

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at 7:45pm on Monday 26th April 2021 via Video Conference (Zoom).

About 120 attended the meeting

Apologies: Lizzie Ling

Vaughan Roberts spoke from 2 Corinthians 1: 8-9, and opened the meeting in prayer

1. Church reports

1. Grace Church, Cowley (Ben Vane)

Thankfulness - the core church had remained together through COVID.

Hopefulness - there were interviews for a new post, lay leaders had been appointed, a house had been bought, new groups were becoming established and there was good liaison with CAP.

Prayerfulness – that the church family would throw itself into being family and reaching out to the local community.

2. Headington (Al Horn)

Discernment process – this was in light of the church being 20 years old, Leon's appointment at All Saints' Highfield and Al's pending ordination.

Senior staff changes - Paul Bolton had joined the team as the Associate Minister for Children and Families in November. Leon Catallo had been appointed as Interim Minister at All Saints' Highfield.

3. Central (Vaughan Roberts)

Thanks were expressed to the staff team who had worked hard and for the unity in the church through the pandemic. He encouraged ongoing dependence on God in the light of issues that had been revealed in the wider conservative evangelical culture. It was important to pray for victims of abuse and to repent. VER said that, as a leader in the wider conservative evangelical church and culture, he had felt it right to withdraw from positions of responsibility outside St Ebbe's. These included the Local Gospel Partnership, UCCF, Church Society and, from the end of the year, the Proclamation Trust. He had also withdrawn from outside speaking engagements until at least the end of the year to give time to lament, reflect and repent. The PCC has commissioned the Wardens to conduct a review which would consider the recommendations of the 31:8 review. The Scripture Union report on John Smyth has been added to their scope.

2. Official Business

a. Election of churchwardens

Al Cory and Stephen Smith were thanked for all that they had done. Al was continuing in post, but Stephen was standing down from the role. Helen Lamb had been nominated to replace him. As there were no other nominations, Vaughan declared Al and Helen elected; he explained that Helen was based at Headington and it was an appropriate time with the review and governance to have wardens at different bases. Al and Helen introduced themselves, and Al chaired the rest of the meeting. He said he welcomed any questions via 'chat' or through the churchwardens' email.

b. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, dated 26th November 2020

Point 2f should refer to David, not Simon, Parker. With this amendment, the minutes were approved as an accurate record of last year's APCM.

c. Formal reports

i. The Electoral Roll recorded 433 names, a decrease of 56 from last year. The reason for the reduction is that Grace Church has 49 members on the Mission Initiative Role. The church has 7 Deanery Synod places.

ii. Al encouraged everyone to read the annual reports which were available on the website. These included the PCC report, the fabric report and the report from the Deanery Synod.

iii. Safeguarding report. Thanks were expressed to all those involved. The Parish Safeguarding Officers are Alison Willis (Central), Ali Rolfe (Headington) who is currently being replaced by Weena West and Greer Jones (Grace, Cowley) being replaced by Kendra May.

d. Presentation of Financial Statements

Trevor Rayment encouraged people to read the audited reports, and drew attention to the following:-

- Grace Church will be reported separately next year.
- Voluntary income rose by 10% in 2020.
- 25% of all regular giving is used to support mission work in the UK and around the work; high giving in 2019 accounted for a high allocation for mission in 2020.
- There had been very little spent on catering and events but more spent on IT during the pandemic.
- Grace Church covered all its core costs in the first year.
- There was a surplus of £144124.

Gratitude was expressed to Bev Adam, Rachel Browning, Helen Gerry, Tim Wilson, Sarah Bond and Tim Dossor. Giving had gone up during the pandemic and there was much to praise a merciful God.

e. Elections to the PCC

Thanks were expressed to those who had served on the PCC. Suzanne Wilson Higgins and Matt Davidson had been nominated to continue as members of the PCC, and Richard Brunt had been nominated as a new member. As the number of candidates was not greater than the number of places to be filled, the candidates nominated were declared elected.

f. Elections to the Deanery Synod

Sally Cooper had been nominated to serve on the Deanery Synod. As the number of candidates nominated was not greater than the number of places to be filled, she was declared elected.

g. Appointment of Auditor

Trevor Rayment proposed that Wenn Townsend once again be appointed as auditors; Penny Wearn seconded this and all who voted were in favour.

h. Internal review

The PCC, at its meeting on 22nd March, had commissioned the wardens and Keith Proctor to review and then develop governance, safeguarding, culture and behaviours of St Ebbe's with Jesus at the centre. Since then the core team had set up a diverse internal review panel across all three bases and connected to the diocese via the Archdeacon, the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey. It had looked at recommendations and themes of the 31:8 review and the Scripture Union report, and had considered its Terms of Reference and the scope of the review. The core team now welcomed Helen Lamb, and other members would be announced soon from Headington and Cowley. There were three strands of the review:-

Urgent and important – safeguarding at St Ebbe's and governance.

Recommendations and themes from 31:8 and their application to St Ebbe's.

Longer term review of the culture at St Ebbe's.

Al thanked those which had been praying and who had contacted the wardens, and he encouraged others to contact them via the confidential email: churchwardens@stebbes.org

The meeting ended with a song, and prayer at 8:45pm