

GREYFRIARS & NEW HOPE, READING

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held online (due to Covid-19 restrictions) on 19 October 2020 at 7.30pm.

140 members attended.

Chair: Rev David Walker, vicar.

The meeting started with a time of prayer in small groups.

A. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of wardens

Harvey Jessop and Debs Jeffries were elected as Churchwardens.

B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Apologies were received from Sheila Hill.

1. Minutes of APCM 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2019 were agreed to be a true record: proposed by Alan Cross, seconded by Beth Morris, with none against and a few abstentions.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Electoral Roll

Beth Morris, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that after the annual revision of the electoral roll this year there are 414 people on the roll, of whom 32 live in the parish. In 2019 there were 411 on the roll, with 21 living in the parish. Thanks were expressed to Beth Morris, Janet Shury and Julian Rowlandson for keeping the roll updated.

4. PCC Elections

The following seven candidates nominated prior to the meeting for seven available places were therefore deemed elected to the PCC: Ayo Akintoye, Nick Beard, Rachel Harrop, Arfon Rees, Deepa Senapathi, Steve Smith and Malcolm Summers.

[Post-meeting note: Steve Smith volunteered to take the one year place (until APCM 2021) and Arfon Rees volunteered to take the two year place (until APCM 2022)]

5. Deanery Synod Elections

The following six candidates nominated prior to the meeting for seven available places were therefore deemed to be elected to the Deanery Synod: Harriet Booth, Alan Cross, Chris Greaves, John Ledger, John Missenden, Tryni Seals.

6. Treasurer's report and Church accounts

Simon Porter introduced the annual accounts for 2019, approved at a PCC meeting on 11 May 2020. The church had made a deficit of £64,000 in 2019 (£69,000 deficit in 2018), with income having risen by £8,000 and costs having increased by £3,000.

Simon thanked Julian Rowlandson and his team, Andrew Twigger (Gift Aid Officer) and Jeremy Wall (New Hope finances and helping with preparations for the year-end audit). There were several questions from members, answered by Simon and Julian Rowlandson.

7. Election of Auditor

Simon Porter proposed that Bruton Charles be re-appointed as auditors, seconded by Malcolm Summers. The proposal was approved with none against and a few abstentions.

8. Greyfriars & New Hope Vision

David presented the highlights of Ministry and Mission in 2019 under the following headings:

- Baptisms
- Local and international mission
- Mission to students (with Fusion)
- Financial giving to mission
- Redevelopment progress
- Resourcing Hub in Oxford Diocese
- Servant hearts

There were several questions from members, including:

- Is the church involved in Bed for the Night this year? With the Centre out of action, Greyfriars will not be doing this, but all can be involved at New Hope or other centres.
- For the benefit of newer members, what was the original vision behind redevelopment? Jonathan Thatcher answered that it was the same as now, in order to have room for growth and for the mission of the church
- Is Prayer Spot continuing? Gill and Nick Beard answered that after 15 years it was taking a break, but will return. The Minster had opportunities for being involved in prayer.
- What about Christmas services? Currently being planned; it is hoped to record some choral pieces.
- What is the situation with the bookshop? Currently remaining closed.
- What do the Deanery Synod Reps do? Mark Hinckley answered that the Deanery Synod represents the Anglican churches in Reading, with clergy and lay members. It acts on a missional action plan. supports the resourcing of the church and deploys clergy. Working together across churches, the reps discuss and make decisions affecting all.
- What is the vicar's biggest prayer for next year? That the Lord's purposes would be fulfilled, the church would grow, and we would be emboldened as His people.

The meeting concluded with a time of prayer in small groups.

Debs Jeffries expressed the meeting's thanks to David and Joy, presenting them with a gift. David thanked Harvey and Debs for their servant hearts as Wardens over the last year. He also thanked the retiring members of the PCC and Deanery Synod for their service. The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____