

# All Saints, Hérault

## The English Church at Saint Pargoire

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting held at The Temple, St Pargoire at 11.45 am on Sunday 20 March 2022

The Reverend Roger Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

Members named on the electoral roll signed in. The meeting was quorate.

- 1 **Chairman of the Meeting** It was agreed that Roger Smith should chair the meeting.
- 2 **Minute-taker** John Gifford proposed and Patricia Bigot seconded Delia Smith. Agreed.
- 3 **Appointment of Presiding Officer** Alison Kane proposed and Ingrid Summersall seconded Roger Smith. Agreed.
- 4 **Minutes of last Annual Meeting** Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2021 were approved, proposed Jane Griffin, seconded Sue Robinson.
- 5 **Term of Office of Churchwardens**

Roger reminded the meeting that it had previously been decided that the Church Representation rule that churchwardens could only serve a maximum of six years should not apply to this chaplaincy. However, the current wardens preferred that successive annual meetings vote on this measure. Julie Johnson proposed and John Gifford seconded that the six-year rule be waived. Agreed.
- 6 **Election of two Churchwardens** Patricia Bigot and Nigel Summersall had been nominated. In the absence of further nominations, the chairman declared them elected. They were thanked for all they do.
- 7 **Election of three Chaplaincy Council members** Jac Phillips and Ian Thomas had been nominated. In the absence of further nominations, the chairman declared them elected.
- 8 **Annual Report and Accounts 2021** The report and accounts had been made available prior to the meeting and was accepted. Proposed Julie Johnson, seconded Graham Gardner. Nigel Summersall was thanked for producing such a comprehensive report.
- 9 **Appointment of Independent Examiner** Robert Wilson was proposed by Nigel Summersall, seconded by John Gifford. Agreed. A vote of thanks to John Holmes, who had audited the accounts since the beginning of the church, was proposed from the chair. It was agreed that Nigel would pass on thanks along with a gift of champagne, which Martha Vincent offered to provide.
- 10 **Discharge of liability** Proposed Sue Robinson, seconded John Griffin that the outgoing council be discharged from financial and/or civil liability for their conduct of chaplaincy affairs during 2021. Agreed.
- 11 **Chaplain's Report** The report had been made available prior to the meeting and was noted.
- 12 **Discussion**
  - 12.1 **Data Projector** The chaplaincy council sought comments on the use of a projector for services. The chairman listed some "pros" and "cons". Following discussion, John Gifford proposed and Alison Kane seconded that we **not** buy a projector. Agreed by a large majority.

12.2 **Madagascar** It was proposed from the chair that members endorse the Chaplaincy Council's decision to form a link with the parish of Fenoarivo in the Toliara Diocese in Madagascar. Several members felt strongly that a "twinning" should go beyond the initial aims of the link: getting to know each other, sharing friendship and giving mutual prayer support. John Griffin, who had been directly involved in the Toliara Diocese, explained how other "twinning" worked. The link, beginning with the initial aims and possibly developing, was approved unanimously.

12.3 **Safeguarding** Steven Hopkins, Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer, said that church safeguarding practices had come about to protect the church as an institution and protect people from the church. Safeguarding is not to be confused with pastoral care. Whilst individuals are, for example, giving lifts to church as friends, safeguarding clearance and training are not required. Should the chaplaincy organise such help, helpers would need to undergo safeguarding clearance and training, which can be a lengthy process. However, all members have a responsibility to ensure that no-one is being exposed to risk and should alert the Safeguarding Officer, Churchwardens and/or Chaplain if they have any concerns.

Steven reminded members that all are encouraged to do at least the first safeguarding training course, which is available via the chaplaincy website.

Roger Smith closed the meeting at 12.30 with a prayer and the blessing.