

## **CHRIST CHURCH, LITTLE DRAYTON**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN CHURCH ON**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 AT 11:00 AM**

Present: Joan Cartlidge, Simon Cartlidge, Alison Derwent, Jane Eastham, Chris Fell, Jon Fell, Emma Gordon, Harry Hitchen, Diana Holland, Revd. Jane Morris, Tony Morris, Jan Stapleton, Margy Taylor, Margaret A Taylor, Geoff Vernon (Chair), Dorothy Watkin, Mike Watkin

<b>A.</b>	<b>VESTRY MEETING – (Meeting of Parishioners).</b> Geoff welcomes everyone to the meeting. We have the Vestry Meeting first and then the APCM.
<b>1.</b>	Opening prayers by Revd. Jane.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Bill Egerton, Hazel Haskayne, Sheila Vernon.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Appointment of Churchwardens:</b> Dorothy Watkin is happy to continue this year. At last year’s APCM, we didn’t have a warden going forward, and Dorothy bailed us out in no uncertain way. Thank you to Dorothy for all you’ve done in the past year.  Simon Cartlidge has also offered to be churchwarden, and we’re more than happy to have him. Traditionally the role is split in two, one being in charge of the property and the other is more the day- to-day arrangements. Welcome to Simon if you are happy to proceed and learn more about it. If you find out you don’t like it, come back to us. We’re thrilled to welcome you into this important role, and people are here to help you. Thank you. Margaret A Taylor nominates Simon Cartlidge as churchwarden, Jane Eastham seconds, all in favour. This is a big step forward.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Archdeacon’s Visitation:</b> This was held here last year. This year it is at St Alkmund’s in Whitchurch on Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June. All are welcome to come and it is where the churchwardens are sworn in. The service starts at 7:00 pm, and we look forward to Simon and Dorothy having some support on that evening from Christ Church.  Vestry Meeting closed.
<b>B.</b>	<b>ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes</b> of the Annual Meeting of 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 have been made public at the back of church and via email. Everyone is in agreement that they are a true and accurate record. Geoff Vernon will sign a copy.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters arising:</b> None.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Treasurer’s Report and Gift Aid Report</b> ( <i>please see attached</i> ): Everyone is given a copy. Please take a minute to have a look. As Geoff says every year, these bits of information are to be taken away and studied. If

anything jumps out, come back and ask whenever you want. Clarification is always available. The important bit is at the bottom of the second sheet. That tells us exactly what's happened to our balances in 2023. As you see, we started the year with £18,000 and finished up with £17,818, so expenditure exceeded income by £208. This is the best result we've had in years. The Common Fund has altered somewhat. In 2022, our income was £45,800; last year it is £53,500, which is an increase. Our expenditure in 2022 was £51,000 and last year it was £53,000. There are all sorts of anomalies, and things happen in one year and not in another. We will look at the present situation and look forward as much as we can. One reason for last year's figures is general donations and specific donations, which come to £13,000 when added together. That's exceptional, and it's the difference between good and bad as far as the accounts are concerned.

In 2023 we paid £4,600 on maintenance/repairs - normal work. The underfloor heating was fixed and work was done to stop water coming in and causing damp. These have been paid for by specific donations by two members of the congregation for which we are very grateful. In terms of general donations, Lynda Verrill, a member of our parish, donated £7,000, split at £2,000m £2,000 and £3,000 at Christmas. Her husband, John, was warden at this church, and Lynda wants to support us. How long that will continue, we don't know. We've already had another donation from her in this financial year. Individual items need to be looked at. We have similar ones every year. One of our other income streams is the fees earned by Jane and the team. Last year, the fees received were £17,822, which had a net worth of £11,000 to us after Lichfield's share. When you take that fee income and donations out, you can see we're in a serious situation. Weddings are popular. We do get quite a number of funerals. We haven't had the team to do the fundraising that we had prior to Covid. Light and heat was up a great amount. There has been a massive increase in electricity charges and we had the problems with the underfloor heating. That's been put right now. We can look for improvement in energy costs. Other things go up naturally, e.g. insurance.

Di does the gift aid; is there some way we can do it every year? It is a fairly involved job, but it is lucrative for us. We haven't been able to claim any income tax refund on donations or collections. Di has had a look at it; her calendar is spasmodic, and she spends a lot of time overseas. There is a way of doing it. Everyone has to pay their weekly money to Lichfield; if they go directly to them, they do all the gift aid on it, but it does all have to be done by Direct Debit. We can go back three years when we get someone to do it. We can claim on weekly contributions, small donations. There is money out there that we could collect. So we don't have a gift aid report as such.

Revd. Jane tells us outreach and fundraising is not the same as it was pre-Covid, and we want to pay tribute to them. They do work very hard, and the social impact is equally as important as financial. We want to thank GV for his hard work week by week with the banking and accounts, and thanks to Emma for the work she does too. Dorothy asks if there is a timeframe for getting gift aid. It's normally three years, but it might be more now. Please do gift aid if you are not

	<p>doing it already. We are getting more contributions by bankers' order, which means less envelopes. It can all be computed in the same way.</p> <p>The accounts are audited by Janet Hankey, who doesn't charge us. Everything gets looked at, and she is very thorough. Everything is accounted for.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Property Committee Report:</b></p> <p>The heating has worked efficiently over the winter. Some of the gutters will need cleaning, but it can be very awkward to get to the bits that do need cleaning. We could hire a cherry picker to do it if we can afford it. The toilet has been fixed. The carpets have been cleaned. We will look at the clock at some point. We have four capital projects: the fabric of the building, the clock, the organ, and pew cushions, which Carol is looking at. It is Geoff's intention to apply to Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. The problem is what to ask them for. Maybe everyone could give it a bit of thought.</p> <p>The weeds in the churchyard have been sprayed. We get four cuts a year from the council. It's no good asking when they are coming; we are on a schedule. We get negative comments about the length of the grass, but it's Shropshire council's responsibility to do it as it is a closed churchyard. John Blessington has been in touch about the trees and we are waiting to hear back from him. The War Graves Commission has offered to put a sign up indicating there are war graves in the churchyard and the PCC has decided to move forward with that.</p> <p>Margaret asks if it would affect the council coming to cut the grass if we had other offers to help with the strimming. We don't think so. By the time they're finished, it needs doing it again. We were going to get help from prison; Carol knows someone. The council would probably appreciate the help. Jan asks if we can get someone to cut the grass in the Garden of Remembrance. We can look into that.</p> <p>Hazel asks if the damp patches are to do with blocked gutters. It is from the water ingress. We will send Hazel the drone footage that has been filmed.</p> <p>Can we have a rota for altar flowers? It is expensive for one person. We generally do them for festivals.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Chairperson's Report</b> <i>(please see attached)</i>:</p> <p>Revd. Jane read this in the service last week. We have got a new churchwarden now. We have challenges with the finances, etc., but we also want to celebrate serving our parish with the film club, knit and natter and coffee mornings, although the last one was a bit disappointing.</p> <p>We offer pastoral support and have a good team. We recently welcomed David and Angela who can cover services, and we have new reader Carol alongside Margaret and both James's. James Butter is on placement in Wellington but looking forward to coming back. We rejoice in our volunteers, servers, tea, sprayers of roundup and the schools when they come in. There was a mixing of generations when the school and veterans were here for remembrance. We are hoping to do Open the Book to help build up relationships with the schools. If you could come and support when the school comes, there is a lot of joy in the</p>

	<p>services and it would be good to have church representation here. There is going to be a discussion about how Revd. Jane's hours are worked out as she is 0.5 here. Revd. Jane will need to think carefully about this and maybe re-evaluate what she does. She is getting older and retirement is beckoning.</p> <p>Dorothy reads out the churchwarden's report (<i>please see attached</i>). Thank you to Dorothy.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Deanery Synod Report:</b> ( <i>please see attached</i> ). Thank you to Jon.
	<b>ELECTIONS</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Election of Parochial Church Council (9 members of Laity on ER):</b>          Certain ex-officio members are automatically on the PCC, this includes Jon Fell, Carol Preston, Margaret A Taylor, Dorothy Watkin and Simon Cartlidge. We can have nine members of Laity who are on the electoral roll. As far as nominations are concerned, we have three already completed. These are for Alison Derwent, Jane Eastham and Geoff Vernon. Do you know of anyone else who wants to be nominated? Joan Cartlidge and Jan Stapleton would like to join. We can catch up later with the paperwork. We can also co-opt members on at any time. Margaret A Taylor proposes Joan and Jan as members of the PCC and Alison Derwent seconds. Thank you, ladies. Our next meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00 pm. A big thank you to Margy Taylor and Hazel Haskayne, who are stepping down this year, for all their work serving on the PCC.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Election of Deanery Synod representatives (3):</b> Jon Fell is happy to continue. Geoff Vernon will nominate him. It involves going to four meetings a year, and it's nice seeing people from other churches.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Appointment of Auditor:</b>          Is Janet Hankey happy to stand again? Yes, she is. Everyone is happy for Janet to continue as our auditor.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b>          The income from our votive stand is about £136. Diana asks if we could use it to pay someone to strim the Garden of Remembrance and the path down to it. We've got some contacts we can ask. Alison Derwent proposes we use the money from the votive stand for this purpose; Joan Cartlidge seconds.</p> <p>We have fresh flowers for festivals, and, if we want them more regularly, we appreciate we have to pay as it's expensive for one person. Joan is happy to do them. We'll put this on the next PCC agenda. Thank you everyone for coming and again to Geoff and Emma.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Date of next PCC meeting:</b> Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June at 6pm.

**Signed:** ..... **Dated:** .....