**PARISH OF HEATH AND REACH WITH EGGINGTON**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**Via Zoom**

**Present:** See attached list

The Vicar opened the meeting with a Mission prayer.

The Vicar chaired the meetingand NicoleWaldock welcomed people and explained the Zooming arrangements.

**Apologies for absence:** Tricia Humber, unwell.

**Election of Church Wardens**

Jane Dempster Mason and Richard Page had taken up the roles last October and were complimented on the way in which they had thrown themselves with enthusiasm into their work. Both were willing to continue and had been nominated. There were no other nominations.

Jane was proposed by Ann Gomersall, seconded by Paul Brown and elected unanimously.

Richard was proposed by Alan Gomersall, seconded by Paul Brown and elected unanimously.

This meeting ended.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**1. Report on the changes to the Electoral Roll.** Jane Newman, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there were 76 people on the roll, 65 from St. Leonard’s and 11 from St. Michael’s. During the year two people had died and 3 new names were added. Jane was thanked for her work, much of which involves deadlines and behind-the-scenes activities.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2020.** These were proposed for adoption by Richard Page, seconded by Jill Thomas and approved unanimously. There were no Matters Arising.

**3. Church Wardens’ Report on the Fabric of the Church.** Written reports from St. Leonard’s and St. Michael’s had been circulated. Richard and Jane were thanked for their work as were Carol Hart and Paul Brown who act as wardens for St. Michael’s.

**4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish.** Ann Gomersall had submitted a written report, drawing attention to the strains placed on the parish because of the pandemic with most of our social and fund-raising activities unable to happen. Ann drew attention to the report from the church hall and noted Corinna’s efforts to use every opportunity of partial unlocking to utilise the hall to keep it in the public eye and make a small income.

Rosemary Forsyth pointed out that the magazine had kept going throughout the pandemic and thanked all those involved.

The report drew attention to the wonderful work done by Noel to keep worship and fellowship going through the use of Zoom.

Gratitude was expressed to the many people who have supported Noel and continued their involvement in the churches.

**5. Deanery Synod Report.** Tricia Humber had submitted a written report. Again, the Deanery meetings and activities were affected by the pandemic but interesting meetings had been held.

**6. Elections to the Deanery Synod.** Linda Morris and Tricia Humber had been elected last year for a three-year term. We have a further place available. Noel, supported by Linda, recommended involvement in the Deanery which gave insight and access into the wider church in the Diocese**.**

**7. Election of members of the PCC**. Three people were to retire but were eligible to stand again. Val Cooer had opted not to stand as she is likely to leave the area shortly. Val was thanked for her years of valuable support as church warden and as a PCC member. Carol Hart and Linda Page both volunteered to continue. Carol was proposed by Anne Sheppard and seconded by Pauline Brown and Linda Page was proposed by Nicole Waldock and seconded by Kin Anwyl. Both were elected unanimously. There is vacancy on the PCC. Ann thanked all the PCC members who were dedicated to the life of the two churches and put in a lot of time and effort.

**8. Presentation of the Accounts.** The Financial Reports had beentabled**.** Jill Thomas highlighted the fact that we had only been able to pay all of the quota for 2020 by draining our reserves. It is unlikely that we will be able to pay much at all this financial year. We had been able to give one hundred rather than two hundred pounds to our chosen charities. We had been fortunate in receiving legacies and some generous donations. The Church Hall income was down one third and the replacement of the hall doors cost over £4000, fortunately covered by a legacy. The virtual May Fayre had raised £675. The Plant Sale on 15th May had been a success; for the first time people could use a credit or debit card which seemed to encourage sales.

Jill thanked those who had increased their Free Will Offerings but pointed out that we had lost some of our donators during last year. She thanked Tony Mellodey and Tricia Humber for collecting the Inland Revenue refunds.

Jill then took questions. Neil Forsyth asked how we were going to pay the Quota. Jill responded that in meetings with Deanery treasurers it was clear most churches would be in the same position but that we need to increase our regular giving.

Neil then questioned the PCC’s priorities as the decision making process had resulted in deciding to spend over £2000 on WiFi and a permanent broadcasting platform when there were other priorities such as the driveway to the church hall and the quota. Alan Gomersall pointed out also that the church was in need of work, e.g. to replace light bulbs, and improve the paintwork. As Zooming services had resulted in a much increased congregation, it was likely that this would continue into the future as we seek to reach out and grow our church. Noel explained that the congregation had grown from 30 people when Zooming started at the beginning of lockdown to 130. At present its success depends on Noel’s laptop and Bert Newman’s expertise and, were we to have the proposed equipment, anyone taking a service or using the church could utilise the equipment. Also, the WiFi would extend to the church hall making it attractive for more commercial hirers who might pay more. Passions were raised on all sides and it was agreed that this issue must be a priority for the PCC. However, the purchase of the equipment has been put in motion.

An appeal has gone out to the congregation for contributions to the broadcasting platform which was already generating gifts.

Various suggestions were made for trying to obtain grants for the hall driveway which is hazardous at present. For example an appeal to local quarrying firms or to local residents or user groups who use the hall.

St. Michael’s financial report had been submitted and Carol Hart said that all their bills had been paid up to date. They maintain reserves in funds which are restricted.

Nicole Waldock proposed that the Accounts be adopted, seconded by Alan Gomersall and carried unanimously.

**9. Appointment of Auditors.** Jill proposed that Martin Broadly be appointed as auditor for St. Leonard’s accounts. (Seeing our parlous state this year he had waived his modest fee.) Carol proposed David Thompson. These were seconded by Jane Dempster and Anne Sheppard and carried unanimously.

**10. Vicar’s remarks.** Noel showed a series of slides to prompt our thinking. Two quotes were “Make hospitality your special care” and “Be the change you want to see”.

He had been considering our Mission Action Plan whose intention is to enable us to learn from the experience of the last year to direct our path ahead. Reaching Net Zero is also on the agenda.

The success of Zooming services was exemplified at this morning’s Communion Service where there were 39 people in St. Leonard’s church and 42 on Zoom. 25 to 30 people attend morning worship and there are 123 people on the emailing list. This makes consideration of the pattern of worship critical. Noel acknowledged the deaths of Joan Russell and Roy Gibbons. He also thanked all those who are involved in all aspects of the life of the two churches.

Noel was thanked for all he does and particularly for how he has responded to the pandemic and grown the congregation.

**11. Any Other Business.** Jane Dempster wished to place on record her passionate support of the broadcasting platform as a well-deserved aid to Noel. The PCC have weighty matters to consider including our Mission Action Plan, financial priorities and patterns of worship and some suggestions to pursue.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

Approved……………………………………………………………………….Date……………….