

**PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS SUNDAY 12th MAY 2024**

**Meeting of Parishioners**

**Paul Peterson** welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the proceedings in prayer. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 21st May 2023 were approved and signed.

**MAGGIE NICHOLS PROPOSED**

**JOAN WYNNE JONES SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Election of Church Wardens**

**PP** thanked Bryan Ashton and Maggie Nichols for their hard work as Church Wardens and was happy to announce that they would both be standing for re-election for a further year. They had both been correctly proposed and seconded.

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 21st May 2023 were approved and signed.

**NORMAN LOWE PROPOSED**

**COLIN COOPER SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Report on the life of Christ Church - Dan Watts**

**DW** reflected upon the past year and thanked everyone for their love and support to him as the Vicar of Christ Church - especially to Julia for her continued patience. Thanks go also to Paul for his amazing gracious continued support and encouragement along with Maggie and Bryan. Thanks also go to the wider leadership team for all their hard work. It is a pleasure to be at CC as our Vicar.

**DW** advised that as part of our ‘**WIDER, DEEPER, YOUNGER’** vision,a Schools Chaplaincy Leader was being advertised to work with families in the Bromley Heath area of the Parish. A monthly Bubble Churchservice is being planned to take place at the Church Centre monthly on a Sunday afternoon.

**PP** advised that Jamie Paddon would be standing down in his role as Treasurer during this year. **PP** and **DW** thanked him for his faithful service and **DW** presented him with a small gift as a token of our gratitude to him.

**Financial Report – Jamie Paddon**

The accounts had been made available for inspection in advance of the meeting.

Income - £583,894

Expenditure - £431,423

**JP** thanked the congregation for giving so generously to God’s work at Christ Church, and to the Giving 4 Life Team, and others who assist with the finances. **JP** continued to report that thanks to the amazing generosity of Martin Brown, and the integrity of his sons to honour their late father’s pledge to the re-ordering project, we were able to clear all our debts in 2023. Additionally we had received another donation courtesy of Bob Southgate’s relatives, sizeable grant income, and a donation of funds from Quakers Road, which enabled the work on the South Tower to be fully paid for, and for us to make an additional £15k Parish Share contribution. By tithing the general giving income we received, we were also able to provide nearly £17k to our mission partners.

During the year, our unrestricted reserves grew from £80k to £104k which was very welcome, particularly as a £20k deficit budget was set for 2024 due to falling planned giving donations and rising costs. **JP** reminded the congregation that CC youth work has incurred no costs to the church for the last 8 years.

**PP** asked for approval of the Annual Report 2024

**SALLY ASHTON PROPOSED**

**ROSIE BRYDON SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**PP** asked the meeting to adopt the accounts

**STEPHEN TAYLOR PROPOSED**

**ANDY POUND SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**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. **PP** reported that the PCC had met bi monthly and had held one additional meeting to discuss aspects of ‘Living in love and faith’.

The following were standing for election Richard Bacon, Katie Allen, Nigel Stowe, Debbie Pastwa, Lynda Lloyd, Roger Cholmondeley, Sally Green, Julian Cox and Andy Pound and had al been proposed and seconded by members of the congregation.

**BRYAN ASHTON PROPOSED**

**ANNE TRAVERS SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

Caroline Plummer will be continuing in her role as PCC Clerk.

**Elections to Deanery Synod**

**PP** advised that Roger Cholmondeley would be stepping down as Deanery Synod Representative and Alison Rowe would be standing as Lay Chair for Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Deanery Synod.

**ROGER CHOLMONDELEY PROPOSED**

**MAGGIE NICHOLS SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

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

**PP** advised that Mary Massey would be stepping down from her role as Deputy Warden due to ill health after many years of gracious service. Flowers and a card would be delivered to Mary later today as thanks for all her hard work over many years. Sally Green has agreed to continue in this role, and a colleague would need to be identified in the weeks ahead.

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Electoral Roll**

**MN** reported the following:-

2024 total number on roll 238, 32 have moved away, 4 have died and 7 new people have joined. **Elissa Wiltshire** will continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

**Appointment of Health and Safety Officer**

**PP** reported that his role was currently held by the Church Wardens.

**Safeguarding Officer – Laura Green**

**PP** thanked Laura for all her hard work in this role and reported that

96 members had active DBS clearance and 39 renewals or fresh DBS checks had been processed during this year.

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

**JP PROPOSED** thatBurton Sweet continue in this role

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Any Other Business**

**Chris Dobson** suggested that if everyone gave up one coffee per week and donated money saved into the church funds, this would cover our projected deficit.

**Jane Harding** asked what Christ Church’s next steps would be regarding ‘Living in love and faith’?

**DW** summarised the discussions at the recent PCC meeting where the PCC unanimously agreed to support Christ Church clergy in responding to ‘Prayers of love and faith’ according to their own conscience. At this stage it is still not clear what the outcome of discussions at General Synod might be. He appreciated that this topic was a very sensitive one and that if anyone wished to talk about it with him to contact him after the meeting.

**Alan Harding** enquired about the return of weekly evening Sunday services and remarked on the opportunities these provided for more focused teaching and on previous youth involvement.

**DW** responded by saying that this was open for consideration by the leadership team, but at this stage the bubble church initiative was a priority.

**MN and BA** expressed their thanks to all the volunteers for their support over the year.

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

**Signed ……………………………………………………….. Date…………………………………………………………..**