

## **St Bride's Church Fleet Street**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMoP)**

**Held on Sunday 25 October 2020**

#### **Present:**

Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce (Rector), Bee Abel, Christopher Betterton, Jack Blackburn, David Bolton, Ed Bowsher, Geoffrey Burgess, Edwin Chappell, Joan Chappell, Christopher Claxton, Gavin Conn, Eric Davies, Ruth Doughty, Paul Dyson, Brian Fearon, Simon Greaves, Gillian (Jill) James, Alasdair Johnson, Lesley-Ann Jones, Jenny Kingsley, Stephen Kingsley, Janet Kitchen, Ian Locks, Valerie Locks, Peter Longland, David Lowish, Alison Martin, Matthew Morley, Barbara Nelson, Christopher Nelson, Lucy Nutt, Ashley Painter, Steve Rumbles, Robert Searle, Peter Silver, Everarda Slabbekoorn, Ingrid Slaughter, Terence Smith, Robin Turner, Mary Walker and Jane Wilkinson.

#### **1. Opening prayers**

The meeting opened with prayers.

#### **2. Appointment of Clerk to the meeting**

Christopher Betterton proposed and Geoffrey Burgess seconded that Peter Silver be appointed Clerk to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This was approved.

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

These were received from Nick Baldock, Ann Bawtree, David Bawtree, Valerie Boakes, Gerald Bowey, Julie Glaser, Victor Glaser, David Gwynne, James Irving, David Kirkby, Kim Kirkby, Beverly Leach, Charles Leach, Jonathan McIlvoy, Caroline Mylward, Claire Seaton, Canon Shane Waddle and Roger Wilsher.

#### **4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 28 April 2019**

Jill James proposed and Mary Walker seconded that the minutes be accepted. This was approved and the minutes were signed by the Rector.

#### **5. Churchwardens' report**

5.1 Lucy Nutt thanked the Rector for her work over the last difficult period since the last AMoP and spoke to the report that had been circulated.

5.2 There were no questions arising from the report.

5.3 The churchwardens were thanked by the Rector (and the meeting) for their work throughout the year.

#### **6. Election of Churchwardens**

In light of the present pandemic, the four Churchwardens in office had agreed to serve until the 2021 AMoP. This was formally proposed by the Rector and approved by acclamation by the meeting. Nick Baldock was self-isolating at home, but the other three Churchwardens Christopher Betterton, Valerie Locks and Lucy Nutt were introduced to the meeting and warmly applauded.

The 2020 Annual Meeting of Parishioners was closed.

## **St Bride's Church Fleet Street Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Held on Sunday 25 October 2020

The meeting was preceded by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMoP).

For details of attendees and apologies and appointment of Clerk for the meeting please refer to the minutes of the 2020 AMoP.

### **7. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council (APCM) held on 28 April 2019**

Gavin Conn proposed and David Lowish seconded that the minutes be accepted. This was approved and the minutes were signed by the Rector.

### **8. Rector's Annual Report**

The Rector reported to the meeting.

Following her report, Churchwarden Lucy Nutt thanked the Rector for her outstanding Ministry throughout the ongoing Pandemic. Jill James requested the Minutes added her thanks for the outstanding qualities of the Sermons and the clerk read a similar tribute from Julie Glaser who was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting warmly expressed their thanks.

### **9. Presentation of 2019 Annual Report and Accounts**

The Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and made available to parishioners.

In an additional verbal report David Lowish, PCC Treasurer, explained that he had only been in the role for a few weeks (and shortly after going to Crowe UK with James Irving to discuss the finalised accounts for 2019) before we went into lockdown and everything changed quite dramatically.

He also noted that he had been in regular contact with James over this period and that he felt very grateful for his efforts during this difficult time. James has had to juggle a rapidly (deteriorating) financial position which has required quite detailed scenario planning, with his day job of keeping everything running. Both he and James are grateful for the support of our congregation and indeed the support of the appeal trust who have been able to help us cover the inevitable deficit which has arisen this year. He stressed that they do not take any of these lightly.

Everarda Slabbekoorn asked how well the St Bride's Charity was performing, whether it was having to sell assets to raise the £100,000 mentioned in James Irving's report and if our investments were ethically sound. Speaking as a Trustee of the Charity, Christopher Betterton confirmed that The St Brides Charity, which is a separate legal entity and which benefits the church, has investments which are run on an ethical basis. He added that the performance return of the fund has been better than most of the established indices. The distributions paid to the church have been taken from cash held within the Charity's funds. He also confirmed that, to date, we have not had to sell down units in the pooled fund that is managed by Veritas.

The Rector asked that the Annual Report and Accounts, that were approved by the PCC, be favourably received. This was unanimously agreed.

David Lowish (PCC Treasurer) and James Irving (Head of Finance and Fundraising) were thanked for their work.

### **10. Appointment of Auditor**

Ashley Painter proposed and Simon Greaves seconded that Crowe UK be appointed auditor. This was unanimously agreed.

### **11. Election of three lay members to the Deanery Synod**

The Clerk noted that the term of office of the current five Synod members Geoffrey Burgess, Edwin Chappell, Jenny Kingsley, Ashley Painter and Terence Smith had ended.

The Rector thanked them for attending on our behalf and explained that under the Church Representation Rules, St Bride's now only requires three representatives. (This reflects the reduction in ER numbers, experienced by all churches every six years when the existing ER is wiped and a new one is created afresh.)

The Clerk reported three nominations had been received; Jenny Kingsley, Ashley Painter and Terence Smith to serve as Deanery Synod representatives until 2023 and will also be invited to attend PCC Meetings.

The appointments were accepted by general acclamation!

### **12. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**

The Rector warmly thanked Eric Davies for his long and distinguished service on the PCC but who had now decided to stand down. Jonathan McEvoy and Peter Silver had also finished their 3-year term of office although Jonathan was offering himself for re-election.

The Rector stated that while Peter was retiring as a PCC member, she was reliably advised that he would continue to act as Secretary should the newly formed Council wish him so to do. Peter Silver was thanked effusively for his exemplary service to St Bride's both as PCC member and former Churchwarden. The Rector informed the meeting that in addition to the four vacancies now open to serve until 2023, there was an additional 'Casual Vacancy' (for one year only) until the 2021 APCM. She suggested that in place of a formal vote, a discussion would be held after the meeting with the five nominees, Geoffrey Burgess, Edwin Chappell, Simon Greaves, Jonathan McIlvoy and Jane Wilkinson, as to who would fill the casual vacancy but thanked them all for agreeing to serve on the PCC. She also repeated her thanks to those had served during the last year (that had been extended to 18 months!) for their readiness to cope with the changing requirements imposed by the restrictions of Covid-19.

{Post Meeting Note: Jane Wilkinson had volunteered to fill the one year casual vacancy.}

### **13. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

A report on behalf of the Churchwardens had been circulated by James Irving.

Christopher Betterton, in answer to a question from Eric Davies, confirmed that the staining now apparent on the ceiling over the North Aisle is being addressed.

### **14. Report on the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod**

A report by the Rector had been circulated.

### **15. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

A report by Jenny Kingsley (Deanery Synod representative) had been circulated. Jenny was thanked for her report and she added, in response to fellow representative, Ashley Palmer's concern regarding the perceived dominance of one particular church and its 'satellites', that has sought to exercise inappropriate influence. The good news was that the new area Dean of the City Deanery, Katherine Hedderly, was sympathetic to such concerns.

### **16. Electoral Roll report**

The Electoral Roll report by Claire Seaton, Electoral Roll Officer, had been circulated. The new Electoral Roll now stood at 184.

Claire Seaton was thanked for her work.

**17. Safeguarding Report**

A report from the Safeguarding officer, Christopher Betterton, had been circulated. There are no facts known which has led to, or is likely to lead to, a safeguarding issue. Christopher was thanked for his work.

**18. Any other business**

The Rector, The Revd Canon Dr Alison J Joyce, was warmly thanked by Churchwarden, Christopher Betterton, on behalf of all in the St Bride's family for her work and exemplary pastoral skills for St Bride's throughout the year.

**19. Closing prayers**

The meeting ended with prayers and closed at 1315.