

St Matthew's Church Harwell

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on Thursday 6 May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom video conference

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Meetings were conducted electronically via Zoom video conferencing.

The meetings were attended by 27 people, 3 of whom left at various points before the end.

The Chairman, Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Preliminaries

Jonathan Mobey read Luke 5: 1-11 which is about when Jesus calls his first disciples, Simon, James and John, who are fishermen. Jonathan asked if anyone was struck by any particular parts of this passage. Points mentioned were:

- Those in one boat asked those in the other boat to come and help them
- Simon's obedience
- Simon's recognition of Jesus as Lord
- That fishermen have to wash their nets

Jonathan Mobey then led the meeting in prayer.

Jonathan Mobey thanked Jane Woolley, PCC secretary for her work in preparing for the meetings.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Doughty, Liz Roberts, Tim Roberts and Eliza Wheaton.

Annual Parochial Meeting

2. Election of churchwardens

Jonathan Mobey thanked Rebecca Lewis and Allan Macarthur for serving as churchwardens for the past year. Rebecca Lewis has served for three years as churchwarden and is not standing again. However, Allan Macarthur is willing to stand again.

Jonathan Mobey said that **Allan Macarthur** and **Eliza Wheaton** have been nominated and seconded as churchwardens for the next year. There were no other nominations and they were elected unanimously.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Election of PCC Members

Jonathan Mobey displayed a list of current PCC members, including ex-officio members.

Jonathan Mobey thanked PCC members for their service over the past year.

Jonathan explained that Eliza Wheaton, Tony Hughes and Jane Woolley have come to the end of their 3 year term as elected PCC members. Michelle Walker and Phill Johnston are part way through their terms.

A church with an electoral roll of 51-100 people can have up to 9 elected PCC members. There are therefore 7 vacancies.

Eliza Wheaton has just been elected a churchwarden and so she remains on the PCC in an ex-officio capacity. Tony Hughes and Jane Woolley are willing to stand again.

The PCC Secretary reported that she had received nomination forms from Tony Hughes, Jane Woolley and Rebecca Lewis.

Jonathan Mobey proposed that each individual be duly appointed to the PCC, and this was approved by a substantial majority in each case, with no votes against. That leaves 4 unfilled vacancies.

2. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jonathan Mobey explained that the financial accounts are effectively audited by someone who we appoint to be the Independent Examiner. Once again, Jane Moreton has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for the 2021 financial accounts.

Jonathan Mobey proposed that Jane Moreton be appointed as Independent Examiner, and this was approved unanimously.

Jonathan Mobey thanked Jane Moreton (in her absence) for being willing to carry out this task once again.

3. Receipt of the reports

The following reports had been made available in the weeks leading up to the meeting and were formally "received" by the meeting:

- **Minutes of the annual meetings held in October 2020**
The meeting accepted the minutes of the October 2020 meetings as a correct record and it was noted that a hard copy would be signed later by Jonathan Mobey as Chair and by the PCC Secretary. Jonathan Mobey thanked the PCC Secretary for assembling the Annual Report, some of which describes activities at a Benefice level and was therefore prepared in collaboration with the All Saints' PCC Secretary
- **The PCC annual report for 2020**, including the Electoral Roll report, adopted by the PCC at its March 2021 meeting and signed by Revd. Dr. Jonathan Mobey as Chair. See item 4 for more on the Electoral Roll
- **Fabric report for 2020**
Jonathan Mobey invited the churchwardens to comment on the Fabric Report. The churchwardens asked Tony Hughes, Chair of the Buildings Committee to comment on their behalf.

Tony Hughes started by thanking all those involved in keeping the building in good shape, inside and out – including those who maintain its beauty via cleaning and flower arranging. Tony paid particular tribute to David Pyke who undertakes many of the maintenance tasks in addition to

working on major repair and improvement projects.

Tony Hughes highlighted that there often happens to be one major project in any given year, and in 2020 this was the repair to the north aisle roof following the lead theft, and the associated renewal of the extension roof. In 2021 we will face the mandatory quinquennial inspection by the church architect, delayed from 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tony Hughes invited questions on any fabric issues. There were none.

Allan Macarthur, one of the churchwardens, expressed his thanks to Tony Hughes and the whole of the Buildings Committee for all their work.

- **Financial report and Accounts for 2020**, approved by the PCC at its March 2021 meeting. Jonathan Mobey invited any questions or comments. There were none.
- **Deanery Synod report on 2020 proceedings**
Jonathan Mobey invited any questions or comments. Gordon Gill, one of St Matthew's Deanery Synod representatives, highlighted two upcoming activities in 2021:
(1) the Deanery is planning a residential conference with all the clergy and lay leaders to discuss priorities
(2) the Deanery is organising a series of Pilgrim Walks. Sid and Alison Gale from St Matthew's are involved in the organisation. Bishop Gavin will be participating in the inaugural walk.

4. Electoral Roll

Mike Pepper is our Electoral Roll Officer. Jonathan Mobey invited Mike to update the meeting on the number of people on the Electoral Roll.

Mike Pepper relayed that the number on the Electoral Roll as of April 2021 stood at 73, as compared with 68 in September 2020. There had been 6 additions and 1 death since September, making a net addition of 5. Mike commented that it is good to see people who have moved into the village being in contact with the church and joining the Electoral Roll despite the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

Jonathan Mobey thanked Mike Pepper for managing the Electoral Roll.

5. Thanks

Jonathan Mobey said that, in addition to those who he or others had already thanked in the meeting so far, he wanted to acknowledge the work of the following people in particular:

- Phill Johnston (Treasurer) and Nick Clarke (book-keeper) for managing the finances
- The clergy team in general and Pam Rolls in particular. Jonathan Mobey said that we have a gifted and hard-working clergy team. Jean Barton reinforced the thanks due to Pam Rolls for her work on Generation Gold. Pam Rolls in turn said that she would like to thank Jan Radford as she and Pam work on Generation Gold together. Jonathan Mobey informed the meeting that Jan Radford has recently retired as a chaplain at the John Radcliffe hospital and is keen to remain involved with St Matthew's and All Saints'.
- Other members of the preaching and leading team. Jonathan Mobey said that we have a rich and diverse team who contribute to all sorts of areas of ministry
- The rest of the staff team:
 - Deborah Evans – Church Administrator and PA to the Rector – Deborah is relatively new to the team and has adapted very well to the challenges and changes created by the Covid-19 pandemic
 - Sarah Barrett and Melanie Shields – the Children & Families Workers

Jonathan Mobey reiterated his general thanks to all those who serve in all sorts of ways and gave his apologies to anyone who he hasn't mentioned by name.

6. Implementation of the church vision: “Growing God’s Church, wider, deeper and closer”

Jonathan Mobey stated that there had been a third national lockdown since the last Annual Meeting in October 2020, and the church has adapted. For example, pastoral care and home groups have continued, and a lot of activity has moved online. Generation Gold has been delivering 'services in a box'. There have been Zoom gatherings and WhatsApp groups. There have been services in the churchyard. We have taken the opportunity to serve our neighbours in love e.g. by supporting Harwell Helpers.

Jonathan Mobey highlighted that Sunday morning services have been provided online and expressed thanks to Allan Macarthur and Deborah Evans for the technical organisation of this. Jonathan also remarked on the numerous individuals who have contributed to this online 'experiment'.

Jonathan Mobey said that the church will be taking forward all this learning gained during the pandemic, and that the world has changed permanently in some ways. Jonathan Mobey said that the future is likely to consist of a combination of online and face to face gatherings.

Jonathan Mobey highlighted that being online has enabled the church to go 'wider' (to increase our reach) and so the church leadership will be thinking about what that will look like in the future. Online courses such as Alpha, Christianity Explored and the Prayer Course have enabled the church to go 'deeper' too.

Jonathan Mobey asked people to pray for the leadership team as it judges how to move forward as we come out of the pandemic.

7. Discussion and questions

Jonathan Mobey then opened up the meeting to discussion of challenges and opportunities, for questions and for comments.

Gordon Gill thanked Jonathan Mobey for all the work he has done. Jonathan said that he in turn would like to thank his wife and children for their support and forbearance.

Allan Macarthur echoed Gordon's thanks, and said that Jonathan had been really good at challenging the church community – particularly about thinking ahead to the future as we come out of the pandemic. Allan also commented that Jonathan has continued to be very dynamic even in the face of the challenges of home-schooling and the ever-changing Government regulations for funerals, etc.

Jean Barton welcomed Roger and Elizabeth Clarke to the meeting, who move into Harwell during the pandemic.

Jane Woolley commented that the pandemic had highlighted the important role that home groups play in spiritual growth.

8. Closing prayer

Jonathan Mobey closed the meeting at 8.40pm and led the meeting attendees in saying 'The Grace' together.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman:

Secretary