

Annual Parochial Church Council
Meeting of Holy Trinity Church of Seer Green & Jordans
held on Sunday 19th May 2024

Present:

List of Attendees

Sarah Allen	Lois Henley-King
Tom Allen	Janna Holder
Sam Barclay	Margaret Putt
Anthony Bargioni	Heather Rowe
Janice Barrett	Monica Sado
Geoffrey Brand	Peter Vinall
Nora Bennett	Philippa Vinall
Carole Campbell	Jackie Vroobel
Jez Carr	Anne Wall
Ali Cork	Linda West
Colin Cork	Roger West
Olwyn Davison-Oakley	
Janine Dunnell	
Rachel Gibson	

Chairman: Revd Jez Carr
Minute taker: Janine Dunnell

1. Welcome

Revd Jez Carr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to this year's meeting. He thanked everyone for staying after the 10 O'clock service and promised that the APCM would be an exciting meeting.

2. Prayer

The open meeting was started with a prayer.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Spoerry, Audrey Hardy, Nora Bennett, Sue Puttergill.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Janine Dunnell was proposed by Janice Barrett and seconded by Janna Holder. All present were in agreement, and Janine was confirmed as church warden.

5. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Revd Jez Carr opened the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting had been presented. These were proposed as a true copy by Olwyn Davison-Oakley, seconded by Anthony Bargioni and agreed by all.

There was a question for clarification from Anthony Bargioni. While the majority who give via the Parish Giving Scheme are on the Electoral Roll, not all of them are. The scheme is open to anyone in the villages to give regularly.

7. Statutory Reports

The reports had previously been circulated on the website for all to see.

a) Annual report of the activities of the church

Church report (Revd Jez Carr).

Jez had 3 highlights from his report:

1. The Youth Group, which started with confirmation class last year. He thanked Sarah Allen for her initiative in starting this group, which started with 6 teenagers. Jez is thrilled that some teenagers have come to join the church services, and also stated that this is happening in other churches. He is very grateful to Sarah and Miriam for their support, and asks that we continue to pray for this group.
2. Whisky Wednesdays. The Grandstand in the Vicarage garden has been all that Jez hoped for, as a space to meet with people in our villages. Once a month, the young men in the village meet to grapple with the big things in life and to build deep friendships. There are opportunities to talk about Jesus in the discussions. Jez hopes that this will lead to Alpha courses or other opportunities for faith journeys.
3. Families @ 3:30. It is lovely to see the growth of regular attendance, with 15 to 20 parents and children. Jez asked us to pray for more opportunities to engage with the parents.

Children's and Families Ministry report (Janna Holder)

Janna had 3 highlights from her report:

1. The Prayer Day in November 2023, seeing all the children together inside the church, and being able to have the prayer stations for 2 days. She will repeat this in November 2024.
2. Families @3:30 has had it's ups and downs, but she recognises the need to be consistent in timing. She also recognised the Fun and Faith service at the Baptist Church, which some of the same families attend. She's looking forward for continued growth.
3. She's now looking at the 8 to 13 year olds and what can be offered for them.

Janna also thanked everyone for their prayers while she was ill.

- b) Financial Statement (Janine Dunnell)
Audrey had circulated her report. Janine presented the breakdown of the expenses in 2023, by Parish Share (£42,000), Personnel (£17,000), Administration and Facilities (£17,000) and Services and Mission (£2,000). She also presented the breakdown of Income and Expenses for 2023. There were no questions.
- c) Electoral Roll Report (Heather Rowe)
There are 97 members on the register, down from 101 the previous year.
- d) Safeguarding Report (Anne Wall)
No questions
- e) Charity Committee Report. (Jez Carr)
Jez said that we need to raise the profile of the Charity Committee and more members are needed. Jane Spoerry and Geoffrey Brand have both stood down.

Question from Monica Sado: How are charities chosen?

Answer: Jez explained that they use the 5 marks of mission to select charities, that some are local and some are ones that we support annually. Anyone is welcome to send in suggestions.

Suggestion from Geoffrey Brand: To make the appeal for suggestions just before the annual meeting of the Charity Committee. Rachel Gibson said she will put up a suggestion list on the Charity noticeboard at the back of church.

- f) Buildings Report (Tom Allen)
No questions.
 - g) Deanery Synod Report (Janine Dunnell/Anthony Bargioni)
No questions.
- 8) Non-Statutory Report
- a. ECO church report (Nora Bennett)
Jez commented on Eco Church and indicated that it is a means of engaging with the villages.

9) Elections

- a. Independent examiner – David Jordan has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for one more year. This was agreed by everyone.
- b. Election of new PCC members:
Tom Allen was approved as deputy church warden, responsible for buildings and facilities.

Anthony Bargioni was approved as a PCC member and assistant church warden, assisting with vision, strategy and community. Jez gave thanks for all the church wardens.

Anne Wall was approved as a PCC member and as interim Safeguarding Officer.

Sam Barclay was approved as a PCC member.

Existing members are Jez Carr, Janine Dunnell, Janna Holder, Audrey Hardy, Tom Allen, Sue Puttergill, Linda West and Janice Barrett.

These appointments were agreed by everyone.

- c. Anthony Bargioni was approved as the second Deanery Synod representative, alongside Janine Dunnell. All agreed to this appointment.

10) Thank-you

Jez thanked Olwyn Davison-Oakley for her service as both as chair of the PCC and as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Olwyn was presented with a garden centre voucher.

Jane Spoerry was thanked in her absence for her long years of service as churchwarden and administrator. She has been given a garden centre voucher.

The pewsheets editors, Geoffrey Brand, Pam Britton and Nora Bennett, were thanked for their many years of service. Geoffrey was presented with a box of biscuits, and Pam and Nora received theirs the following week. Nora was also thanked for her service on the PCC.

Jez then thanked the following people:

Janelle Stevenson – administrator
AV team (Lois Henley-King, Janine Dunnell, Janna Holder)
PCC
Flower Guild
Intercessors
Pastoral Care Group – less seen but doing a huge amount for those in need
Sarah Allen – teen group, and her encouragement to Jez
Miriam Jones – teen group
Sarah Allen and Ali Cork - Community Prayer Group.
Linda West – for her many years of service to the Prayer and Intercession Group
Readers
Anne Wall as Sacristan, much of her work is behind the scenes.
Ali Cork and her team – for the teas and cakes.
Vergers and welcomers – such an important part of our hospitality.

Cleaners and those who open and close the church – so important.
Parish Magazine Editors – recognition of the refresh and that there is plenty of energy among them.

Janna Holder – maintaining our Facebook pages and so much more that she does.

Nora – her continued work on Eco-Church, in the Parish Magazine and for the church.

Monica Sado – for the 8 O’Clock Club.

Ali Cork – Toddlers in the Woods

Audrey Hardy – over 40 years as Treasurer, and so much work that is not seen.

David Jordan – auditor

Jez finished with an overall thanks and an invitation for everyone to see whether they can contribute to any of these activities, or other aspects.

11) Financial Overview 2024

Jez presented the breakdown of the budgeted expenses for 2024, split into Holy Trinity Personnel (£26,600), Parish Share House (£11,000), Parish Share Support (£11,000), Parish Share Training (£5,000), Holy Trinity Administration and Facilities (£19,000), and Holy Trinity Services and Mission (£4,000). He also presented the breakdown of the Income and Expenses budgeted for 2024. The budgeted average giving per person who attends a service at least once a month is £73 per month or £17 per week. Jez then invited everyone to review what they give, recognising that some cannot give more.

Comments from Janna: A grant has been received from the Diocese Development Fund that has paid for the measure survey and ops appraisal. There is part of the grant still to be claimed when the architect has done his work.

Question from Carole Campbell: Carole asked about fundraising.

Answer from Jez: There are no fundraising plans, except the August afternoon teas.

Jez then left the main church and Janine gave an update on the discussions with the Diocese and Amersham Deanery about the stipend amount allocated in the Parish Share for a House for Duty vicar.

Janine explained that the stipend section of the Parish Share has not been paid to the Diocese this year as this money does not go to pay Jez. The PCC voted in January to withhold just the stipend amount of £14,000 and instead gift it to him. This follows multiple discussions with the Deanery which have proved indecisive, so we will pay now start the payments from the General Funds. The terms of the contract with Jez are House for Duty without pay for part time work and we feel this is unfair. Other Deaneries in the Diocese have a Parish Share of about £25,000 for House for Duty vicars, compared to the £43,000 that Amersham Deanery is allocating. The stipend amount that we

are allocated is used to fund the full-time vicars in the other parishes of the Deanery, so we feel justified in withholding it.

Comments by Geoffrey Brand: Geoffrey said the Diocese decides on parish personnel, whether a parish has a House for Duty or Full-Time vicar. He remembered that a number of years ago there was a detailed assessment to determine which were wealthy and which were poor parishes, and asked if this was still happening. Geoffrey asked if our church contributes to poorer parishes in the area.

Answer: Janine replied that the PCC decided to advertise for a House for Duty vicar. When Cassa left, a survey was taken and a majority chose the House for Duty contract rather than full-time, so it was our choice to have a House for Duty, not the Diocese or Deanery.

The Amersham Deanery have full control of the allocation of the Parish Share to their parishes, once the total has been allocated by the Diocese, and the Diocese cannot influence them. Janine stressed that we do not dispute the other sections of the Parish Share and are happy to pay for Diocese support, training of future vicars, etc. The Parish Share amounts are only used to support parishes within the Deanery, and not parishes outside the Deanery. All parishes within the Oxford Diocese are contributing towards a significant amount that is allocated to the other poorer Dioceses.

Comments by Rachel Gibson: Rachel was concerned that we could face demands to pay it to the Diocese but Janine explained that we hope to clarify the position as the Amersham Deanery is out of step with the rest of the Diocese. The Diocesan Board of Finance also told members of the PCC that the Parish Share is a gift from the parishes.

Comments by Peter Vinall: Peter pointed out that as an annual gift Jez can choose how to use the money.

Discussions with the Deanery and Diocese are ongoing. An email will be sent to the Electoral Roll, summarising the discussions with the Deanery and Diocese.

12) AOB

Question from Monica Sado: Monica asked when the internal changes to the church building would begin.

Answer from Tom Allen: Tom said he has a meeting next week about this as we do not have the approval of the Diocesan Advisory Committee yet.

13) Jez closed the meeting with everyone saying the Grace at 12.05pm.