**Parish of St Barnabas and St Paul, with St Thomas the Martyr**

**Minutes of the Election of Churchwardens**

**followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Held on Sunday 30 April 2023 at 12.30 pm**

**At St Barnabas Church**

Attending: Fr Christopher Woods (Vicar, in t e Chair), Chris Pownall, Birte Feix, Hilary Coyne-Barr, Zakia Al-Hareth, Priscilla Dewar, Genieve Boon, Helen Leung, Albert Chiu, Stephen Glover, Celia Montague, Cherry Robertson, Helen Brock, Sebastian Brock, Cheryl Codrington, Moss Whitham-Cooper, Claire Atkins, Mary Louise Culpepper, Jennifer Rushworth (accompanied by Flash Lab-Rushworth), Fr Matthew Salisbury, Philip Burnett, Dick Smethurst, Canon Sue Gillingham, Valerie Thomas, Roy Thomas, Penny Howe, Judith Gardiner, Martin Gardiner, Patricia Smith, Jenny Pittaway LLM, David Pittaway, Mary Boulton, Paul South, Claire Herbertson, Hanneke Wilson (Secretary)

**Election of Churchwardens**

Having been duly nominated, Claire Herbertson and Paul South were elected to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.

1. **Election of 3 parochial representatives of the laity to the PCC for a term of 3 years**: Mary Louise Culpepper, Zakia Al-Hareth and Helen Leung were nominated and elected
2. **Appointment of 2 Deanery Synod Representatives for a term of 3 years**: Birte Feix and David Pittaway were nominated and elected to serve for a further three-year term
3. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**: Michael Everett was appointed for the forthcoming year
4. **Electoral Roll**: the Electoral Roll Officer, David Pittaway, reported that the current number on the electoral roll is 92.
5. The minutes of last year’s meeting were approved and signed. There were no Matters Arising from the minutes.
6. **Annual Report of Proceedings of the PCC**, presented by the Vicar:

* The PCC is responsible for the mission of the Church in the community:
* Night Shelter: Maggie Ellis is stepping down from her role as LLM, and was warmly thanked for all that she had done, esp. her work with Night Shelter
* Parish Pantry: non-perishables continue to be available in Church; perishable items are now available from the St Barnabas Institute (Community Centre) every Tuesday evening
* Music: the choristers are flourishing, and the organ campaign continues while we make do with a temporary digital instrument. The Jericho Youth Choir has a new director, who lives locally, and has now got 20 members, who rehearse every Tuesday evening
* Inter-Church relations: we continue to host the Melkhites in St Barnabas, and the Romanian Orthodox in St Thomas the Martyr
* Parish School: Fr Christopher is now Chair of Governors; an Ofsted report is awaited
* Concerts: these continue to attract the local community, and some of those who come say they feel God’s presence even if they are not religious
* Outgoing PCC members: Fr Christopher thanked Hilary Coyne-Barr and William Bunce for their loyal service. Hilary has been an outstanding Treasurer, and the Parish is deeply grateful for her professionalism and selfless devotion to duty. She will remain available to give advice.

1. Hilary Coyne-Barr talked us through the **Annual Accounts**, and she and Fr Christopher answered questions about:

* the Galilee Room: the project has turned out to be much more complex than anticipated
* partnership with Nuffield: there has been no progress
* John Combes House: its future is not clear, but it will have to be restored

1. **Fabric Report**

* St Thomas the Martyr: Phase I of the works, roof and chancel, is now complete, and we are grateful for the help of the Oxford Churches Preservation trust; the work will now be extended further down the nave (Phase II), and Fr Christopher thanked Henry Sanders for continuing to mastermind the project
* St Barnabas: leaks in the roof are being attended to, and in May the Cumbrian Clock Company, which restored Big Ben, will complete the restoration of our clock

1. **Safeguarding:** see the Parish website
2. **Deanery Synod:** Birte Feix provided the following report:

Deanery synod met four times over the past year, once joint with Cowley.

The Revd Katie Tupling took over from Richard Doney as deanery synod secretary, and currently they’re looking for a treasurer and new lay chair as Prudence Dailey is standing down.

In May we discussed the Ukrainian refugee crisis and initiatives by local churches to welcome and support refuges.

July saw the joint synod with Cowley (which we could not attend), which had a discussion of the Oxford and Cowley strategy group on the agenda, an initiative to encourage co-operation between parishes in community projects.

In November we debated and passed the motion about the parish share, and as a PCC we are currently still investigating means of maximizing rebates by paying by certain deadlines. Unfortunately, a couple of conservative evangelical churches used this agenda item to raise their disagreement with Bishop Steven’s statement regarding *Living in Love and Faith* and essentially threatened to withhold the parish share.

The last meeting in March had no business to discuss and was for Mass and Stations of the Cross.

**AOB: none**

Fr Christopher concluded the meeting with the Grace.