

Annual General Meeting 2020

4pm, 31 January 2021

Zoom virtual meeting

Minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The Rector welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the online AGM, and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Carl and Trish Hodgson, Liz Brims, and David and Pat Blackledge. A list of those attending the meeting is appended to these minutes (Appendix 1).

3. Minutes of AGM, 17 November 2019

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record. Proposed by John Wood, Seconded by Pamela Gordon.

4. Elections

4.1 People's Warden

The Rector thanked John Wood for his excellent work as People's Warden. It was noted that he would now be taking on the role of Treasurer. As no nominations had been received for People's Warden, the Constitution states that the Vestry can make an appointment, which was agreed. John kindly offered to remain in communication with members of the congregation until a replacement is found.

4.2 Treasurer

It was noted that John Barley had stood down as Treasurer and that John Wood had agreed to take on the role. The Rector thanked John B for his excellent work as Treasurer and was grateful for the role John B had played in being mindful not only of the finances but also of the missional element of the church's accounts.

John Wood was elected as Treasurer for three years. Proposed by Liz Lowrie, Seconded by Caroline Green.

4.3 Lay Representative

4.4 Alternate Lay Representative

It was noted that as no nominations had been received, the Vestry could now appoint to these roles.

4.5 Borders Area Council Member

It was noted that, under the draft new constitution, the roles of People's Warden, Lay Representative and Borders Area Council Member would be fulfilled by the same person. As no nomination had been received, the Vestry would be required to appoint.

4.6 Eight Ordinary Vestry Members

Nominations had been received for two new members of Vestry. John Williams was Proposed by Patricia Crole and Seconded by John Wood. Mary Cuthbert was Proposed by Liz Williams and Seconded by John Williams.

The Rector explained that new Vestry members were needed to ensure that we remain quorate but that these could be temporary while the new constitution is finalised, which will reduce the number of members from 19 to 12.

Margaret Jackson, Pamela Gordon, Mervyn Anthony and Caroline Green kindly agreed to join the Vestry for six months. This was agreed.

The draft constitution will become a priority for Vestry and two Zoom meetings will be held to consult with the congregation on the changes before it is presented to the Bishop.

4.7 Committee members

The need for new committee members was noted. This would be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

5. Draft Annual Accounts

Copies of the annual accounts, and a short, explanatory video by the Treasurer, were made available before the meeting.

The Treasurer explained that the accounts were as good as could be expected given the difficulties of the previous year. Costs have been cut as far as possible to offset the loss in income.

John Barley explained that new signatories would be required as a new Treasurer had been appointed. The new signatories proposed for the church would be John Wood (new Treasurer) and John Williams.

The accounts and proposals were approved. Proposed by Ross Thompson; Seconded by Carey Coombs.

6. Draft annual budget

The draft annual budget was presented and it was noted that the down-turn had not been as bad as predicted for the church. The diligence of the Treasurer and generosity of the congregation had helped offset a larger deficit. It was noted that the budget contained a proposal to spend on new AV equipment for the church to enable the live-streaming of services and other events. This would continue to support current and new members of the congregation who could not attend the church in person, now and in the future.

The draft annual budget was approved. Proposed by Mervyn Anthony; Seconded by Sue Coombs.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Church Accounts

Alexander Storie was approved as the Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts.

8. Rector's Report

The Rector introduced his report by recognising the difficulties posed by the previous year in progressing any of the matters agreed at the previous AGM. However, he encouraged the congregation to continue to be bold and inventive during this difficult time, and continue with their tenacity, inventiveness and compassion. He particularly recognised the efforts of those involved with delivering the various elements of the online services: Chris Achenbach, Claire Taylor, Margaret Pedersen, Claire Nicholson, Liz Williams and Mervyn Anthony.

In terms of pastoral care, the Rector particularly thanked Liz Brims, Ed Creaney, Liz Williams and John and Jane Barley. The Vestry and committee officers were also thanked for ensuring that day-to-day matters continued to be actioned.

Going forward, the Rector suggested that we consider how we do what God wants in terms of looking after one another and finding others who need what we have at Holy Trinity. The online services continue to be well attended – approx. 150 households per week – but we also need to consider, develop and deliver other strands of our mission that draw people in and deepen their

spirituality. One of the things that had proved useful was the leaflet drop to all households in the area explaining who we are and that they can contact us for help. This, and the foodbank, had helped build 'capital' for Holy Trinity in our local communities.

The online service community was discussed further. Additional actions around the Sunday service, such as an online giving link were noted, and that the 'coffee time' videos and new Friday morning Zoom prayers had been welcomed. New 'stepping stones' such as some form on online bible study were being developed. It was noted that the Vestry continued to consider communications and new forms of online engagement for the future.

In closing, the Rector gave his grateful thanks to his wife and son for their invaluable support and help during lockdown.

9. Other committee reports

All sub-committee and other reports were noted. They had been made available prior to the meeting.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer and The Grace.

Appendix 1

Attendees:

Margaret Jackson
John Wood (People's Warden)
Jane McCaul
Pamela Gordon
Margaret Pedersen (Vestry member)
Jane Stevenson
Jan Howarth (Vestry Secretary)
Philip Blackledge, Rector (Chair)
Tom Kerr
Flora Kerr
Gillian Skinner
Ian Skinner
John Barley (Treasurer)
Jane Barley
John Williams
Liz Williams (Vestry member)
Sue Coombs
Carey Coombs (Vestry member)
Mervyn Anthony
Chris Anthony
Caroline Green
Ross Thomson
Paulina Thomson
Liz Lowrie
Chris Achenbach
Giles Cuthbert (Vestry member)
Alasdair Johnston
Murielle Johnston
Elizabeth Stockdill