

## **St Mary's Church Chalgrove**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The Annual Meeting took place in St Mary's Church with social distancing and facemasks due to Covid 19.

**Welcome and Opening Prayer** The meeting began at 2.30pm with prayers from Father Michael Lakey.

**Clerk for the Meeting** Heather Topping was appointed.

**Attendance and Apologies** Approximately 25 people were in attendance. There were apologies from Rev John Anderson, Jonathan and Faye O'Hara, David and Kathy Turner, Wendy and Kevin Poile, David and Candy Owens

#### **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

##### **Election of Church Wardens**

Patricia Hunt was nominated by Barry Spicer and seconded by Andrew Davis

Jane Reeve was nominated by Jeanette Barrington and seconded by Heather Topping

Those attending voted in favour of these appointments and confirmed their support for them in their roles. Barry Spicer was thanked warmly for his contribution as Church Warden over many years.

Andrew Davis had agreed to chair the following and Father Michael completed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Electoral Roll Report** Jane Reeve reported that there are 78 on the electoral roll which is exactly the same as last year. Some have been removed from the list but new people have replaced them. This number entitles 2 parishioners to represent the church on the Deanery Synod.

**Elections and Appointments** Edward Pooley offered to continue as a representative. There were no other offers to become the other representative.

A new appointment needs to be made for the Electoral Roll officer to replace Jane Reeve who has now become Church Warden. There were no volunteers and it was agreed to discuss further at the next PCC meeting.

**PCC Members** Melissa Spearman has stood down due to work commitments and was thanked for her support.

This vacancy was filled by Don Belcher who was nominated by Carole Heath-Whyte and seconded by Gill Lester.

**Appointment of LLM to the PCC** Bob Heath-Whyte was appointed and unanimously confirmed by those present.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting** These were approved to be signed by Father Michael Lakey. Charles Baker commented upon the useful publication of the PCC minutes as requested last year and it was confirmed that PCC members should be formally welcomed at a Church Service. It was suggested that July 18<sup>th</sup> may be a good opportunity.

**PCC Secretary's Report** This had been circulated and there were no comments.

**Church Warden's Fabric Report** This had been circulated and there were no comments.

**Treasurer's Report** the accounts had been published in advance. Bob Kuyper confirmed to Lynn Baker in answer to her query that the Friends accounts will be clearly identified in the accounts as soon as the Nat West account has been finalised. Bob added the following for information:

#### **Treasurer's 2021 report**

**First:** A big thank you to all that have contributed financially during our Covid-19 lockdowns. Standing orders; extra donations and envelopes through my letterbox have been just great.

**Second:** Since starting in January 2020 I have found that the nice funding from the Red Lion and 3 cottages (up to £5,000 per quarter from the Chalgrove St

Marys estate trust) was not a donation but calculated on what we spend on the building and services, Electricity, Insurance, Honorariums, building work and candles etc. NOT towards the £42,000 per year we send every year to the Oxford Diocese to pay for all the Diocese staff, ministers and pensions.

This £42,000 should come from our church donations, Gift aid and weddings and funeral fees which in 2020 amounted to £34,700. We also raise money for the church from fundraising (as a previous Methodist treasurer all our fundraising was for our local hospice, Christian Aid and world mission like the Anglican USPG) .So we need an extra £5,000 from fundraising or church donations.

**Third:** Can I/We ask for more funds into the church for the Diocese?

Standing orders are the best way of donating which I have done in my churches for the last 10 years. How much should we donate a month? Today a pint of beer costs £4.50 a glass of wine £5.50 and a gallon of petrol £6.00. (When I was 20, a pint of beer was 15p and a gallon of petrol 17p) so what should we contribute a week?

2 pints of beer or 2 gallons of petrol?

2 pints of beer is £9 so a calendar month would be **£39**

2 Gallons of petrol would be £12 so a calendar month would be **£52**

Many of our congregation, of course, already do donate a lot more.

**Future:** We have been lucky that after the Methodist church in Chalgrove closed the Methodists, and now myself, come here with our church donations. However, now John Anderson, a retired Methodist minister, leaves us in August, a new minister, the Rev Stephen Spain, will join us and Watlington paid in full by the local Methodist circuit. At some point, and they have already asked, the circuit will be asking Chalgrove to support them with donations towards the ministry which will come from our church donations.

**Deanery Synod Report** This is also in the Year book. No additional comments.

**Appointment of Auditor** Scodie Deyong, a firm from London have been appointed and are currently working on the accounts. The previous auditors were too busy at this time.

**Safeguarding Statement** a PCC meeting is being held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm in church to reflect on recent cases in the Diocese which have been serious in nature and require a specific learning review. Specific points will be reported in Pews News and others are welcome to attend the meeting if they wish to do so.

**Yearbook Reports** Andrew Davis expressed thanks to Bob Heath-Whyte and Margaret Molloy for their professionally produced document which is much appreciated by everyone.

**Any Other Business** Father Michael has been reviewing the Church yard rules and has produced a new draft leaflet with frequently asked questions in addition to the Diocese of Oxford's Church Yard Regulations 2016. Once agreed this should be more helpful to all those looking for information.

Lynn Baker asked that the PCC keep a review of the Covid signage in mind. It is a concern that the notice on the north door saying no entry is somewhat officious and as it has been there for 18 months and due to familiarity it is easy to actually forget to read it. It was agreed that a review needs to take place and we all hope that within weeks it may be possible to remove all signs in relation to Covid 19 as Government lifts many regulations.

Jeanette Barrington mentioned the possibility of a harvest picnic or shared lunch at the end of September as there will be no Autumn Banquet this year.

Rev John Anderson will be leading his last Sunday service at St Mary's next week and there is a card to sign at the back of the church.

Lynn Baker thanked Father Michael and the PCC for all their work in leading us during this very unusual and difficult year.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Father Michael at 3.15 pm.

