Christ Church Vestry Meeting  
March 23, 2021 – via Zoom

**Evening Prayer** at 6:40 p.m. was led by the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

**Attending**
Clergy: Noelle York-Simmons  
2021: Abas Adenan, Jane Baird, Kevin Metz, Julie Zahn  
2022: Marilyn Bromley, Bob Cady, Carol Donlan, Mary Dixon Hutcheson  
2023: Betsy Hahn, Brett Levanto, Liz Nelson, Anne Ramsey  
2024: Sean Dalton, John Grey, Elizabeth Trigg, Libby Witt  
Others: Jilinda Crowley

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer**
The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Liz Nelson offered the Opening Prayer.

**Farewell to Outgoing Vestry Members**
Noelle thanked the departing members (Abas Adenan, Jane Baird, Kevin Metz and Julie Zahn) for their service. She noted that every class has dealt with different issues and changed the Rector for the better. She encouraged those leaving the vestry to serve in ways they are passionate about and to use what they have learned on the vestry to empower the rest of the church. The departing members left the meeting.

**Welcome to New Vestry Members**
Noelle welcomed the new vestry members (Sean Dalton, John Grey, Elizabeth Trigg and Libby Witt. There will be an orientation for new members in April. Noelle’s assistant Michelle Baize will contact the new members to schedule it. Other vestry members are welcome.

Several parishioners have asked if we could continue to elect vestry members electronically. Noelle said we will see what the Diocese allows in the future, since electronic voting was an exception this year due to Covid-19. Turnout this year exceeded previous years.

**Elections of Junior Warden and Clerk of the Vestry**
Noelle introduced Carol Donlan as the new Senior Warden. Jilinda Crowley was elected to the position of Treasurer. Anne Ramsey nominated Brett Levanto for the position of Junior Warden; Betsy Hahn seconded the motion. Brett was elected to the position of Junior Warden. Mary Dixon Hutcheson nominated Anne Ramsey for the position of Clerk of the Vestry; Betsy seconded the motion. Anne was elected to the position of Clerk of the Vestry.

**Stewardship Report – Noelle York-Simmons**
Noelle reported that there were 383 pledges, 3 less than last year, and 98 per cent of what we planned for—basically the same as last year. Bob Cady, vestry liaison to the Stewardship Committee, said, “Things are going on under the ground and growing roots.” Anne Richardson is putting thought into how to make this year’s Stewardship Campaign more fun, broader reaching
and more effective. Anne puts her head and heart into her job. She is very professional and keeps everyone on task. Anne is also working with the Investment Committee.

**Treasurer’s Report – Jilinda Crowley**  
The 2021 budget has a $125,000 deficit position (planned expenditures exceed planned income). We expect the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan to be forgiven this year, which should help our financial position. Brett asked how forgiveness of the PPP loan would be realized in the budget. Jilinda will ask Controller Stephanie Woodland Kelly. So far in 2021, revenue from in-person gatherings such as weddings, funerals, space rentals, and gifts of cash and coin has been lower than previous years. However, expenses have also been lower because of not working or worshiping in Christ Church buildings and fewer clergy. Jilinda walked us through the Vestry summary page in the monthly finance report. During the new member orientation, Noelle will review the balance sheet.

Stephanie has worked with our auditors to develop an audit and review plan. We are caught up through 2017. The plan is to skip ahead and do a formal audit for 2020 and self-audits for 2018 and 2019, using a self-audit tool from the Diocese. Jilinda and Stephanie thought this plan is a better use of limited funds, since multiple catch up reviews & audits would significantly exceed the budget. The Diocese requires a formal audit every five years and a review or self audit each intervening year.

**Worship Report – Noelle York-Simmons**  
Noelle reported that at this time last week, it looked as if Covid cases were dropping precipitously, but that changed. The swings in the number of cases make it difficult to do long-range planning. The Holy Week schedule was announced last week. All Holy Week services will be online (prerecorded), including the Easter Vigil, and four Easter services in person at 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and a Family Service at noon. All services will have Eucharist (no wine), and worshipers must register online ahead of time. Attendance will be capped at 70 people. The Rev. Dr. Frank Wade will assist at the churchyard services on Easter. Carol Donlan will host the Zoom coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. online service. In the weeks following Easter, we will have 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. in churchyard Eucharist (no wine).

**Rector’s Report**  
Regarding staff, we are waiting for Robbie Laughton’s visa to come through and have no idea when that will happen. Lauren’s letter of agreement has been signed by the Bishop. Lauren will be ordained as a deacon in a small service in June. Noelle has hired Audrey Butler for a couple of hours a week to be Christ Church’s worship video editor. She will start the Sunday after Easter and hopefully will transition to being the person in the new Audio Video booth, running the sound system for streaming online services when we are back in the church.

Attention has now turned toward Holy Week.

Bob asked if there any update on when the organ might arrive. We do not know, as it is contingent upon U.S. and British quarantine rules.
Noelle is taking a few days off in mid-April to visit her mother in Georgia. Noelle will take off nearly the entire month of July. There will be no July vestry meeting.

**Warden’s Report**
The new Senior Warden, Carol Donlan, thanked Noelle for having faith in her. Questions we will be addressing this year are: Where are we as a parish? Where does Fowler House fit into that? What do we do with our Sacred Ground learning? Carol wants us to remember to ask, “Where is God in all this?” to keep us on track.

Carol asked vestry members from the classes of 2022 and 2023 for items that should be covered during the new vestry member orientation. Also let her know if you want to be a “Sherpa” to new vestry members.

Carol will be sending a survey to vestry members to determine preferences for their liaison role. Every vestry member will be the liaison to at least one Christ Church committee. Liaisons attend committee meetings and share information between the committee and the vestry.

Carol urged vestry members to attend multiple Fowler House discernment discussions.

John Grey asked whether the vestry votes on committee reports and whether the reports can be distributed before the vestry has reviewed them. Noelle said a report should be reviewed before being disseminated. If a report is submitted to the vestry that requires action, it would act. If the report is a plan or proposal, then the vestry would vote on it. If the report is for information only, it could be accepted and noted in the vestry minutes. Reports do not need to be distributed to the parish but could become available to the parish.

**Consent Agenda**
Corrections to the February meeting minutes:
- In the list of attendees, the vestry class years are off by a year. The new class is 2024.
Carol moved that the corrected minutes be passed; Bob Cady seconded. The motion carried.

**Announcements & Upcoming Events**
- Palm Sunday – March 28
- Holy Week – March 28-April 3
- Easter – April 4 (Liz Nelson asked if there is anything besides weather that would not allow us to have Easter services in the churchyard. Noelle said bad weather or a surge in the number of local Covid cases could force cancellation of our outdoor worship.)
- Vestry Meeting – April 27

**Closing Prayer**
Bob Cady provided the closing prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.