

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BEMBRIDGE

SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2025 AT 11.45 a.m IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held on 27th April 2025

There were 74 Members present.

Revd. Stephen Daughtery was in the Chair and opened the meeting with a prayer and welcome to all in attendance. All documentation had been circulated via email and there were hard copies available at the back of church

- 1) **The Minutes** - Geoff Green proposed that the Minutes of the previous APCM held on 14th April 2024 should be accepted as a true and accurate record and this was seconded by Tracey Vallance and agreed unanimously by all those present. The Minutes were duly signed.
- 2) **Matters Arising** – there were none.
- 3) **Church Electoral Roll** – A presentation was made to Diana Bown the retiring Electoral Roll Officer in gratitude of her many years of service.

Tracey Vallance, as the acting Electoral Roll Officer, reported that a new Electoral Roll had been created this year as is required every sixth year. Tracey thanked everyone who had completed the requisite form and reported that the current number is 206. She advised that there are 86 people who were on the Roll in 2020 but who are no longer registered. However, there are 118 on the new roll who were not on the 2020 roll which means that half of our membership since Covid is new which is very encouraging.

Tracey advised that she is developing the new website for Holy Trinity and the Electoral Roll will be included. This means we can each update our information if changes occur. A list of the new Electoral Roll (names only) will be displayed at the back of church in due course. Thanks were extended to Tracey for her hard work and diligence,

- 4) **Election of 9 persons to the Parochial Church Council** – Steve advised that the Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Church and that they are required to consider and consent, where appropriate, to proposals. Steve said this allows him to sit back and listen and he promised that he **does** listen!!

He explained that there are 15 Ordinary Members elected for a three year term - 5 each year. In addition there are two ex officio members as Clergy namely himself and Clare, two Churchwardens, one Reader (Tim Woodward) ex officio, two Deanery Synod Reps (Toni Swann and Fran Weil). This year we have eight vacancies - 5 for 3 years, 2 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year. However, we have nine nominations so there will be an additional co-opted member. Steve said the nomination forms had been completed appropriately and their bios were available to read:-

It was agreed by all present that the nine names would be drawn out of a hat and their term of office is as follows:-

**3 years** – Dell Bailey, Geoff Green, Alison Kinsella, Trevor Matthews, Tracey Vallance

**2 years** – Sally Davies, Rosie Oppe

**1 year** - Andy Hough, Co-Opted: Nigel Rawlence

## 5) Looking Back – HTB Trustees Annual Report P 1-4

This had been available in hard copy in church for the previous two weeks and also on line. Steve said that we had been on an exciting journey together for the past four years with our **Vision** to be a deeper, more vibrant and growing multi generational community in Christ. Steve questioned whether or not we are achieving this and therefore considered, again, the five building blocks he had talked of last year.

**Preaching and Teaching** – We have Clare and Ian Vallance as well as Steve for preaching giving much more variety and depth

**Worship and Prayer** – we have continued with our established pattern of services with blended styles, including modern and traditional, with choir and band led musical worship and aim to extend this further.

**Fellowship and Pastoral Care** – led by Barbara Arthure this element has grown and relationships have developed with groups, home visits, token gifts and a general meaningful attention to caring for others. Steve acknowledged that his role as Archdeacon had compromised his ability to be as pro-active in this area as he would like. However, he intends to put that right now that he has resigned as Archdeacon. He extended thanks to Stuart Holt who had played an invaluable roll in home communion and visits to the local care homes. This is now being taken care of by Bevaly Racket who is the Curate at Brading

**Outreach and Social Justice** – Holy Trinity successfully applied for a grant of £42k from the Church of England's National funding body to appoint a Flourish Worker half time for two years. The aim is to establish a new worshipping community of children, parents, teachers and church in school with age appropriate activities. Thanks are due to Sally Holt who started this initiative and this is now in the care of Heather Gray-Newton who hopes to establish a new congregation of Holy Trinity embedded within the school. Trinity Church Mice continues to prosper and is a supportive way of connecting with the wider village community and it has been exciting to see more children being baptised.

Whilst the village is our priority we also reach out far and beyond with Needs and Seeds, Yes Uganda, Hope in Ukraine and A Rocha UK where we have achieved the Silver Eco Church award

**Serving and Giving** – The Diocese of Portsmouth has been funding extra support for Holy Trinity for Margaret Jones (2 days a week Parish admin) and Karen Silvester (1/2 day a week Bookkeeping). The Friends continue to be a blessing for our church and under the Chairmanship of Michael McInnes have given some £150k. Thanks were extended to Michael who has now handed over the Chairmanship to Crispin Kenyon. In addition we have 116 different people in the church doing some 67 different serving roles from pastoral care, to gardening to offering lifts. Steve said we are truly blessed.

A question was raised with regard to the removal of pews and Steve assured the meeting that there are no immediate plans to remove any more but invited those present to write to him with any concerns

## 6) Presentation of Accounts and Financial Report for the year ended

**December 2024 including the Budget for 2025** – Jos Coad, as Treasurer, advised that the Accounts had been displayed at the back of church. He reported that there is a strong monthly giving by direct debit resulting in a surplus of £7,500 which is 11.5% up on 2023. Loose plate collections are also better and tax recovered on gift aid has also increased. The major expenditure is Parish Share which has increased by 5% and amounts to £68,054p.a. The cost of utilities has increased dramatically because we came to the end of a fixed price agreement.

We have reserves of £47,000 and the major works which are proposed in the church are largely covered by The Friends to whom we are extremely grateful. Jos concluded by saying that our finances are on a solid footing thanks to the generosity of the congregation. He extended thanks to Karen Silvester who has taken over the bookkeeping and also to Pam Browning who has now retired after many years administering the monthly giving scheme.

Jos said the Budget for 2025 remains largely the same with a surplus of £3,064 Clare proposed that the Accounts should be accepted and this was seconded by Diana.

8) **Appointment of Independent Examiner** – Jos reported that we had used the University of Portsmouth for two years and that they tended to be very slow in examining the accounts although they had been presented in plenty of time. Once again they have raised small queries which has caused a delay and he suggested that we find a different independent examiner for next year and this was agreed by all present

9) **Received Reports on the Life of the Church** - All the various reports had been published on the website and were available in hard copy at the back of church

a. **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments** – There were no matters arising from this report

b. **Buildings Report** – Steve advised that it is hoped work will commence on the tower fairly soon

c. **Safeguarding Report and Policy** – The policy was agreed by all present and adopted and will be posted at Holy Trinity, St. Luke's and in Cloisters and on the website. Steve said that any concerns or questions should be directed to Christine Behan our Safeguarding Officer

d. **Health & Safety Report and Policy** – Steve offered thanks to Pete Myatt our Health & Safety Officer and we are indebted to him for his expertise. It was agreed by all present that the policy should be adopted and it will be displayed at Holy Trinity, St. Luke's and in the Cloisters. A question was raised regarding Health & Safety training which is given to those serving within the Church and whether this could be extended to those who use Cloisters. This will be followed up.

e. **Isle of Wight Deanery Synod** – Our reps are Toni Swann and Fran Weil and Clare attends as Clergy.

11) **Looking Forward HTB Trustees Annual Report, our Mission Action Plan p5-7** – Steve said that the roll of Archdeacon had been enjoyable but overwhelming and that as a result he had been unable to fulfil all that he wanted to do at Holy Trinity. He had therefore tendered his resignation to Bishop Jonathan and that, as of Easter Day, he was no longer Archdeacon. He continues for half a day as Strategy for the Diocese and five and a half days as Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity. This gives him the chance to renew the Vision and the use of the five Building Blocks. He is excited about the Flourish initiative and the growth of a multigenerational congregation and a vision for inspirational musical worship. We need a visional leader to grow and support this on the basis of two days a week. He talked of a Godshaped person to fill a Godshaped hole. There are lots of plans being thought about and he promised full consultation with the congregation and invited input.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm