

PARISH OF WITNEY
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020 4PM
ZOOM MEETING



Present:	Toby Wright (chair), Kate Banks, Julia Bee, Lawrence Bee, Judy Brooks, Robin Brunner-Ellis, Jill Carter, Joanna Collicutt, Bill Down, Sally Down, Sue Drew, James Elward, David Exham, Anne-Marie Fisher, Michele Foot, Ian Galletley, Dair Henderson, Sue Hodges, Josie Holmes, Keith Holmes, Julia Hutchings, Mike Hutchings, Jeremy Lasman, Kate Lockwood, Kayleigh Lucas, Ross Meikle, Sheena Menon, Ian Meyrick, Helen Meyrick, Martin Peirce, Rosemary Peirce, Chris Riley (part of meeting), Alison Spicer, Anne Taylor, Charlotte Tremain, Claire Titcomb, Bridget Walton, Nadia Whiffin, Ness Whiffin, Hugh White, Andrew Whitehouse, Lorna Whitehouse, Richard Young.
Apologies:	Cordie Edwards, Paul Francis, Joy Hance, Nick Hance, Claire Hermon, Christine Lever, Elpie Lewis, David Taft, Linda Taft, Guy Taylor, Mark Thomas

Item	
1.1	The meeting opened with prayer.
2.1	Apologies were received as above.
3.1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Annual Meeting of Parishioners</u></p> <p>Toby expressed sadness that the Covid-19 pandemic meant the meeting had to take place online and acknowledged that it made it difficult for some to join us, but also made it easier for others who were able to join from further afield.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 24 March 2019 were approved and there were no matters arising.</p> <p>Election of Churchwardens Thanks were expressed to Kayleigh Lucas and Jeremy Lasman for their amazing work as churchwardens. Wardens can stand for a 4 year term of office.</p> <p>Jeremy has agreed to continue, proposed Judy Brooks, seconded Sally Rumsey. Kate Banks has agreed to stand, proposed Jeremy Lasman, seconded Kate Lockwood. The election was uncontested and therefore passed.</p> <p>The meeting of Parishioners closed at 4:10pm</p>
4.1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held 24 March 2019 Minutes of last meeting on 24 March 2019 were approved and there were no matters arising.</p>
4.2	Reports
4.2.1	<p>Proceedings of the PCC in previous year A report is included in the <i>Benefice of Witney: Year Review 2019</i>. There were no comments or questions.</p>
4.2.2	<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were expressed to Alison Spicer for her continued work as the Parish Safeguarding Officer. • Ness and Alison have worked together and followed advice from the Diocese to ensure our Safeguarding policy is robust and fit for purpose. • Risk assessments are being written for church activities but have been on hold due to church closures. • Work has taken place on the Safe Recruitment procedure. • New safeguarding guidelines for Zoom are in place for young people. • The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. <p>Everyone is asked to let Ness or Alison know of any safeguarding concerns Thanks were expressed to everyone who helps with this 'hidden' ministry.</p>

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4.2.3	<p>Church buildings and furnishings</p> <p>A report is included in the <i>Benefice of Witney: Year Review 2019</i>. There were no comments or questions.</p>															
4.2.4	<p>Finance and Statement of accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full accounts for 2019 have been examined by Whitley Stimpson and approved by the PCC, and are available to view on the benefice website. A concise summary of income and expenditure is available in the <i>Benefice of Witney: Year Review 2019</i>. • When looking at the figures it is worth noting that restricted accounts include consolidated reserves of £22k which includes £19,612 for building projects at St Mary's. <p>To get a better feel for the financial position of the parish, look at the unrestricted funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income for 2019 was £229,851 • Expenditure for 2019 was £233,183. The deficit was £3,332 which includes depreciation, so overall the picture is relatively healthy. • The Reserves Policy states that each DCC should have an average of £5k in reserve over the year and the PCC should hold £7k reserves; i.e. a total of £22k in reserves. The parish ended the year with £55,480 in unrestricted reserves, which is above the minimum required. • Parish costs over 2019 increased by 2.5%, including the increase in the parish share. • Income from congregational giving was £142,263 which is similar to 2018. There has been a significant shift towards giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and everyone is asked to consider giving through it. It improves cash flow and cuts down on administration and handling cash. • Despite successful festivals, income was down. This is due to poorer weather for the Beer Festival and the Festival of Food & Drink. • There was no Gift Day in 2019 but there has been a very generous response to an appeal in 2020 <p>Thanks were expressed to Jeremy for the many hours of work he has put in as Parish Treasurer in addition to being a churchwarden.</p>															
4.2.5	<p>Electoral roll on 4 September 2020</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">St. Mary's</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">152</td> <td style="width: 20%;">(from 133 in 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holy Trinity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60</td> <td>(from 56 in 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St John's, Hailey</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37</td> <td>(from 41 in 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St John's, Curbridge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> <td>(from 8 in 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">258</td> <td>(from 238 in 2019)</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are many more people attending the churches who are not currently on the electoral roll and everyone is encouraged to join.</p>	St. Mary's	152	(from 133 in 2019)	Holy Trinity	60	(from 56 in 2019)	St John's, Hailey	37	(from 41 in 2019)	St John's, Curbridge	9	(from 8 in 2019)	Total	258	(from 238 in 2019)
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4.2.6	<p>Rector's report</p> <p>It is good to have this opportunity to come together and celebrate what God is doing in our Parish and our four churches of our parish - in addition to our fifth in our Benefice with Minster Lovell.</p> <p>Thanks particularly to all those who come from across the parish and join in morning and evening prayer through the week as we offer our sacrifice of praise. It's been great to see this continue to expand during the last year, until Covid struck. Even then, this continued as people pray from their homes. The offering of our prayer together is so vital in all we do and undergirds all our work - so important as the heartbeat to all we are and do.</p> <p>Thanks also to the Ministry Team for their many gifts and talents and for making this such an amazing place to work. We are richly blessed indeed.</p> <p>We welcome James Elward as a new pastoral assistant among us as he explores God's call on his life.</p> <p>Thanks to the continuing ministry of the retired clergy and LLMs who support so much within the parish with great commitment and enormous skill. We are fortunate indeed to have their</p>															

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<p>4.2.6 contd</p> <p>4.2.7</p> <p>4.2.8</p>	<p>continuing wisdom, graciousness and insights.</p> <p>Thanks to the wardens who do an immense amount of work. In particular to Kayleigh who is standing down. We wish her well as she starts at Mirfield.</p> <p>Thanks to all who undertake ministry as a Churchwarden or Deputy Warden. I am indebted for what you offer the parish. The parish couldn't function without this. Particular thanks to Sue Drew, Nicola Carter and Malcolm Hardie, who step down as deputy wardens today.</p> <p>We are also indebted to Jeremy Lasman and Ian Meyrick who have done huge work on the finances. A huge debt of thanks is owed!</p> <p>Thanks to Jeremy, Barbara and others at Hailey, Paul at Holy Trinity and Francis at Saint Mary's for their wonderful contribution to our liturgy and life - and many thanks too for all who serve in our three choirs and play the organs.</p> <p>Thanks to Michelle our Parish Administrator for all she does in so many and varied ways. The role grows and adapts, but so many people comment on how important this friendly welcome to the parish is.</p> <p>There are so many things that are so very positive where we see God's Spirit strengthening and leading us onwards as we seek to be a community of mercy and kindness. What an amazing group of people God has called into energy through the voice of Jesus in our parish! This is primarily seen in amazing ministry which silently grows as we continue to do what we do as mission and ministry continue to flourish. It couldn't happen without you: thank you!</p> <p>Finally, my prayer for you all is that you will grow in the knowledge of God's love for you and in the power of God's Spirit. And as it says in the letter to the Colossians, we are to 'overflow with thankfulness' and value Christ above all.</p> <p>Deanery Synod A Deanery Synod report is included in the <i>Benefice of Witney: Year Review 2019</i>.</p> <p>Churchwardens' report Jeremy thanked Kayleigh for being an 'absolute star' and welcomed Kate Banks who will work alongside him as Churchwarden. The number of pages in the annual review is testament to how much has been happening across the benefice, practically and spiritually. Jeremy echoed all the thanks expressed in Toby's report. Thank you to the vast number of people who contribute happily to the work of the parish in all sorts of ways.</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Update on Churchwardens Thanks were expressed to Kayleigh and Jeremy. Kayleigh is moving out of the parish and her place has been filled by Kate Banks. Kate was formally welcomed.</p>
<p>4.4</p> <p>4.4.1</p> <p>4.4.2</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Deanery Synod Representatives James Elward, Helen Meyrick, Chris Riley and Linda Taft were elected to serve on Deanery Synod for a three year term of office.</p> <p>Deputy Churchwardens The following people were proposed and duly elected St Mary's: Claire Hermon Holy Trinity: Dair Henderson, Charlotte Tremain Hailey: Elpie Lewis Curbridge: Ian Galletley</p>

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4.5	<p>Youth Council</p> <p>Nadia reported that in June 2020, we began the process of setting up a Witney Benefice Youth Council, in order to give children and young people a voice in the mission and ministry of the church. The idea for this came from the Rev'd Ross Meikle, following the release of Oxford Diocese's 'Disciples Together' report. Other adults who have helped to establish this include Kate Lockwood, Kayleigh Lucas and Alison Spicer. The first meeting was held at the end of July, with 8 young people present. The council is open to all young people in secondary school; however we also invite someone from primary school to become our Junior Representative, ensuring that children of all ages are heard. Other roles on the council include a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. At our monthly meetings we discuss a range of topics, primarily focussing on how the church can better cater and serve our young people. We have our own prayer, created by one of our members, which we use at every meeting. This is the start of an exciting, and much needed project, which draws hope for the future of young people in the church.</p> <p>Toby thanked Nadia and Ross for such an exciting new innovation and looks forward to it taking a fuller part in the life of the benefice</p>
4.6	<p>Appointment of Independent examiners</p> <p>The meeting agreed to reappoint Whitley Stimpson Ltd. Proposed Jeremy Lasman, seconded Ian Meyrick, approved nem com.</p>
4.7	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Year Review is not being printed this year because it cannot be distributed in paper format but it is available on the benefice website. Michelle has offered to print a copy for anyone who receives notices by post. • Thanks were expressed to Toby and the whole Ministry team for all their guidance and support through these difficult times. • Thanks were expressed to Kate Lockwood for her work as PCC Secretary <p>Ross ended the meeting in prayer at 4:45pm</p>
4.8	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Wednesday 5 May 2021</p>

Signed: _____ Date: _____