**IT WAS AGREED AT THE PCC MEETING OF 13TH MAY 2021, TO PUBLISH THESE MINUTES ON ST BARNABAS CHURCH WEBSITE, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY REMAIN AS DRAFT MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Parish Church of St Barnabas, Swanmore

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners**

 **and**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

held on 28th April 2021 via zoom

**MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

The meeting was held via zoom and Rev Claire explained to parishioners how it worked. She welcomed 24 parishioners to the meeting and opened in prayer.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Tony and Marlene King.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners on 28th October 2020

Copies had been available prior to the meeting in the Link and on the church website and had been distributed widely via email. The chair invited comments but none were made. A proposal to accept the minutes as a true record was made by Allison Gurry, seconded by Bill Jones and passed without dissent.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

Andrew Wilkinson and Bill Jones had completed their terms as Churchwardens and Rev Claire thanked them for their hard work.

Two nominations had been received for election as churchwarden.

* Dave Lee – proposed by Jen Frampton and seconded by Claire Lloyd
* Janet Chant- proposed by Jen Frampton and seconded by Claire Lloyd

There were no other nominations so Dave and Janet were duly elected.

There being no other business, the annual meeting of parishioners closed at 19:13.

*Notes taken by Andrew Wilkinson.*

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**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

 **Minutes**

Rev Claire as Chairman explained that there were five applicants for the five vacancies on the PCC. If however, anyone wished to stand at the last minute, this was acceptable but would require an online vote which needed to be set up before we proceeded further. Rev Claire invited anyone who might wish to, to speak. There were no applications.

1. **The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th October 2020**

Derrinda Laing proposed that we accept them, seconded by Jenny Sharpe. All agreed.

**2. Electoral Roll report**

Jenny Sharpe reported:

At the last Annual meeting in October, the electoral roll numbered 144. Since then 3 people have registered and one has moved away so that as of 14th April 2021 the register stands at 146.

At the end of the meeting, Rev Claire would share on her screen the names of the people on the Electoral roll but not their addresses or other information.

There were no questions.

Revd Claire expressed her thanks to Jenny for all her work in maintaining the Electoral Roll.

**3. Annual Report of the PCC**

Revd Claire directed those present to her annual report, which had been widely available prior to the meeting. Questions and comments were invited; there were none.

**4. Finances**

Andrew Wilkinson directed all present to his finance report in the booklet. In summary he commented that 2020 had been a year like no other. With the church, Barnaby’s and the Paterson Centre closed for most of the year and no fundraising events, our income dropped compared with normal years by approximately £30,000.

We were fortunate to have received extraordinary donations of £11,000, of which £10,000 was for General Funds and £1,000 towards the roof repairs. We also received a grant of £8,000 from Hampshire County Council towards the cost of the new disabled toilet in the Link, which will be spent in this financial year.

Income- £100,000 Outgoings - £101,000

On paper we have a deficit of £1431.

Total funds: under £47,000 with £18,000 in restricted funds and £29,000 in unrestricted funds.

Despite the lack of giving via the offering plate in church, we still sent £4,000 to our Mission Charities which will be increased by Gift Aid. Repairs to the roof were completed, and planning for the disabled toilet in the Link continued- this work was completed in 2021.

Andrew expressed his gratitude to Richard Green-Wilkinson for his advice and for his work as Independent Examiner of the accounts. Also to Derrinda Laing and Janet Chant for managing the cash collections, and to John Austin for his tireless work for the Advertising sections of the Parish Magazine. Andrew also expressed thanks to John Sharpe for managing the Memorial Book and the Memorial Path in the churchyard.

Andrew completed his summary of the accounts by saying that it is likely that 2021 will be another year of deficit; it will be challenging but we hope to remain’ in the black’ at the end of this year.

**Questions**: NW asked if the Parish Share went down in 2020 and was it likely to reduce in 2021?

Andrew replied that the Parish Share had reduced in 2020 and was further reduced for 2021 to about £52,000, because of lower average weekly attendance (AWA). A Diocesan working group was looking at mechanisms for setting both the Parish Share in 2022 and for 2023 onwards. The current method is based on AWA but figures were clearly not available for2020. To maintain its cash flow to pay stipends, the Diocese had taken a large loan which would need to be repaid. Although restructuring plans might reduce longer -term clergy costs, we should be prepared for our Parish Share to rise from 2022.

There were no other questions. Rev Claire thanked Andrew for all he does to manage our church finances.

**5. Fabric & Goods Report**

Andrew Wilkinson drew attention to the report on page 12 of the Annual Reports booklets. The buildings were in a good state of repair; spring cleaning and some internal decoration is required. The use of the Link as the main entrance to the church has worked well.

The Magazine printing is no longer done ‘in-house’ so the print room is now empty and a potential space for use. The disabled toilet in the Link has been completed.

The flat roof of the Link has been re surfaced following another theft of lead and fibreglass was used in the replacement which lasts longer and is less prone to theft.

Coloured lights were installed in the church and the chancel, thanks to a gift from the late Roddy Innes.

The churchyard has been kept in good shape by a small but dedicated band of volunteers led and coordinated by Bill Jones. Thanks were expressed to all of them.

The Memorial Path has new tablets in place and the path is being extended.

The Churchwardens were grateful to all volunteers who helped with the upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard.

Revd Claire thanked Bill and Andrew for all they have done as Churchwardens.

**6. Bishops Waltham Deanery Synod Report**

Jen Frampton referred to her short report in the Annual Reports booklet; it had been an inactive year due to Covid.

There were no questions.

**7. Election of representatives to serve on the PCC**

Rev Claire thanked each person who had served on the PCC. In spite of the pandemic, PCC had met 10 times, mostly on zoom, it had been an interesting and challenging time.

Rev Claire expressed her thanks to those members of PCC who were stepping down:

* Teresa Reynolds who had been our Parish Safeguarding Officer and a member of PCC
* Bobbie Branson
* Ben Armstrong

Rev Claire welcomed our new Parish Safeguarding officer, Caroline Vost, who was invited to introduce herself. Caroline explained that she and her husband had recently moved into the village, that she had worked in Safeguarding via the Police for 30 years, and was involved in the Safeguarding of adults, children, and training. She is on the high risk management panel for Salisbury Diocese and is looking forward to joining our PCC.

Rev Claire explained that the vacancies on the PCC were:

3x 3 year terms (held by Teresa, Liz & Ben)

2 x 1 year terms (held by Bobbie, and Dave who has become Churchwarden)

The members duly elected to PCC are:

* Caroline – proposed by Jen Frampton, seconded by Derrinda Laing
* Liz Newbold – proposed by Amanda Ankers, seconded by Ben Armstrong
* Derrinda Laing – proposed by John Sharpe, seconded by Jenny Sharpe
* John Sharpe – proposed by Derrinda Laing, seconded by Penny Clive
* Dot Holubinka – proposed by Sally Beazley, seconded by Sarah Walton

Revd Claire thanked all for standing and being willing to serve.

**8. To appoint Sidespersons**

Under the new rules, this is no longer a requirement for the Annual Meeting; at its first meeting, the new PCC will appoint Sidespersons and Terms of Reference.

**9. To appoint an external examiner**

Andrew Wilkinson explained that Richard Green -Wilkinson was willing to continue to audit the accounts for the coming year; it was recommended that we accept this offer, proposed by Andrew and seconded by John Sharpe and all were in favour.

**10. To take note of other reports**

The attention of all was directed to the Annual Reports; there were no comments or questions.

**11. To hear the Chairs closing remarks.**

Rev Claire’s closing remarks are copied in full below:

Here we are then at the end of the last lot of Annual Meetings that I will chair for you.

2020 has been a year unlike any other we’ve known in church and parish life, indeed in every aspect of life. None of us could truly have foreseen what was going to happen, based on those early reports of this strange new illness in Wuhan, China. Every area of life has since been affected and we’ve all had to adapt majorly – to live-streaming, to using Zoom, to no services in church and then services in church but with restrictions on numbers and ways of doing things. Not being able to be together for Easter in 2020 and not singing together has been especially hard. But we’ve had good moments – like the drive-ins, finding ways to communicate and reach out. The church may have been unable to gather in usual ways, but we’ve discovered there’s more to church than just the building, more to being church than a gathered congregation, as important as that is.

Roles have been different in 2020 as much of what was done had to stop. The Paterson Centre was hardly used – except by the School and Lunch Club cooks – so Anne Pearson and John White stepped down from their roles. Huge thanks to them both for years of tireless service. Also, Anne stepped down as Editor of the magazine and Penny Clive became the new editor. Thanks to both of them for such hard work. Thanks to the printers, Sue De Vere and team of deliverers…and to the Ankers for helping us find new printers and for the website. Huge thanks to Nick, Hazel, Jill, Sally and Mary for their contributions to the worship, pastoral and spiritual life of the church…and to Peter Fellows, Claire Lloyd, Tony King, Sarah Woodman and the Lees for their musical input. Peter has been wonderful in recording so much material for us throughout lockdown… COMMUNITY AWARD. Thanks to PCC members, cleaners, openers and lockers, to Gail for printing, to Barnaby’s, to Ben and Sunday Club team for keeping things going. To all of you, for all you have contributed. In saying that, we remember too, those we’ve lost from the church family in 2020 and whose funerals were held here – we remember Derek Lord, John Harrison, Matthew Todd and of course dear Jan White.

It’s been a hard year. The future looks brighter insofar as Covid is concerned, and we thank God for that, as well as all those who have worked so hard and so sacrificially to make that possible. You face an imminent vacancy with my move to Wells in less than 2 weeks’ time. There are uncertain times ahead for you, as Deanery re-structuring conversations continue, with no clear outcomes on the horizon yet. This uncertainty is added to by losing the Bishop and Archdeacon. But you’ll be alright! Trust in God…and lean on one another. You’ll be in good hands with Jill, Nick and Hazel leading in all matters worship and pastoral, and Nick will chair PCC for the vacancy…and in Janet and Dave, and a full PCC, you’ll have good churchwardens and leadership. Remember though that none of them are a stand-in Vicar. Love them, support them, pray for them, don’t let them be overwhelmed. Strive to live in love and unity of purpose – being God’s people in this community. Don’t stand still – have vision. Thank you for everything. I’ve loved being your parish priest these past 9 years. Sally and I have loved life in Swanmore. We shall miss it dreadfully. Remember us – and the people of Wells in prayer…we shall pray for you.

Andrew expressed a huge thank you to Claire for all the things that she and Sally have done for us. St Barnabas had 12 Vicars before Claire came to us – how lucky we were that she was here in 2020!

More will be said at Claire’s last service on 9th May.

The meeting finished with The Grace at 19.50.

*Notes taken by Jill Phipps, PCC Secretary*

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