

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SHIRLEY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD BY ZOOM AT 11.00am ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

46 members of the congregation were present at the meeting. Rev'd Lu Gale took the Chair.

#### MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:

##### ELECTIONS:

###### Wardens:

Paul Campbell  
Christine Healey

###### Proposed by:

Gillian Goldsmith  
Gillian Goldsmith

###### Seconded by:

Joyce Allen  
June Tamberlin

Elected unanimously

###### Deputy Wardens:

Mick Wall

###### Proposed by:

Gillian Goldsmith

###### Seconded by:

Tim Hastie

Elected unanimously

#### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

##### 1. Minutes of the 2019 APCM

Approved. There were no matters arising.

##### 2. To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2019

The accounts had been circulated and approved by the PCC, copies being available on the website and at the rear of the church two weeks prior to the APCM and including the usual financial review. Chris Nelson noted that the accounts are almost historical given the timing of the APCM and offered to forward a detailed note on the accounts prepared last March for anyone interested. He commented as follows:

- As expected, we made a considerable loss of almost £90,000, mainly due to the works on the spire and associated stonework which with supervision fees came in at just under £100,000, and, thanks to Paul Campbell, was on time and under budget!
- This resulted in the extinction of our reserves and the removal of our cushion of one and a half year's unclaimed gift aid. The loss, however, was much less than feared owing to the magnificent response to the Spire Fund Raising Appeal which realised over £31,000.
- Chris thanked all those involved in the Church finances and in particular Janet Martin for really getting hold of the gift aid recovery in 2019, recovering £19,312 for the year and £30,000 owing from previous years and was so enthusiastic that, by the end of the year, we owed the Revenue £12,000 as they had paid us too much!
- The finance team are more concerned with next year. We project that our losses may amount to £3,000/£3,500 per month if nothing is done. At present our usual fund raising events can not take place. With no reserves and no gift aid cushion and the need to restore our Diocesan Pledge to a proper amount, it is going to be a challenging time and every one of us will need to consider how we can help the Church financially. Details of ways of giving are on the website or through either Chris Nelson or Janet Martin.

Accounts adopted – proposed by Bernard Maguire and seconded by Mick Wall – with a vote of thanks to Chris for his diligence as Treasurer.

##### 3. Election of Independent Examiner

Peter Runacres was re-elected on the proposal of Viv Welch, seconded by Gill Jones.

##### 4. Appointment of a representative of the Readers to PCC

Jackie Pontin re-elected unanimously.

**5. Election of Deanery Synod representatives.** The following were elected unanimously:

	<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
Gillian Goldsmith	Tim Hastie	Paul Campbell
Joyce Newberry	Paul Campbell	Claire Barracliffe

**6. Election of PCC Members.** The following was elected unanimously to the PCC:

	<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
Tim Hastie	Chris Foot	Chris Nelson

**7. Appointment of Vice Chairman to PCC**

Paul Campbell elected unanimously as Vice Chairman. Proposed by Mick Wall and seconded by Teresa McCarthy

**8. Appointment of PCC Secretary**

Following the retirement of Tim Hastie after ten years, Steve Taylor was elected unanimously as Secretary - proposed by Tim Hastie and seconded by John Kingdom

**9. Appointment of PCC Treasurer**

Chris Nelson re-elected unanimously as Treasurer – proposed by Janet Martin and seconded by Lianne Price  
Chris indicated that he would not wish to serve beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**10. Church Electoral Roll:**

There are now 159 on the Roll of which 57 are resident within the Parish, a marginal reduction on 2019. Grateful thanks to Catherine Foot, our Electoral Roll Officer, who is now standing down having served 13 years.

**11. Churchwardens' report on the fabric of the church**

Paul Campbell reported as follows:

- Keeping our old and beautiful church in good condition can be costly. The premises committee have worked hard to oversee planned works, some as a result of the regular inspections, with general maintenance ongoing.
- Major works costing almost £100,000 to fully replace the shingles on the spire and repairs to the stonework on the bell tower were completed within the estimated cost, unused contingency of £4k being reserved for other stonework and roof repairs identified.
- As with the building our churchyard needs constant maintenance and upkeep and our contractors, Commercial Garden Maintenance, have been working year round following PCC's decision last year not to cut their hours during the winter months. This has left the graveyard looking beautiful all year round. Additional works carried out include several fence panels being replaced, new holly hedging and chestnut fencing along Shirley Church Road, and not to mention Bernard's Biblical garden trail which was partly funded from a grant from Croydon Council. During 2019, the Health & Safety Committee amalgamated with Premises and, in addition to pulling together a health and safety action plan, we have commenced a full survey of the churchyard to assess any potentially hazardous headstones with those identified either being laid down or reset. This is an ongoing programme of works and will be added to the St John's maintenance action plan once completed along with surveying our trees. In December several trees overhanging the school playground had to be cut back due to health & safety concerns.
- Briefly touching on 2020, all the relevant documentation for our church inspection was completed but, due to Covid, the inspection itself was cancelled. However our 2020 quinquennial inspection did go ahead and does make relatively pleasant reading with only a couple of urgent repairs needed around the nave, the cost of this already approved by PCC and within the original budget for spire, roof and stonework repairs. In addition, we still need to repair the broken windows in the chapel and install protective grilles along with a major overhaul of our organ which will pile further pressure on our finances. For cost reasons, our gardening contractors will be replaced by volunteers during the winter of 2020/2021.
- The warden team feel that the church is generally in good condition, again highlighted by our recent quinquennial inspection, and should remain so provided the necessary high level of upkeep and maintenance continues. This may be a challenge given our current financial position.
- Paul thanked his fellow wardens, in particular Gillian Goldsmith and Tim Holmes who step down this year, and asked that we consider standing for election as warden and/or assisting with the live streaming of services given that the team is now just three wardens.

## **12. Vicar's report on the state of the Parish**

Lu Gale reflected on the unprecedented events post year end with the Covid 19 pandemic leading to the closure of the Church building for 3 months and untold challenges for many individuals. At the beginning of the crisis, a note was sent to every household in the parish providing contact details and asking if any help was needed. Lu thanked all those who helped with the distribution of these leaflets. The offer was taken up by a number of people, particular in respect of food supplies and other necessary items, and with a couple of lovely thank you notes received.

The church community has kept going throughout with many realising that they had skills which they never knew they had with new forms of communication (eg: Zoom) embraced and live streaming of services, for which particular thanks are due to Mick Wall. Janet Martin has learned to be a voice mixer extraordinaire, enabling the choir to continue to offer their talents. A big 'Thank-you' is due to Jackie Pontin without whom the continuation of services from homes and the church would have been a very lonely task. Lu thanked the warden team who have stepped up in recognition of the current position and Bernard Maguire who has continued working on the new biblical garden within the churchyard.

Lu really misses the many volunteers who have not been permitted (by law!) to fulfill their roles, eg: the welcomers, sacristans and servers. Also, our Growing Disciples have not been permitted to meet and this led to the commencement of a 9am service which is growing and bringing in new families, albeit suspended at present due to a further national lockdown.

Lu advised that there is no update in respect of the position at All Saints and that we should continue to pray for all involved.

As flagged by our treasurer, this year has taken a big toll on our finances and we all need to think about the contribution which we make and think about what stewardship means at every level. We need to look at our own giving and encourage new members to make a commitment whilst thinking about how best to use the talents which we all have.

We have all lost family, friends & neighbours over the past months, one of these being Stephen Harrow who is missed each time an anthem is played and who would have risen to the challenges of providing music in current times. Lu reflected that she still feels his presence, cheering us on. A memorial service will be held when permitted, not only at St John's but also at Exeter University and Kings College.

Lu concluded by noting the incredible of signs of hope and we should trust in the Holy Spirit in moving us forward. Lu thanked everyone for being faithful and opening our hearts to the love of Christ.

## **13. Report on Deanery Synod affairs.**

Nothing particular to report this time..

## **14. Report on Safeguarding.**

Lu Gale advised that risk assessments are up to date and that the emphasis remains on keeping everyone as safe as possible. If there are any volunteers able to be involved in this area, please contact Lu.

## **15. A.O.B.**

- John Kingdom thanked the Vicar on our behalf for her leadership in such difficult times and being a source of inspiration to all of us – we are grateful for all that Lu does.
- Bernard Maguire thanked Tim Hastie on our behalf for his service to the church in numerous roles including secretary, warden and 27 years on PCC. He noted his friendship, reliability and recall of the regulations, particularly as PCC Secretary and that he will be greatly missed. He was presented with a sketch representing life over the past 27 years.
- Following enquiries from Pat Carter and Karen Dovey, Lu Gale and John Kingdom invited further contributions to the food bank but not of home made items. Additional drivers may be needed this year and Kelvin Carter volunteered.

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.10pm