

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Held at St Swithin's Walcot on 13 September 2020 at 11.30am

Apologies were received from Geraldine Dunlop, Des and Maureen Brown, Sue Jones, David and Sarah Cooke, Mike Banner, Laura Gracey, Keith and Nicola Stuffins. 18 church members and 4 members of the staff team were present. Physical distancing was observed.

1. Minutes of the 2019 meeting

The minutes of the 2019 APCM were agreed as an accurate record (proposed Jo Gleghorn, seconded Wendy Elliott).

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Elections to the PCC

Tim reported that 3 members of the PCC were stepping down (Sarah Prentice, Kirsty Sutton and Daniel Barker). He thanked all of them for their service.

There were 2 candidates for election: Amanda Aston, proposed and seconded by Nicola and Keith Stuffins and Laura Gracey, proposed and seconded by Alastair Gibson and David Cooke. Both were elected unanimously. Tim noted that there is an outstanding vacancy and encouraged anyone who is interested to speak to him.

Tim noted that we are entitled to nominate up to 3 members of the Deanery Synod. No candidates have come forward. He would be happy to speak to anyone who might be interested.

4. Churchwardens' report

Paul Brewster noted that the Annual Report covered the period up to the start of lockdown. He highlighted the following activities:

- The Snow Hill ministry and the growing relationship with Genesis at the Gateway Centre
- The café ministry which had experienced highs and lows during 2019
- The hearing loop is not always working effectively: a review and upgrade will be undertaken once we're back in the church building
- Church House: the new roof is close to being completed and has been covered by the Trustees insurance policy.
- The two church legacies are large enough to make a significant change in our mission and ministry if deployed to good effect. The

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PCC will consider options for achieving permanent and systemic improvements in the way we deliver our mission.

Paul said that he was delighted to be working alongside Becs. He emphasised that the Churchwardens are there for the congregation and encouraged us to get in touch if we wanted to discuss any ideas or concerns.

5. Treasurer's report

In Nicola Stuffins' absence Becs presented the Treasurer's report on the 2019 accounts. She spoke to 3 slides giving an overview of trading activities, net income/expenditure and reserves:

- Net income/expenditure excluding trading activities achieved a small net surplus (£978) compared to a deficit of £23,224 in 2018
- Reserves are healthy largely because of the legacies. General reserves excluding legacies and restricted funds are sufficient to cover 6 months of general running costs.
- Café income did not cover costs resulting in a trading deficit, although letting income improved due to the return of Bath Festival events

Becs thanked Nicola for her careful stewardship of our finances and invited anyone who had queries to contact Nicola.

6. Rector's report

Tim reminded the meeting that the Annual Report illustrated much to celebrate. He expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the activities described, often unseen. He thanked the PCC and the staff team for their faithful service. He asked Paul Brewster to speak about the Life Groups and Fran Youings to report on the student ministry, both of which deserved to be celebrated.

Paul reported that 3 new Life Groups had been created and 75/80 per cent of church members were now involved in a group. He thought that the role of small groups would become more important post Covid 19 and was discussing with Life Group leaders how we might identify different ways of moving forward.

Fran described some of the ways in which she and James Collie were building relationships with students and young adults. There was an encouraging level of interest although some of the plans had to be put on hold during lockdown. She was looking forward to meeting up in person during the new academic year, covid rules permitting.

Tim said that the PCC will focus on working through the implications of the new vision (*a community that seeks to thrive for the display of God's*

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splendour) and how to make it a reality. He outlined 5 points which will be important as we move forward:

- Moving from fear to faith – Knowing our identity and call as Christians and stepping out
- Moving from Individual to building a Christian community with effective teams
- Journeying from a small to a medium-sized church
- Moving from 'my ministry' to Displaying God's Splendour
- Journeying from self-destruction to thriving

7. Questions

Brian May asked whether the prayer chain was now redundant. Tim said no, but we need to review how it is organised, bearing in mind that most of the Life Groups have their own arrangements for prayer support.

Henry Brown asked for an update on the use of the Gateway Centre. Yein reported that the situation was very challenging. Genesis has not been able to reopen the building post-lockdown and Yein confirmed he is having to be creative and innovative in how he supports the Snow Hill community. He has been in touch with the Genesis CEO and will continue to maintain contact.

The meeting closed at 12.35.