



Minutes of the Annual Church Family Meeting held on Zoom – Monday 24th May 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom as Covid-19 social distancing rules in place at the time meant that it was not possible to safely gather all members of the Electoral Roll together in the church building.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Langham. He began the meeting in prayer.

Mark Parsons explained how the meeting was going to work including that the meeting was being recorded. Tavi Price was unable to attend the entire meeting so will be using the recording to produce a full set of minutes. Mark also explained and tested the voting buttons with everyone.

Mark advised that there would be two opportunities during the meeting to raise questions, the first being finance related and they will be addressed by Dave Newton and Mark Parsons and then general questions that will be addressed by Paul Langham. Questions could be added into the Zoom chat during the meeting and Chris Brown would collate and share them at the appropriate time.

Apologies received: Paul Crocker, Charles Kinsey, Lisa Sankey, Paul Sankey, Brian Strode and Margaret Strode.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Appointment of a secretary to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 19th October 2020.

These were displayed on the church website www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising have been raised.

Proposal to accept the minutes: Proposer: Rosemary Barker, Seconder: Peter Smithson

Proposal Carried

3. Election of Churchwardens.

Nominations for the role of Churchwarden must be received in writing in advance of the meeting.

Nominee

Proposer

Seconder

Catherine Simmonds

Lisa Sankey

Jonny Hendry

Graham Stuart

Jonny Hendry

Paik Sun Green

There were no other nominations, so as chair, Paul Langham declared them as elected.



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Zoom – Monday 24th May 2021

The APCM followed on immediately after the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and was chaired by Paul Langham.

In accordance with the Christ Church's customs some of the routine business of the meeting is conducted prior to the meeting including the following:

- **Appointment of a secretary to the APCM.**
Tavi Price was elected to serve as Secretary to the meeting.
- **Electoral roll**
Since the last APCM, 22 names have been added to the Roll and 5 names removed. The revised roll therefore stands at 380.
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor**
Burton Sweet has been reappointed as our 2021 Independent Examiner/Auditor.

1. Minutes of the last meeting – 19th October 2020.

These were displayed on the church website www.ccweb.org.uk/agm and circulated via email in advance of the meeting. No amendments or matters arising have been raised.

Proposal to accept the minutes: Proposer: Martin and Joy Wright, Seconder: Mike Innes

Proposal Carried

2. Elections and Appointments.

Elections to the PCC – there was only one vacancy this year and only one nomination received.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Dave Newton	Catherine Simmonds	Rachel Ambler

As no election is required, Paul Langham declared Dave Newton elected to the PCC.

Elections to Deanery Synod - 3 year term 2020-2023

Paul Langham explained that Bristol Diocese decided unilaterally not to proceed with Deanery Synod elections in 2020, but this had not been communicated effectively to parishes. As a result, elections to the Deanery Synod were held at our APCM in October 2020 and Cluff Noon and Sara Wadsworth were elected by the meeting. The Diocese have now confirmed that the term 2020-2023 remains and last year's elections are still valid.

Christ Church has 3 remaining vacancies on Deanery Synod – this year we have received one nomination:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Anna Wright	Alex Creavin	Mike Innes

As no election is required, Paul Langham declared Anna Wright elected to the Deanery Synod. Paul invited Janet Lee to pray for our Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod members.

3. Finance Report.

David Newton, PCC Treasurer, gave an overview of the current Church finances.

General Fund Summary

At the end of 2020 following the super response from the congregation the deficit in the General Fund that was forecasted was closed generating a small surplus.

RENEW Fund

RENEW was the big story in terms of our finances in 2020

Costs were £1.6m (£1.5m being the actual building contract costs - the additional amount was agreed by the PCC for the audio equipment and carpets)

This was met as follows:

- £600k – sale of property (some years ago)
- The rest has been come from the church family through donations and pledges, some transfers from other PCC accounts, Gift Aid, one or two grants, a legacy from Edris Williams, contribution from Pre-school and fundraising.

The shortfall shown in the Annual Report is £137k however at the time of the meeting this had been reduced to £115k and is coming down all the time.

We are hopeful that one or two of our grant applications will be successful in meeting this shortfall. Fundraising is ongoing and we also continue to receive donations and pledges. However, there are arrangements if this gap remains by November to take out a loan with Methodist Chapel Aid @3%, although hopeful that this will not be necessary.

Full Audit

Due to additional revenue being received for RENEW it meant having a full audit (the first since 2014) which is a really detailed (forensic) review of the accounts.

The outcome from the Auditors is an unqualified approval to the Financial Statements but there is one exception resulting in a Qualified Audit Report in relation to giving to our Mission Partners. Dave Newton gave a brief explanation of why this happened, and the following is taken from the Audit report itself.

The PCC has departed from the SORP by treating multi-year grant commitments at the point the grant is paid, rather than as a liability at the point the grant is awarded to the donor. The existence of multi-year grant commitments was identified through the audit for the first time this year and would result in a prior-year adjustment. The decision to depart from the SORP has been made by the Trustees to communicate more effectively to the congregation about the PCC's giving to mission partners. It was not the intention of the board to create a multi-year commitment and going forward communication to mission partners will be altered to ensure no such commitment is made. Had grant commitments been treated correctly, in line with the SORP, the financial statements would be materially affected. The effect on the financial statements is that the closing general funds position for 2018 and 2019 would be reduced to (£26,798) and (£77,004) respectively. For the current year, the surplus for the year would increase by £26,250 and the general funds position at 31 December 2020 would be £5,488. The liability for multi-year grant commitments at 31 December 2020 would be £103,000 (2019: £129,250). Our opinion on the financial statements is qualified on this basis.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 which would normally be presented at the APCM can be found on the church website.

Appreciation and huge thanks were given to Dave Newton, Mark Parsons and the rest of the Finance Team for all they do to look after the church finances.

4. Questions (led by Chris Brown)

Questions for the Finance Team:

Q: Colin Havill raised a question regarding reduction in global mission donations budget. Will this be restored in 2021 and has thought been given to having a special collection in thanksgiving to the completion of the crypt.

A: Dave Newton replied: Some activities didn't happen due to the pandemic and some of the expenditure reduced as a result of this but it should be back to normal in 2021. A great idea about the collection and is part of the collection of ideas and will be looked at. Mark Parsons added: When we talk about mission giving it is much wider than what we give overseas or to mission organisations in Bristol. The category of "mission" in the budget includes youth and children's work, Erica Bebb's work with Kingdom Creatives, and much more. As a church we are a missionary organisation - it is what we do and the bulk of our income is spent on mission in one way or another. The PCC has also agreed that the annual budget for mission is set at 20% of our provision giving income so that our mission giving budget always reflects what we are giving as a church family. As Dave Newton alluded to above although our budget was set at 20% one of our beneficiaries which assists in training ordinands in Uganda did not happen this year due to Covid.

Questions for Paul Langham:

Q: Val Moore – what is happening with local mission as we move back into church and life resumes?

A: The PCC set up a subgroup to review local mission in 2019 – the group was able to do about three-quarters of the work that was needed but since lockdown that work has grounded to a halt. Therefore, the decision was to continue supporting our local mission partners in the way that had been doing for another year until it can be picked up again. Thanks to Val who has championed local mission for many years.

Q: Gay Senior Smith (on behalf of her small community) – What is our response to the environmental crisis and what is planned to help care for and sustain God's creation and who is leading that?

A: There is no-one as yet leading this and would welcome someone to champion it within Christ Church. We had not been able to do as much as we hoped within the RENEW project – Simon Hygate elaborated on this: some things have been done including the change to more efficient LED light fittings throughout the building, a new boiler and heating system which again is more efficient. Unfortunately, it is still gas fired but other options were cost prohibitive or not practical in our building. There is long term aim to have photovoltaic tiles fitted to one of the roofs of the church building. A Church of England scheme is due to be rolled out soon that we are hoping to piggyback onto that. Paul thanks to those who mow the grass bank outside the church building – an unseen ministry.

PL also added that Catherine Simmonds one of our churchwardens has been investigating our intention of going for an eco-church award, so anyone interested please ask Catherine if you want to get involved. Finally, be aware that at General Synod last year the Diocese of Bristol led a Diocesan Synod motion through General Synod for the Church of England to set itself the ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030 – this has been stalled due to Covid but there will be Diocesan wide engagement and as Vicar of Christ Church, Paul has already registered with the chair of the DAC, which is the body that oversees all planning to do with church buildings / vicarages etc, that we would like to be an early adopter if we can be used in that way.

There are also other issues we are engaging with such as racial justice and issues raised with the Church of England report on Living in Love and Faith.

Q: Nelly and Chris Davies – How do the Church of England guidelines around memorials and contested history apply to Christ Church?

A: So far, we have done a relatively informal internal audit of Christ Church's monuments and memorials and we have identified one memorial of an army officer who died in the Indian mutiny and there is a descriptive word that is unfortunate and one we would no longer wish to be associated with. We have recently been identified as one of 350 larger churches that either have a specific historic, architectural or civic significance, so as part of this have received guidance to help us navigate this.

Paul had a conversation with the Bishop of Bristol's racial advisor about this so what will hopefully follow will be a more formal audit of anything in Christ Church that might warrant further investigation. Paul added a final note that he is wary of gesture politics and the real work is not in the removing of stone and bronze but in making sure churches are places where people of colour feel welcome.

5. Vicar's Report

Paul began with saying - it has often been said if any money is being spent on something that is not mission it should be identified. Using the quote, "it's not that the Church of God has a mission but that the God of Mission has a church." Mission is not an optional extra to our identity and purpose.

What a year!

PL gave his thanks for the many areas of ministry:

- Grateful for the whole church family, especially for all the comments being posted on Facebook during the online gathering.
- Grateful for the Churchwardens continuing to serve for another year.
- Thank you to the PCC – largely unchanged this year.
- A renewed vision to be brought to the church family in the Autumn.
- RENEW has been the signature dish this year on the Christ Church menu, work is now complete!
- We now have a new hearing loop which has been paid for by an anonymous member of the church family.
- A huge thank you to the RENEW team – Mikes Innes (Chair) has been part of the team for about 15 years and the constant within the team, Hannah Gibney – bringing her fundraising expertise, Simon Hygate – with a wealth of building expertise and project management, Dave Newton (Treasurer), Mark Parson, Graham Stuart and Jonny Hendry (behind the auction of promises and Buy a brick!)
- Another group of people not on the RENEW team but who need our very grateful thanks are Helen Draper and Mark Orriss who have really driven through a newsletter going out to our local community, to remind them of events and the church being open. And Oni Milne who has held a weekly prayer meeting for a year focused specifically on RENEW. The team have been acutely aware that many breakthroughs in finance, for example, can be attributed to the power of these prayers.
- Thank you to the Pre-school team who coped admirably through the RENEW works. They will be moving back into the crypt next week and out of the portacabins, please pray for a smooth transition as it is a mammoth undertaking.
- Thank you to my Core Team colleagues Janet Lee, Mark Parsons, Chris Whitwell and Chris Brown - we have met more this year than ever before!
- Thank you to Erica Bebb who heads up the fresh expression ministry through Kingdom Creatives – do make time to talk to her. There tends to be a focus on words which does not fit

with many people so this is such an important area of ministry in bringing the gospel to those who may have felt alienated by the church.

- We were hoping for an update from Neil Shepherd, but they are not sure what their plans are currently – they have been informed that their time at St Augustine's will come to an end this summer. Please pray for Neil, Natalie and the boys.
- Thank you to Mark Parsons, Nic Carter, Olivia Baker and Kamran Zahid for everything they do.
- Please continue to pray for Mike McAllister and Lesley as Mike continues to battle with his health.
- Thank you to Rhean Fox and Janet Lee who have done amazing work with the senior members of the church family.
- Thank you to Ruthy Lillington and the Kid's Church team and to Elliot Mocharrafie and Tabi Wallington who have headed up our youth ministry.
- Thank you to Julia Loveless for heading up the worship team. Please continue to pray for Sophie Brown, suffering with long Covid. This is a great opportunity to thank Tom Buckler for his contributions to the worship team and who is coming to the end of his internship with Christ Church.
- Thank you to the team behind the live streams – a particular mention to Oliver Brown who has been so generous bringing his expertise in this area.
- Thank you to our Parish Safeguarding Officers: Sara Wadsworth, Richard Bebb, Valerie Groves and Kirsten Fowler
- Thank you to all our Small Community leaders.
- Thank you to Emelye Chanot and her team for "Christmas in a box" and "Easter the movie".
- Alpha was on-line this year – thank you to Paul Sankey and Helen & Rob Draper who enabled this to happen alongside other members of the church family and our ordinands.
- Thank you to all our ordinands – it's been a tough year to have been in education and training but you have got involved where needed.

Paul led a moment of quiet for those members of the church family who have died this past year:

- Geoff Lambert
- Joyce Preddy
- Ann Moore
- Barbara Pond

Thank you for your lives of faith.

Paul spoke briefly on the future plans to have a weekend of celebrations of welcoming the community back into the church and to the new crypt

[since the meeting these plans have had to be changed due to Covid restrictions].

Paul shared a quote from Oswald Chambers, *'Beware of harking back to what you were once when God is calling you to being something you have never been.'*

Preparing for a new start will be the next sermon series, taking us through to the summer, looking at the biblical example of Ezra and Nehemiah. A return, a rebuild, something familiar and yet something brand new. As a Core Team they have been looking at Joshua 3, a transition moment. Ahead is unknown. This is a Kairos moment for us – a moment of decision, a moment to be bold. The future is unknown but what is certain is that God is going with us. Let us beware of just returning to the familiar.

Oni Milne expressed thanks to Paul on the church family's behalf – for leading us through Covid and steering us and the Staff Team.

6. Chris Brown closed the meeting in prayer at 9pm.