

AGREED

St Mary's Church Witney

Minutes of the Annual District Church Meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020

Attended by 17 members of the congregation; Canon Toby Wright chaired the meeting.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Toby welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.

Toby explained that Curbridge DCC would be suspended as there weren't enough parishioners present from Curbridge to ahead. We should meet within four weeks of the APCM, and as we also need to give two weeks' notice of the meeting, we cannot meet that time frame. It was agreed that there would be an extraordinary meeting after the service at Curbridge on Sunday 17 October, to explain the situation to the rest of the congregation.

Under the Team Instrument Section 12, St Mary's DCC automatically becomes the DCC for St John's if there is nobody available for the DCC at Curbridge.

- **Apologies**

Josie Holmes, Canon Dr Joanna Collicutt, Rev Sally Wright, Preb Mark Thomas, Rev Hugh White, Alison Spicer, Guy Taylor, Linda Taft, David Taft, Michele Foot.

- **Minutes of the AGM held on 7 April 2019**

The minutes were approved.

Proposed: Helen Meyrick, Seconded: Jill Carter

Unanimously agreed

- **Matters arising**

St George's day: Anne Taylor asked what we had done about this, Toby said that we had tried to make a member of the ministry team available for this, but due to other commitments, the event was not able to go ahead. Ross is keen to do this again if we have the chance in the future.

- **Election of DCC members**

Church wardens and deputy wardens have been were elected at the recent APCM, as were the Deanery Synod representatives.

Toby asked if there are any other elections to the DCC, and the following were all willing to stand: Keith Holmes, Michele Foot, Ian Meyrick and Jill Carter. Anne Taylor and Nicola Carter have both stood down.

This is in addition to ex-officio members: Jeremy Lasman, Claire Hermon, Kate Banks, James Elwood, Richard Young, Helen Meyrick, Linda Taft and the clergy.

- **Annual Report**

The Fabric Report covers all the improvements across the fabric of the building that have been done during 2019, including the new carpet, new boiler in the Wenman Room and completion of the final snagging issues with the roofing project.

Jeremy thanked Richard Young for facilitating the installation of improved Wi-Fi across the building, which is a prerequisite for the installation of CCTV and any future ability to stream services from St Mary's. We will be progressing both in the next few weeks; the latter will be especially important over the Christmas period if our ability to hold physical services in the church remains constrained.

Thanks to Jill Carter for the new Antependium altar piece for the All Saints chapel, which has been designed by the Young Disciples.

The Wardens are going to write the faculty application for the improvements to the interior of the Winchester Room.

Subject to money, we also need to consider new, more secure, doors for the Winchester Room and automated exterior doors to replace the existing West Door.

A faculty has been agreed for the removal of the cedar tree in the churchyard; it has been suggested that we make use the wood in some form; subject to funds being made available, we are considering a new bench for the churchyard, or a new altar for the nave.

We have had a massive amount of water ingress into the church due to the recent heavy rain, a guttering company is coming to look at this on the 15th October. The heating system is also in need of repair before we can turn the heating on.

Jeremy thanked all who are involved in any way in maintaining the building, including the church cleaners, flower arrangers, Keith and David for their practical work, and all who contribute.

There were no questions.

- **Finance Report**

Ian Meyrick provided a written report.

The St Mary's DCC Account, in common with that of the other Churches, were incorporated into the consolidated Parish Accounts, approved by the PCC and presented to the APCM on 20 September 2020. These accounts were independently examined.

Opening balance of funds 1 January 2019	£17,877			
ADD excess of income over expenditure	£830			
Closing bank balance 31 December 2019	£18,707			

<i>This was made up of:</i>				
Restricted and designated funds	£2,815	(see below)		
Unallocated funds	£15,892			

Toby thanked Ian for his management of the accounts.

Jeremy mentioned that there are anomalies with the treatment of funds that we hold throughout the parish, and he is looking to rationalise the restricted funds, currently four, into one restricted fund for St Mary's in the future. These four are Flower Festival, Chair Appeal, Choir and Music, and Data Developments. He will meet with Ian to discuss this.

- **Any Other Business**

Ross gave an update on the children and young people in the church, including the Young Disciples. The way they are led is necessarily changing, as Kayleigh has left and Ross will also be leaving the parish shortly. A Benefice Youth Council was set up during the summer, to discuss the items that matter to them and bring these to the PCC and DCCs. At the beginning of this month, the Youth Council had a discussion about how they felt the Young Disciples should be taken forward in the light of uncertainty over leadership. Their preferred option was a paid youth worker as this would give a level of consistency, Ross confirmed that there are funds and grants to be had for a youth worker, but we would probably have to match the funds; Ross asked that all should prayerfully consider how we should best continue with our ministry to Young Disciples, the local schools, Sunday school, and other external groups such as Scouts and Guides.

Ross thanked the adults who have joined Young Disciples both in person and on Zoom during lockdown ensuring that they comply with safeguarding, and for the prayers of all.

Anne Taylor asked how many younger children there are who would like to be involved, Ross replied that there are several Year 5 & 6s waiting to join as they get old enough. One way of handling this would be to split into smaller groups by age.

Anne thanked Ross for his work in this area.

Keith asked for an update on the state of the wall and archway: Toby has been chasing John Hickman at the Town Council, the faculty has been granted and OG is moving towards getting the work done.

Toby thanked the Ministry Team for all their efforts during lockdown and recognises the importance of the DCC meeting regularly. He is concerned that we will probably not have any festivals next year which means the income for the DCC will drop considerably; it is important that we all pray and consider how best we can meet our commitments.

Jeremy suggested that we need to discuss how to be more proactive with finding external funding at the next DCC.

Toby reminded us that we are signed up to the Greater Churches Network and he has made contact with the local group; he, Richard and Jeremy are going on a conference with them next week to discuss strategic plans in relation to looking after ancient buildings.

Rosemary Peirce asked if Ness thought the wider pastoral care at St Marys was going well: Ness responded that we are keeping in touch with people through phone calls, written cards and emails, and in practical ways; a lot of hidden ministry is going on through the pandemic. Ness thanked the people who are on the visiting team who have continued to stay in touch. Anne and Ness have put together a risk assessment to see how we can get back to visiting in person, but in the meantime we have to abide by government regulations. The regulations are complex, but Ness hopes we have done all that we can; if there is anyone that isn't being contacted, please do let Ness know.

- **Date of next DCC meeting**

This was held immediately after this meeting.

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St Mary's Church Witney

Minutes of District Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020

1. Toby welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that we needed to elect a lay chair, treasurer and secretary.
2. Lay Chair - Ian Meyrick was proposed by Jeremy Lasman, seconded by Keith Homes and unanimously elected.
3. Treasurer – Ian Meyrick was proposed by Ness Whiffin, seconded by Jill Carter and unanimously elected.
4. Secretary – Linda Taft is stepping down, Jeremy proposed that we postpone the election of a new secretary until we have a volunteer.
5. There are ongoing discussions about a second Deputy Warden for St Mary's, and Toby and the Parish Wardens will update the DCC when possible.
6. There being no further business, Richard Young closed the meeting with the Grace.