

Annual Parochial Church Council
Meeting of Holy Trinity Church of Seer Green & Jordans
held on Monday 23rd May 2023

Chairman: Revd Jez Carr
Minute taker: Olwyn Davison-Oakley

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. He thanked Louise Gilbertson, the Pastor at the Baptist Church for her partnership in the work of the Kingdom in Seer Green, and how there was a huge resonance between the two churches. Also, thanks to Janine for her work as Church Warden, especially with the problems over the winter months managing the heating.

2. Prayer

The open meeting was started with a prayer.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Janine Dunnell was proposed by Olwyn Davison-Oakley and seconded by Audrey Hardy. 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 Linda West and agreed by all.

7. Statutory Reports

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

a) Electoral Roll Report – There are 101 members on the register, down from 111 the previous year. The PCC adopted the report as correct. Heather Rowe was thanked for her work on this.

b) Annual report of the activities of the church

Church report (Revd Jez Carr).

Jez started his report talking about the problems that had arisen because of the breakdown of the heating in the church and how this had brought forward thoughts around the church moving forward in Seer Green and Jordans, and what would facilitate this vision being realised. He recognised that this had come about much more quickly than originally anticipated.

He asked for us to consider five generic people in the Parish who we would like to reach better in the villages of Seer Green and Jordans. These demographics were being significantly under-represented in the church. He felt that there were two questions that we could ask ourselves of these five people:

- I. How do we express the kingdom of God in action by responding to their felt practical needs?
- II. In partnership with that, how do we give them opportunities to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus?

The five people were a teenager, a young mum, a young dad, a child and an elderly widow/widower. He then went through what these people needed and how they could be helped. All five would benefit from a flexible place where they could come together and access the opportunity for talking with friends and their children, socialising, studying, receiving support when needed, decompressing, enjoy affordable refreshments so that no-one needs to feel isolated. He talked about making the church accessible for all, especially those with mobility challenges. He is aware that a wide range of services are needed in many places, not just in the church, for young people.

Jez is delighted that there is a real energy starting in the village to address these needs, and he then thanked Sarah for her willingness to become more engaged with the teenagers in the villages, to Janna Holder for her ongoing and invaluable work in Children and Families ministry and Tom for his work, trying to get the boiler repaired so that we will not be going into the winter months in a cold church.

A more flexible place in the church is needed, with more comfortable chairs which can be moved to accommodate different activities and that people can sit facing each other, or play musical instruments together. To provide a space that parents can concentrate on the service without the pressure of managing their children so that the effect of their child is not negative for others. In addition to changing the fabric of our church we need to consider providing a space to meet in that isn't in the church itself, that is less formal. Jez described the church which would allow for greater accessibility, one that is adequately heated, one that would allow financial support ministry, one that could accommodate the whole school, one that provides a space for concerts with staging.

Nothing will happen without consultation and involvement with the Congregation and various people outside of the Parish.

He asked what it would be like if we had a café, a new entrance and a Mezzanine that could be acoustically isolated if needed? These are just

some of the questions that have been raised. A team has been formed to look in depth at these proposals, and they are Revd Jez Carr, Janna Holder, Tom Allen, Jane Spoerry and Peter Vinall.

Question from Linda – this sounds very vibrant and exciting but would there be a place for quiet reflection and prayer in this? Would we retain this sacred place?

Answer – we are very much thinking about the retention of the sacred space.

Question from Colin – He would like to see Holy Trinity reaching out more to Jordans. Memories of services being held in the Village Hall were recalled.

Answer – this is something that Jez would like to see develop. He would be very pleased to see services happening again in the Village Hall.

Charity Committee Report. (Jane Spoerry)
Taken as reported.

Children's and Families Ministry report (Janna Holder)

The work with young children and families in the village continues to be of huge value to all concerned. A great blessing and joy this year has been the ability to plan activities without the worry of them being cancelled due to the situation in the previous three years. Credit was paid to Ali Cork and her work in Jordans with Toddlers in the Woods. Thanks were made to her and her team. Explore and various activities in the Baptist Church are very exciting and well attended by families. Again, mention was made regarding the need for a space where teenagers could meet and how this could lead to growth spiritually. This is an exciting prospect in the plans for the future.

Jez thanked Janna for all her work and specifically talked about gospel ministry for the young children and families in the church being down to her enthusiasm and work.

c) Financial Statement

Audrey had circulated her report. Planned giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and standing orders has increased by approximately 5.5%, due to inflation linked giving. This averages out at £89 per person per month. General collections have returned to pre-covid levels. Energy costs have been helped by being in a fixed cost scheme. Maintenance, mainly of the heating system, have depleted the maintenance budget. Fund raising needs to increase in order to top up this fund. In context, the planned giving cover 93% of the parish share which doesn't leave very much over. The Parish Church Hall rent pays for the clergy, the admin salaries and expenses – Jez, Janna and Jane. The income tax recovered pays for the running costs – utilities, insurance, website and Wi-Fi. Reserves look better, but this is due to the reduced Parish Share for a House for Duty vicar.

Question from Nora - Is the planned giving just from people on the electoral roll?

Answer - Yes, it is believed to be.

Question from Rachel – what was the £730 fundraising from, and have there been any church fetes?

Answer – the 175th birthday of the church when we had tea, coffee and cakes, and a raffle. We have not organised a church fete since before the pandemic. The aim is to fundraise strategically when we have some idea of what we need for the whole building project, rather than in dribs and drabs. There are also many school fundraising activities this summer.

d) Church Fabric Report

Janine had circulated the report. Minimal work has been done, mainly normal maintenance and repairs to the boiler and heating.

e) Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Janine had circulated a report. These meetings are now much more energised since returning to face-to-face meetings. Linda West agreed that there are interesting and of great value.

f) Safeguarding Report

Olwyn had circulated a report which was self-explanatory. She explained who she was and that safeguarding was a high priority in Holy Trinity, that abuse happens everywhere, even in Seer Green and Jordans. She talked about working with Jez to make the safeguarding profile even higher, and how it could be included more regularly in the services and life of the church. Jez thanked Olwyn for all her work in this area, recognising the importance of keeping everyone safe. There were no questions.

8) Non-Statutory Report

a. ECO church report.

This had been circulated. Nora was thanked for her hard work on eco-church.

9) Elections

a. Independent examiner – David Jordan has agreed to be the Independent Examiner. This was agreed by everyone.

b. Election of new PCC members:

Janice Barrett

Tom Allen

Rene Schurtenberger

There were no other nominations.

Nora Bennett, Olwyn Davison-Oakley, Audrey Hardy, Sue Puttergill and Linda West were renewed as members of the PCC.

Existing members are Jez Carr, Janine Dunnell and Janna Holder.

These appointments were agreed by everyone.

It was noted that Anthony was going through the process of being appointed to the PCC, but the necessary safeguarding checks had not been completed in time for this meeting.

- c. Linda West has stepped down from the Deanery Synod. Rene Schurtenberger has agreed to replace her. The members on the Deanery Synod are Janine Dunnell and Rene. All agreed to this appointment.

Question from Geoffrey – Please could we have a list of the members of the PCC visible in church or in the entrance so that we know who they are? Also, can one member of the PCC be responsible for the distribution of the PCC minutes to the larger congregation and community?

Answer – Yes to both questions. We will look into making sure this happens.

10) Thank-you

Mark Webb is stepping down from the PCC. Mark has served the church in the capacity for a long time. He is happy to continue effecting small repairs to the church, as necessary, but no longer wishes to be involved in the meetings. We are hugely grateful to him.

Linda West - Deanery Synod. Linda was presented with a bouquet of flowers on her retirement from this group.

Jez then thanked the following people:

Sarah – prayer station
AV team (Lois, Janine, Janna)
Ali Cork and her team - Toddlers in the Woods
Nora Bennett – Eco-Church
Cake makers
Kathy Campbell - minute taker
Cleaners
Olwyn Davison-Oakley – Lay chair, PCC and Parish Safeguarding Office
Janine Dunnell – Churchwarden
Flower Guild
Janna Holder – Children’s Ministry, maintaining our Facebook pages and WhatsApp
Intercessors
David Jordan – auditor
Leaders/Preachers at services
Louise Gilbertson - Baptist Church.
Open and Closers
Parish Magazine editors and distributors
Pastoral Care group – led by Heather Rowe
PCC

Pew sheet editors
Prayer and Intercession groups
Readers
Sacristan - Anne Wall
Monica Sado - 8 O'clock Club
Jane Spoerry - Administration and historical knowledge of the church
Tea and coffee servers
Vergers
David Wall - maintaining our website
Welcomers

11) AOB

Janna Holder thanked Revd Jez Carr for all of his work and ministry in Seer Green and Jordans.

Question from Monica – Looking at fundraising, are we applying to trusts?

Answer - Yes, we will be. There is someone who has volunteered to do this for us.

Comment from Katharine – Fundraising is a lot about fun-raising, not just money. She is happy to organise smaller fundraising activities like tea and cakes, so that we get enjoyment from them.

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