

**SWITHLAND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** was held via Zoom on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at the conclusion of the Zoom meeting of the Parishioners.

**Present:** Rev Colin Resch (Chair)

Virginia Aspinall, Val Capewell, Penny Craven, Derek Cranage, Jayne Cranage, Corinne Greenwood, Martin Greenwood. Olga Harris, Jeff Harrison, Clive Hilton, Gary Lee, Janet Lee, Geraldine Mason, Lizette Pugh, Janet Roberts, John Roberts, Mary Toone, Christine Watts, Ali Wright

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sally Allen and Rev Darren Walker.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

Derek Cranage proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Val Capewell, and it was agreed they be signed as a true record.

**3. Reports**

The 'Report for the Annual Meeting' booklet was circulated electronically as well as being made available in the church porch.

**a. Electoral Roll Report**

78 members were confirmed.

**b. Acting Rector's Report**

Rev Resch commented that during lockdown, even though church buildings were closed, the church community was undiminished, with church members particularly active as good neighbours. Through Zoom, they were still able to gather together and the number of services offered, both in Swithland and Mountsorrel, had increased. Bible studies and other activities had also flourished online. Lizette Pugh advocated recognising the contribution of the wider Swithland community, beyond the church, and hoped this might be recognised once lockdown has been lifted. This may be possible through COMOT and would also include Swithland Primary School.

**c. Churchwarden's General Report**

There were no questions or additions to this report.

**d. Financial Report**

Val Capewell considered we had done well considering the lack of plate collections and other income and we had been able to meet all our commitments. Val Capewell was thanked for her continuing work as Treasurer.

**e. Fabric Report**

Chris Watts gave a brief update, explaining we were still awaiting a decision on flood defences.

**f. Deanery Synod Report**

This was noted with no questions.

**g. Other Reports**

Rev Resch expressed hope that the Friday Club could soon start up again, as it was much missed, and congratulated the Men's Club on managing to raise much-needed funds for charity in spite of COVID limitations. Gary Lee commented on how Zoom has meant Christians in the Forest has opened up to a wider group.

#### **4. Elections/Appointments**

##### **a. Election of PCC Members from the laity (3 vacancies + 1 casual vacancy 2yrs)**

Five nominations had been received:

<b>Mrs Virginia Aspinall</b>	nominated by Christine Watts, seconded by Penny Craven
<b>Mr Clive Hilton</b>	nominated by Gary Lee, seconded by Lizette Pugh
<b>Mrs Janet Lee</b>	nominated by Lizette Pugh, seconded by Gary Lee
<b>Mrs Geraldine Mason</b>	nominated by Christine Watts, seconded by Mary Toone
<b>Mrs Mary Toone</b>	nominated by Geraldine Mason, seconded by Val Capewell

Mrs Capewell asked if it might be possible to co-opt one of the officers, rather than them serving as an elected member, so all new nominees might be accommodated. This was deferred to the meeting of the PCC and all were asked to vote for 4 candidates. As a result of the election, it was confirmed that Clive Hilton, Janet Lee, Geraldine Mason and Mary Toone were elected. According to C of E rules, a random drawing of one name was used to determine who would take the casual vacancy of 2 years. This was Geraldine Mason.

##### **b. Independent Examiner / Auditor**

Val Capewell proposed we continue to use Central Business Services, seconded by Geraldine Mason, and this motion was carried.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

##### **5.1 Shaped by God Together**

Rev Resch reported on the deanery meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April. He explained that three areas were being examined, finances, buildings, and ministry, this meeting focusing on models of ministry. There were three proposals: a minster model, where a team of clergy would operate out of a larger, central church, servicing local churches, a mission model, based on a geographical area in which churches are linked eg round a large school catchment area, and a network model, linking churches with a similar outlook or focus eg youth work or environment. The common theme was of 'teams' of clergy. The decision timetable is very tight, aiming for October 2021, but no implementation timetable has been mentioned. The driving force has been the impending retirement of many clergy, and a shortfall in finances, accelerated by the pandemic.

Lizette Pugh expressed concern that our way of worshipping is under threat, and she is aware of some clergy being concerned about becoming managers rather than priests. She proposed employing a moderator to lead our parish group before joining in discussions with Mountsorrel, but the general feeling was that this was something we could do in house. Rev Resch said he had solicited opinion from the PCC as to how to conduct the local 'conversations' but that this would have to be bound by COVID regulations. As the clear direction is on reducing stipendiary priests and increasing non-stipendiary and lay participation, he stressed the importance of being part of the process.

##### **5.2 Living in Love and Faith book**

Rev Resch drew the meeting's attention to this which explores the church's teaching on identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage, to be followed by a course led by Alison White, probably in June. Free download is available from:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/LLF%20Web%20Version%20Full%20Final.pdf>

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.06pm