

## CHRIST CHURCH BANGOK

### Minutes of the 2011 Annual Church Meeting

Held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in the Li Hall

**Chairman:** Rev Peter Cook  
**Acting Secretary:** Mary Vongsuly  
**In attendance:** 66 members as per the attached attendance sheet.

- 1. Welcome:** Peter Cook called the meeting to order at 12:07 and welcomed all present. Two copies of the electoral roll were circulated for those present to sign and receive a ballot paper.
- 2. Opening prayer:** Peter gave thanks and prayed for the Holy Spirit to direct our meeting in the way we should follow.
- 3. Apologies:** Douglas Gibson, Lerato Mashile, Adrienne Blomberg
- 4. Minutes of 2010 AGM:** Steve Goode proposed and Geoffrey Hattersley seconded that the minutes be approved. The meeting passed the minutes without dissent.

**Matters arising:** Item 13.3 Jim Elliot was told that the PCC had limited attendance at the 'Home day' to the PCC members since its purpose is to build PCC relationships and plan and pray.

**Item 13.1** Claire Haymes asked if the confusion over Outreach cheques had been settled. She was told it had been solved satisfactorily.

- 5.** The Vicar gave comments on his report – which see-.

He gave thanks for what God has been doing in the parish in the last year. He was especially thankful for the grace of God at work in the members of the parish, for lives changed, and for the flow of visitors blessing and being blessed

One unforgettable event of the year was the Red Shirts protests. The church compound was host to several shifts of a few hundred police over the period. They rested in the Li hall we gave hospitality to them and Christian tracts were made available to them. The Vicar expressed thanks to Andre and Roderick who checked up on the vicarage daily to see that he and Ineke were all right.

There had been a greater than usual number of re-locations affecting the parish. The Children's ministry had seen a great number of changes and he gave God thanks for all who had stepped up to fill the gaps.

On staff and missionary placements, the Vicar gave thanks for Manik and Maple, the work of John and Gwyneth on the border, and Jane coming forward to oversee the Karen ministry.

- 6. Appointment of Vicar's Warden**

The Vicar told the meeting that Brett Fotheringham had accepted his invitation to remain as Warden for the coming year.

- 7. Election of People's Warden.**

Before the elections began, Clive Atterbury noted that several PCC candidates had not completed all sections of the candidates' slips and asked if they could say something about themselves before the voting took place. The vicar explained that there was ample space on the forms to complete these details as could be seen by those who had. It was requested they be given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The Chairman said he would continue with the process later at its correct place.

## **Election of People's warden**

The Vicar thanked the outgoing Warden, Melinda, for her year of service. Claudia Walthall was nominated and in the absence of further nominations duly elected.

## **8. Election of the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary as nominated by the 2010 PCC.**

The PCC's re-nomination of the Hon. Treasurer, David Worthington and of the Hon. Secretary, Lerato Mashile was received with no objections and duly confirmed.

## **9. Election of Eight PCC representatives.**

Ten candidates were listed on the voting slip. The Vicar explained that it was not clear when and how elections for the ACT Representatives happened and he was informed too late to publicise before the meeting (this needs to be firmed up). He proposed, with the meetings permission, to ask Mayurin Fordham to stand as ACT representative, and to have a seat on the PCC. Mayurin consented and was duly appointed by the meeting without dissent.

The remaining 9 candidates were then each given the opportunity to speak to the meeting as earlier requested. The voting slips were collected by the two tellers, Melinda Burnette and Tong Tao.

The result of the election, reported later, was that the following were elected: Adrienne Blomberg, Howard Bryant, David Eastgate, Derick Garnier, Archara Gosling, Bob Gosling, Roderick Turner and Mary Vongsuly.

## **Synod Representative.**

There was only one candidate put forward, Ineke Cook, and she was duly elected.

Jim Elliot expressed doubt over the value of the expenses involved in travelling to Singapore to Synod. The Vicar said that we have a role to play within the Diocesan family.

## **10. Reports.**

The Vicar invited questions on each of the published reports in turn.

Jane Fucella commented on the anonymity of the PCC small groups. They needed publicising better. The Vicar accepted that more needed to be done. He pointed out that notes on PCC meetings were published after each meeting. He asked people to be more proactive and to communicate through the wardens as well as directly with him. Claire Haymes felt the working groups needed to be highlighted.

Turning to the Outreach Report, Jane Fucella enquired whether there was a misprint in the heading "Breakdown of support during 2011" and under "Comments" where the wording read "con't into 2012". Ineke responded that there were, indeed, mistakes. The heading should read "during 2010" and the comment read, "con't into 2011".

On Inreach, Claire Haymes said the group was not well known and should spread information. She wondered how we were supposed to support one another if we did not know each others needs and problems.

Pres Kuhonta remarked with sadness that the library books were no longer put out on the tables for people to pick up and borrow.

Claire Haymes wondered what the lines of communication with the Border Karen Ministry were and communication through John and Gwyneth Cooper. The Vicar explained that there were several. The PCC receives a monthly report after visits. Then there is the 3 often 4 times per year Border News

the latest edition of which was out that Sunday, and some Sunday services given over to the needs in full or in part.

## **11. Hon. Treasurer's Report**

The accounts, as attached, were presented. Clive Atterbury queried why they were presented unaudited. The treasurer responded that the auditor had in fact signed them off the previous week. He was asked about the Auditor's report. Any interested parishioner may see the report on asking at the church office. A motion to receive the accounts was proposed by Steve Goode and seconded by Geoffrey Hattersley. All were in favour.

Treasurer David, then turned to the 2011 budget and showed slides showing trends in income and expenditure. He asked for any questions. Jim Elliott enquired whether the expenses for an associate minister had been included. He was told that they had not. Jane Fucella asked who had set the budget and on what logic. The treasurer responded that he had, basing the figures on last year's actual and that the PCC had agreed it unanimously.

The budget was received by a majority show of hands.

A round of applause was given for David, Gerrit and Panjit for all their work on the figures.

It was proposed that the Church should continue with the same auditors for 2011. The proposal was accepted on a show of hands.

## **12. Proposal for Constitutional text changes. (See appendix I for details)**

The Vicar explained that the proposed changes were updating the vocabulary, simplifying, and rationalizing the text. There were no major changes in the purport of the articles.

First the meeting considered Article I **THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH**. This was a simplification of the text. The words 'and not enrolled at another church in Thailand' should not have been in bold type. One can still be a member of a church overseas and enrol at CC, but not be registered as a member of another church in Thailand. This does not mean, of course, that one may not worship at other churches. Brett proposed and Melinda seconded acceptance of this article. It was carried by a show of hands with none against.

The meeting next considered the updating type of changes and they were generally approved except for a perceived omission. Under COMPOSITION OF THE PCC mention was made to The Thai Management Committee. There was no other reference to this. The oversight was corrected by replacing in the "Preamble" the words from the 1997 version of the constitution: *"The Parish of Christ Church shall consist of the English -language congregation, the Thai-speaking congregation, and other language congregations as may be established at the discretion of the PCC. The PCC may allow each congregation to maintain a Management Council to be chaired by the Vicar's appointee, and reporting to the PCC."* This paragraph is to be included in the new Preamble as its third paragraph. That having been decided, Melinda proposed and Brett seconded that the 'tweaks to the constitution be passed. The amendments were passed with none against and no abstentions.

Attention next was focussed on the Preamble. The paragraph re Management Councils as described above was inserted before the final paragraph. A question was raised about the Deanery. It was explained that this was not a Deanery as understood in the UK (there are not enough parishes) but a Mission Deanery. Pres Kuhonta supported by Claire Haymes queried the use of the word 'Protestant' defining Christians. Brett responded that it was to echo the wording of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn, Rama V's gift of land to 'Protestant Christians' and that the final paragraph makes clear that we are open to all people regardless of denomination. A vote was taken on the Preamble, Steve Goode proposing and Geoffry Hattersly seconding. All were in favour with no abstentions.

Finally the meeting turned its attention to proposed Article VI.

Discussion started with Miranda Songsiridej putting a motion that this article be put on hold for further scrutiny and legal advice be taken. Mayurin Fordham seconded the motion. She feared that to put a charitable foundation under a religious body such as the PCC, might cause problems. Charitable foundations are not to be used for proselytizing. In reply, Mary Vongsuly, AICAC Chairman, said that it was quite normal for Protestant churches to run charitable (non-profit) foundations. She pointed out that the officials at the District Office knew well who we were, had endorsed our new objectives, and all Board members were approved by the BMA. Holding a foundation was the only way the PCC could own things other than through the ACT via the EFT. After some discussion the motion was put to the vote. There were 9 for, 17 against and 16 abstentions. Further questions were asked about legalities and, in the absence of clarity, the Chairman asked if the meeting agreed to withdraw the motion till a later date. The meeting agreed without dissent.

### **13 Recommendations to the incoming PCC**

No specific recommendations were requested

### **14 Vicar's comments.**

Peter referred to the sermon series leading up to this meeting. Each one is part of the Body of Christ and belongs to God. Together we are Christ's body and should be devoted to one another and to Christ. Growth and the building up of the body is our aim. See Ephesians 4:12-13 – 'It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Peter gave thanks for how God has been at work in the history of Christ Church. He said:

For over 100 years CCB has maintained her core calling to be a Protestant Church for all People. It has done that by being part of the Anglican family = able to embrace such diversity as found amongst us - @ least when working well it can.

It has maintained its responsibility to reach out to the expat community, one example just last Sunday as we enabled the gathering of New Zealanders in commemoration of the earthquake tragedy in Christchurch

There is the Karen ministry which CCB has had differing levels of responsibility for over more than 30 years – I got back from a trip yesterday evening

There is ministry amongst Thai people which has developed into a Thai congregation which is now part of the life of Christ Church Bangkok.

We have a calling and we have responsibilities to maintain – but we do that in a changing world – and church.

The building hasn't changed much – but in a changing world with more and more demands upon use of buildings by congregations - the grounds and fabric needs more management to keep things in good order.

Expatriate life has changed and continues to change. Our multi-national multi-ethnic church is a reflection of that – we are richer for it. But there are added complexities for church life.

The Karen ministry has changed and continues to change. Large donors want more accountability, child protection policies, project proposals, development modelling, and such like. All good things – but all means added work and expertise.

The Thai work is developing under the leadership of ACT – they not we are the vision carriers for the future Thai Anglican Church. Our place is to encourage and support. But their plans and hopes effect

us. Management of facilities becomes more complex – their vision for other Bangkok church plants and eventually a cathedral will affect us.

All this change means that we need to change and adapt. Yes we need to maintain the past – but to do that we must develop ourselves and invest in the future – otherwise the good of the past does not get carried on.

Development & Investment = 2 key words for this year.

**DEVELOPMENT.** This is to do with building up the body – of growing and maturing – strengthening and moving forward. We are at a growth ceiling. We have done well to grow as we have – both in numbers and in ministries - but it is probably not sustainable. All the research shows that church development can only go so far on one minister. The outgoing PCC has handed on the task of recruiting an Associate priest to work with the vicar in developing church life and the huge opportunities for ministry we have here. To build up the body this is needed. The alternative is to drop back a bit and settle back into maintenance.

**INVESTMENT.** Finance will require significant increase in come and some drawing on reserves which have built up healthily. The finance group is to be considering this and will bring it to the PCC and church. Prayer will also need investing in – for any recruitment and selection and partnerships. We will be seeing how we can develop the prayer life of the church during the year.

The outgoing PCC has handed on the need for us to have a second minister. It will mean more staff, more ministry, more finance. All this means **MORE PRAYER** as we invest in the future.

### **15 Closing Prayer.**

Steve Goode offered a vote of thanks to Peter and the outgoing PCC. The meeting closed with prayer at 14:23.