

## **PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND**

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

#### **Meeting of Parishioners**

**Paul Peterson** welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the proceedings in prayer. The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved and signed.

**MAGGIE NICHOLS PROPOSED**

**NORMAN LOW SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Matters Arising –**

**PP** thanked Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nicholls for all their hard work as Church Wardens and was pleased to announce that both of them would be standing again in this role for a further year.

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved and signed.

**NORMAN LOWE PROPOSED**

**ALAN HARDING SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Dan Watts** acknowledged that although he had only been Vicar at CC for three months, he was able to reflect upon the Annual Report by giving a massive thanks to Paul Peterson, Bryan Ashton, Maggie Nichols, Anita Dobson, Diane Paddon, Gary Smart, Elissa and Beth in the office for keeping the church going through the vacancy period. In particular Dan wished to thank Paul for carrying such a responsibility. As we look back over the past year we must give thanks to God for his continued love and support for us all. Looking at Ephesians 3 the message of which reminds us that God watches over us at all times. CC is continuing to flourish and grow after Lockdown. God is good, he is faithful and we give thanks to him for his unfailing love.

**PP** encouraged members of the congregation to share their highlights of the past year with each other.

Jane Harding expressed a feeling of "being rooted" at CC.

Philip Rowe thanked God for the youth group flourishing at CC.

Francis Kirby reported that people in our local community have been very interested to ask questions about Dan our new Vicar.

Maggie Nichols gave thanks for the hugely successful Warm Space.

Laura Green gave thanks for all the volunteers at CC and for Christians working on their 'front lines'.

Mike Pearce gave thanks for Dan Watts becoming our new Vicar.

Ian Freestone gave thanks for the work of CAP especially for the two new Debt Coaches who will serve as the hands and feet of God.

PP advised that a Parish Weekend at Lee Abbey has been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The cost per person will be approximately £160/£170. There would be a reduction for children as well as support for those struggling with finances. Bookings will open this September.

There is a Team Day arranged for the Staff Team on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which will be led by Dan. Please pray for us.

### **Financial Report**

JP wished to thank the Giving for Life and admin teams for all their hard work.

Special thanks to Dave Tooby who has worked tirelessly in the role of Planned Giving Secretary and was now stepping down. Adrian Harding has now taken on this important role.

JP continued his thanks to Chris Green who oversees the finances at QR and Diane Paddon for all her hard work with the Youth finances.

### **Income and Expenditure 2022**

Income - £335,483

Expenditure - £317,538

JP reminded the congregation of the Parish Giving Scheme, Gift Aid and legacies. Anyone interested in finding out more should see Adrian Harding.

JP explained that the expenditure included staffing costs, Mission Partners, Parish Share and Church Halls. The Parish Share is paid direct to the diocese and supports poorer parishes as well as covering clergy and diocesan costs. Overall reserves have grown by £18,000 which will help fund repairs to the church tower.

JP reminded that if we shop at Co-Op we can sign up to the grant funding scheme naming CC youth, CAP or Warm Space to benefit from.

JP advised that the Building 4 Life loans taken out in 2017 for £400,000 were on course to be repaid by 2027. The balance of these loans now stands at £168,000. A pledge from one of our former members of £180,000 may be received this year which could potentially pay off all of our debts earlier than planned.

JP reported that hall lettings have returned to pre Pandemic levels and expressed thanks to the church family for their incredibly generous giving .

For 2023 the PCC has budgeted for a deficit of £1.6k. The North and South tower will incur building costs of between £50,000 and £60,000. We are applying for grants to help cover this cost.

Ian Freestone asked the question "when the South tower, which houses the bell is repaired, could the re-alignment of the bell be a priority?"

Maggie Nichols replied that it is in the plan to do this.

Chris Dobson encouraged a round of applause at this point to thank God, and Jamie for his faithful service.

A thankyou gift will be passed onto Dave Tooby later in the day.

### **PP PROPOSED THE ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS**

#### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

DW celebrated the fact that our finances are thankfully in a better place than where we thought we would be. We are not quite there yet, but we must acknowledge God's goodness and faithfulness in providing for us at CC. He reminded everyone that the tax efficient way to give is through the Parish Giving Scheme. We all have a part to play.

### **Election of lay members to the PCC for the coming year**

PP expressed his thanks to all the PCC members who have served on the PCC for the past year. The following were standing for election: Julian Cox, Andy Pound, Richard Bacon and Sally Green.

These people had all been correctly nominated and seconded.

#### **MARY MASSEY PROPOSED**

#### **KUNNAGH SCOTT SECONDED**

#### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Caroline Plummer will be continuing her role as PCC Clerk.

### **Confirmation of Deanery Synod Member for the coming year**

Roger Cholmondeley

#### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Appointment of Deputy Wardens for the Church Centre for the coming year**

Sally Green and Mary Massey

PP thanked Sally and Mary for doing a great job and standing again.

#### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer**

Elissa Wiltshire will be continuing in her role

#### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Electoral Roll**

MN reported the following:-

2023 total number on roll 267 - 27 additions and 7 removed

### **Appointment of Health and Safety Officer**

PP advised that this role was currently held by the Church Wardens. If anyone else was interested to take on this role please see PP.

**Appointment of independent examiner/auditor to the Council for the coming year**


Burton Sweet

**JP PROPOSED**

**ADRIAN HARDING SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

PP closed the meeting in prayer saying the Grace and invited everyone to stay and join in with the Bring and Share lunch.

Signed  .....

Dated *12<sup>th</sup> May 2024* .....