **Balance brought forward 1/1/24** £18,896
- **Balance carried forward 31/12/24** £30,465

## Parish Share

- **2023**
- **Requested by Diocese**                      **£81,326**
- **Paid**    **£81,326**
- **2024**
- **Requested by Diocese**                      **£83,831**
- **Paid**    **£83,831**
- **2025**
- **Requested by Diocese**                      **£84,008**
- **Agreed to pay**                              **£84,008**
- **Split 82% Christ Church, 18% St Mary's**
- **1% discount as we pay by direct debit**

## General Fund 2025

- No longer needed to rely on balance brought forward from previous years to balance budget
- Income difficult to estimate – dependent on generosity of givers – prudent assumptions made
- On expenditure side – again prudent assumptions
- GF balance at end of 2025 estimated to be £30,119
- 2-year contracts for electricity and gas end in Oct and Nov respectively
- Diocesan energy advisers have carried out a review of our heating.
- Need to replace our accounting system in 2025 or 2026
- Already this year we have spent £3,415 of maintenance budget of £5,000

Suzanne Galliers enquired about charity giving. DB stated that this would be covered later on the Agenda. Tim Wood asked about any expected expenditure for 2025. It was stated that we expected expenditure to be incurred on the church boiler, stonework on the outside of the building and tree surgery.

It was proposed by Andrew Wood, seconded by Liz Edwin and unanimously agreed that the Accounts for 2024 be accepted.

DB expressed thanks to JK for all his hard work and expertise in keeping our finances in good order.

### a) **Charitable Giving -**

DB explained this was an important change which she needed everyone to listen closely to. In past years, when finances allowed, it was the policy of the PCC at the end of the financial year (Jan-Dec) to give to other charities giving 10% of giving. The most recent recipients have been the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust (BSCWT), Tear Fund and Christians Against Poverty (CAP). It was a policy of tithing and giving what we could to the work of others. In 2023, this meant we were able to give £5,000 and we split that with £2,000 to BSCWT, £1,500 to Tear Fund and £1,500 to CAP.

This year, whilst we were in a fortunate position with our finances with a surplus of £11,500, which would have meant a 10% charitable giving of just short of £7,000, PCC felt uneasy about making charitable donations, particularly as in December we had held a gift day for Christ Church. It was felt that people may have been generous in their giving believing the money to be for this church only.

PCC spent a long while discussing, over two meetings, and the outcome was PCC has adopted a new charitable giving policy. There will be no donations made from Christ Church funds. What will happen is we will hold a gift day, one each quarter, for a nominated charity. We will have information about the activities of that charity and where possible invite a speaker to come and share. There would also be opportunity for members of the congregation to nominate a charity. PCC felt this would be clearer, so on those donation days we will collect for a charity and people can give as they wish, on all other times,

donations will be for Christ Church including our required parish share giving to the Diocese. Monthly giving will always be for Christ Church so those who give monthly, it'll be the individuals choice whether to give extra on the donation days.

There is a concern that we may see a decline in giving if some members of Christ Church decide to reduce church giving if we are not supporting other charities on a regular basis especially those we have historically supported.

This is a policy change. So, this is the opportunity for the PCC to hear from the wider church on the change.

Several Church members expressed their concern on this change and that no funds had been given to BSWCT, as Christ Church had supported this since it was formed 30 years ago.

DB thanked members for their comments and said it was clear that there was concern over this new policy and the PCC would discuss again in view of these concerns.

- 6. Appointment of Independent Reviewer** JK proposed, seconded by Tony Head and agreed that we again, appoint Neville Reid.
- 7. Annual Reports** – The reports were provided as part of the Annual Report and the meeting was given opportunity to ask questions or comment on each report:
  - a) Electoral Roll – there had been a complete revision of the Electoral Roll, which happens every six years. There are currently 90 names on the roll, 33 of whom do not live in the Parish.  
DB thanked Jan Broderick for all her hard work in preparing the new Electoral roll.
  - b) Safeguarding – during 2024 we experienced no safeguarding issues.  
DB thanked Brendon Horrocks, the Parish Safeguarding Officer for all his work in this important area. It was not a 'tick box' exercise but a vital and essential roll to keep any vulnerable members safe.
  - c) Fabric – the good order of the fabric was due to the expertise and time given by the Buildings Group and DB thanked them for all their hard work.
  - d) PCC Activities – SP reported that during 2024, the PCC had met on 6 occasions, monitoring finances and safeguarding, building issues and the vacancy and Licencing of Revd. Dawn Butcher in April 2024
  - e) Deanery Synod – Christ Church was represented by Olive Law and Louise Kearns.  
Andrew Wood asked if when other Parishes are unable to meet their own Parish Share, should Christ Church contribute more. It was stated that this had been discussed by the PCC but not agreed. OL suggested that if we wished to help in this way, we could nominate a specific church to support, rather than extra giving going to the Diocese as a whole. Julian Pennant stated that he had experienced this support in a previous Parish. To be taken back for further discussion at PCC at an appropriate time.
- 8. Election of PCC Members** - DB said that she would like to give thanks to all on the PCC from herself and on behalf of the Parish. Our PCC members gave up their time to serve on the leadership of the Parish and they do so diligently and prayerfully.  
The PCC members who are continuing are Amy Horrocks, Liz Edwin, Elaine Le Rasle, David Fisher and Tim Woods.  
Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, have been received for John Kettlewell, Mark Townsend, Brendon Horrocks and for the first time, Jacqueline Purser. This would give us a full PCC for this year. John, Mark, Brendon and Jacqueline were elected by a unanimous vote. DB asked members to pray for their PCC and to talk to them, they were their representatives, so we needed to hear from them.
- 9. Any Other Business** - None
- 10. Closing Remarks** – DB stated that what had been presented today was a look back on 2024. We should give thanks to God for all that happened last calendar year, the activities we were able to generate, the social sharing events, the Café, our Kidzone and Youth Groups, the outreach opportunities, the links with the uniformed organisations and schools, and our wider deanery of Brentwood. We gave thanks for our healthy financial position, the gift of this building to use as a resource and for all who volunteer and give their time and gifts to the life of this church. But we never remain stationary, and we don't stay looking backwards. Life with God presses forward. The questions for us now to reflect on are: where is God

leading us next? What are we to continue building and what are we to let go perhaps for a season? What is God laying on our hearts for the year ahead? Who is God calling us to be now?

She said that Bishop Guli had met with the Brentwood Chapter during the week and she had urged us to remember that we can't do everything – the hours in the day don't increase, our resources are often finite, our energy needs time to replenish. But she also said that we should be motivated by what you can do, not what you can't.

DB informed the meeting of a recent survey released by the Bible Society which is titled 'The Quiet Revival'. The same questions were asked in 2018 and then in 2024 and the survey suggests over those 6 years there is a revival happening in England. Church attendance is growing with the most dramatic increase among young people – in 2018 4% of 18–24-year-olds said they attended church at least monthly; in 2024 that was 16% with young men increasing from 4% to 21% and young women from 3% to 12%. The under 24's are rapidly being drawn to church. 67% of Church goers say they read the Bible at least weekly outside of church, there is an increase in local social engagement, and Church goers, particularly young women, are less likely to report frequently feeling anxious or depressed compared to those who do not attend church. In an age when poor mental health is on the rise, those who are regular Church goers are reporting healthy mental health.

These are the results which point to opportunity – of those who said they didn't go to Church, 31% said they would attend if invited by a friend (that number rises to 34% of the 18–24-year-olds). The survey is suggesting as well as attendance rising there is a rising openness to Church.

DB said she thought we need to ask ourselves these questions - Are we inviting people to Church, are we talking about our faith, are we praying for others? Young people are yearning for spirituality, are we introducing them to Jesus or are we hunkering down inside our building and waiting for them to come to us?

DB said she sees this as an opportunity for us to grasp. There is a spiritual desire particularly among younger adults, there is openness and vibrancy happening in this country. We know the Gospel is good news, we know what difference it brings to have Jesus in our lives. As we look forward, she asked all to be praying, to be asking God what should we be doing? How should we be sharing our faith? How should we be Church in this place, at this time?

The date of the first meeting of the new PCC would be Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025

DB again thanked members for their attendance and closed in Prayer.