

Minutes of Carrigrohane Union of Parishes Easter General Vestry Meeting held on 14 April 2021 via zoom at 7.30 pm

Apologies: Joan & Alec Hales

Welcome & Introduction

Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming – all EGV meetings in Ireland will be held by zoom this year – hopefully a once in a lifetime experience! He explained how to ask questions and about the voting.

Opening Prayer – Robert Ferris

Reading – Luke 24: 13-35 – On the road to Emmaus – Bill Lane

Rector's Address:

Where is God at work with us here in the parish? The EGV is a time to look back, to celebrate and to consider where we're being called in the year ahead. Thinking back to the EGV in 2019 – we'd had a wedding in Blarney (Robert & Noelle Ferris!), we celebrated 200 years of worship in St Senan's, Inniscarra – FULL churches – hard to imagine at the moment! We then got the keys to TCC, the Covid pandemic hit and we began on-line worship. Ian retired, and now we're here at EGV. But that's not all! People have come to faith. Community interaction has increased. Prayer life has increased. There has been much generosity of people's time & talents & treasure. There has been heartache and joy: missed celebrations; frustrations; fear & isolation for many. Alpha has been held on-line – as has Growing Leaders and the rest of the Youth programme. Christmas cards and gifts to senior parishioners & friends have been delivered. Funding and support from areas outside the parish have been received (eg: Priorities Fund/Leader Funding/Council grants). God has been at work in the quiet places in the parish. What now – and for the future? We are well positioned to meet the future with confidence – it won't be easy but it is exciting! There is lots of admin for a Rector – which is daunting but not over-whelming because God is in control! We've an amazing team of people in the parish – willing & capable. All offers of help are welcome! Holding to our identity, purpose & values – Up, In, Out: Worshipping God – thankful for the team helping the on-line worship – and looking forward to being together in person. Thank you everyone for bearing with us – and please keep commenting on Sundays, it's encouraging and helpful to know who's 'in church'! Reaching in – pastoral care & discipleship - thank you for so much looking out for each other across the parish, and please call Robert when needed. Reaching out with the 5 marks of mission: proclaim the Good News, teach & nurture, safeguard creation, fight injustice, respond in loving service. Much to celebrate with all the activities that have begun and will begin in The Carraig Centre and our other buildings: exciting new energy around the church in St Peter's, Carrigrohane; thanks to the Eco group; Inniscarra's prayer trail and community activities and occasions; Blarney's activities and development. Everyone is encouraged to move between the congregations and share together – we are a family Union!

A few challenges: (Image of Lighthouse) we love being community together, but how do we make a difference to the big issues around us: poverty; violence (including gender-based and domestic); addictions; immigration & asylum issues; homelessness; mental health issues; grief; youth issues. TCC says we're a place of Hope – how do we do this/be this? Many connections are being built and we want to point to Jesus and to those who can help when we can't. May we be a community that provides hope for the vulnerable. Thank you to everyone in the parish – for sacrificial giving; to those who've held positions of responsibility in the recent year and years past; to the Select Vestry, including the Treasurer and Wardens; to all the volunteers across the parish – we couldn't operate without you! Talk to Robert if you've ideas! Thank you to the staff team in the office and the Matt, Katie & Sarah – the great youthwork team. Thank you to Chuck and Kathy, our Serge partners – for their pastoral care, encouragement and support. Thank you to Bill – for all the work as project manager of TCC – and for carrying on as Centre Manager since we opened – and to Janet and the family!

The Carraig Centre update:

Bill agreed the parish is a team! We're open a year – with only about 6 months 'live'! Lots has happened though – hosting services, youth work, with a great team of reception volunteers. Service to the community has ramped up faster than expected, perhaps because Covid closed some venues down and we were able to help. Enable Ireland adult day services is our main tenant and we've had to keep the building open as they're an essential service. Being able to open the playground to household bookings has been great for many people but there are some special stories: providing space for a socially distanced grandparent meet-up; for a 4 year old with Leukemia to play – following a full wipe-down by the dad; several groups of disabled and autistic kids with their carers; and a mum saying 'these 2 girls haven't been in a playground for a year'!

Governance: Thanks to Rob Devoy and Ivan McMahon for chairing groups, Jane Moffatt for all the legal work, Jessie Kindler as Board Secretary and all the Board members. Company Limited by Guarantee is established but not yet registered as a charity. So TCC is still operating as part of CUP with the Board as a sub committee of the SV. Charitable Status application is on-going.

Anchor tenant – several nibbles but no bites! Ivan is chairing the search committee. Financial summary has been circulated.

Elections:

Church Wardens:

St Peter's: Rector's: Jane Moffatt - People's: Laurel Watts

St Senan's: Rector's: vacant (which will go to SV) – People's: Richard Wood

Church of the Resurrection: Rector's: April Gunn - People's: Richard Bolster

Glebe Wardens: Rector's: Paddy Heron - People's: Robert Devoy

The People's wardens were all voted for on an electronic poll and all elected.

Election of Select Vestry:

Janice offered to be a co-opted member as Honorary Treasurer, so the other 12 on the list have all been elected: Doug Venn, Sarah Louise Hockey, Chris Hockey, Dan Wardle, Jessie

Kindler, Paula O'Callaghan, Bill Lane, Liz Kenning, Michael Kenning, Sylvia Bolster, Marion Murphy, Ivan McMahon.

Presentation of Accounts

Janice thanked the office for the help with finances and spoke to the summary figures from 2020 (accounts have been approved by SV and circulated).

There were no questions. Janice proposed the meeting accepts the accounts. Ivan seconded.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Last year's EGV meeting have been circulated, were approved and signed.

Signed:

Date: