

# 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

### MEETING OF PARISHIONERS: ELECTIONS:

Wardens:	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Paul Campbell	Gillian Goldsmith	Bernard Maguire
Christine Healey	Gillian Goldsmith	Bernard Maguire

Elected unanimously

Deputy Wardens:	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Mick Wall	Gillian Goldsmith	Tim Roberson

Elected unanimously

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

#### 1. Minutes of the 2020 APCM

Approved. Proposed by John Kingdom, seconded by Gillian Goldsmith. There were no matters arising.

#### 2. To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2020

- 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's main points are as follows:
- Spending almost £100,000 on repairs to the steeple severely depleted our reserves. From March 2020 the Covid crisis severely limited our ability to fund raise.
- General Fund income was £123,963 but we spent £125,578—a deficit of £1612. An increase in the value of the funds held and a small amount of interest on deposit accounts together totalling £1150 reducing the deficit to £461 across all our funds.
- Over the year the value our assets had fallen by £461 to £71061 of which £18,917 is restricted funds
- Overall our **income** fell by about £31000 compared to the previous year. There have been some incredibly generous donations from individual members of the congregation and some imaginative fund raising events such as the sale of face masks and tomato plants.
- **Expenditure** - extra-ordinary expenses included Richard Pilliner's settlement of £6000, new microphones and streaming equipment, software and licensing (under general administration costs) a water hand wash basin £749 and clearance and additional planting in the churchyard for which Bernard Maguire secured a grant from Croydon Council of £1000.
- **Cash flow remains a problem.** Each month, we have to find £5000 to fulfil our promise to the Diocese and another £1000 insurance, gas and electricity - £6000 for these items alone. Contrast our average regular giving this year has been just over £5000 (before adding gift aid).
- During the year we have joined the **Parish Giving Scheme**. Briefly the scheme provides for
  - our monthly gifts to St. John's to be made by direct debit to the Scheme on the first day of each month instead of standing to St. Johns. St John's, receives the totality of these direct debits with no deductions within a few days;
  - the Scheme recovers the gift aid and credits our church's bank account. within a few days of receipt. The system is completely confidential and costs us nothing.
  - You will be hearing more about the scheme in the weeks ahead.

**Thanks** to all those involved in the financial processes in the Church including our Independent Examiner and particularly once again to Janet Martin for recovery of gift aid and is full of bright ideas to raise funds and encourage parishioners to donate even more.

Chris found the job of the church treasurer very enjoyable. A successor has been found (see item 9). Chris wished her every success and will do everything possible to help her in every way.

Finally, just before the meeting Christine Healey handed Chris a magnificent gift of wine in a presentation box beautifully inscribed and I will cherish the box long after long after the wine has been drunk—thank you all

Accounts adopted – proposed by Christine Healey and seconded Janet Martin with a vote of thanks to Chris for his 11 years as Treasurer. (Applause)

### **3. Election of Independent Examiner**

Peter Runacres was re-elected on the proposal of Teresa McCarthy seconded by Gill Jones.

### **4. Election of Representatives for Deanery Synod**

There were no candidates for the two vacancies unfilled from 2020 meeting.

### **5. Appointment of a representative of the Readers to PCC**

Jackie Pontin re-elected unanimously.

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

<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
John Kingdom	Christine Healey	Paul Campbell
Sharon Somaiya	Christine Healey	Paul Campbell
Samantha Nott	Christine Healey	Gillian Goldsmith
Bernard Maguire	Paul Campbell	Christine Healey
Tim Roberson	Paul Campbell	Christine Healey
Wendy Wall	Christine Healey	Gillian Goldsmith
Kelvin Carter	Gillian Goldsmith	Christine Healey
Chris Foot	Tim Hastie	Tim Roberson
Charlotte White (Co-opted)	Christine Healey	Gillian Goldsmith

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

Christine Healey elected unanimously as Vice Chairman. Proposed by Carol Murphy and seconded by Viv Welch

### **8. Appointment of PCC Secretary**

Tim Roberson was elected unanimously as Secretary - proposed by Mick Wall and seconded by Emma Collins.

### **9. Appointment of PCC Treasurer**

Becky O'Neal was elected unanimously as Treasurer – proposed by Chris Nelson and seconded by Teresa McCarthy.

### **10. Church Electoral Roll:**

There are now 158 on the Roll (a marginal reduction on 2020), of whom 55 are resident within the Parish.

## 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 and inspections with general maintenance ongoing.

### Church

- our yearly church inspection did not go ahead with all the necessary documentation and certificates being filled online.
- The Quinquennial inspection in June listed only a few items listed as urgent, other items listed being subject to regular monitoring of condition and general maintenance.
- Two of the urgent items have already been completed. A structural engineer's report on cracking to the East elevation and reredos concluded that the scale of movement is not currently significant.
- The north side of the Chancel and south side of the Nave were re-pointed and gutters replaced (cost £4175.00 + vat). Work was completed in December by DBR who carried out the previous works on our spire. Leaves from the cutters and flat roof above the chapel were removed at no extra cost.

### Churchyard

- Our churchyard needs constant maintenance and upkeep. Contractors Commercial Garden Maintenance had been working all year round but due to the strain on finances they were stood down for the winter months. They cleared the built-up rubbish from the Southwest corner of the graveyard and have created space for approximately 10 new graves. They are due back in May for the summer.
- Big thank you to Ian Strachan for his hard work over the winter.
- H&S and premises committee's action plan commenced with a full survey of the churchyard to identify any potentially hazardous headstones to be either being laid down or reset as and will be added to the St John's maintenance action plan, along with surveying our trees.
- The church 2021 inspection has been cancelled.
- PCC approved a revised quotation from John Mohony to repair the broken windows in the chapel and install protective grilles which will hopefully proceed shortly.
- Repairs and servicing of the Organ has already taken place.
- Our recent QQ confirmed that the church is in a good and stable condition. Maintaining a high level of upkeep and maintenance may be a challenge due to our financial situation.
- Paul thanked Mick & Christine for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

2021 will be Paul's last year as Warden.

Lu thanked Paul and the Premises Committee who had not stopped during the closure. It was not often a church got a QQ report with so little to do. (Applause for Paul)

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

Lu did not think this time last year that we would still be meeting by Zoom. Over the year immense work has been undertaken, learning new skills and finding new talents and ways of working to keep services going and maintain communication across the parish. None of us were experts. Thanks to those who made such phenomenal effort.

**Music** The PCC had decided to end the professional relationship with Richard Pilliner. Over the coming weeks we will consider the type of person needed to take the music of St John's forward. Meanwhile, the organ will still be played, by Ros and Joyce. The choir have worked tirelessly with Janet pulling it all together.

**Streaming** has worked amazingly well and will continue so that everyone can worship even if they cannot be present in church. Streaming has allowed non-members to join in. The Tech Team has gained a new member and others are welcome.

The **Sunday 9am informal Mass** for families has built up a new congregation.

Bernard has devised an exciting **Biblical trail** which has attracted donations towards it. Claire is looking at how it might be developed and publicised. Thanks to Bernard and Claire.

**Finances** – going forward we need to work within our budget to avoid cut-backs. This will be the focus of finance team and the PCC.

The parish is signed up to **Inclusive Church and Eco Church** and we need to consider how this will be included in the Mission Action Plan. Barry Goodwin is taking Eco Church forward.

Advancing the **Kingdom of God** in this place involves us praying and worshipping together and being open to where the Holy Spirit takes us. Lu asked everyone to respond to St John's, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow on the web site. (Paper copies also available).

**All Saints** - unlikely to be any movement before July.

**Thanks** to all those who have kept faith and maintained communication in difficult times, including the informal worship and Evensong. St John's will go from strength to strength.

(Applause)

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

Gillian Goldsmith's report follows.

Churches in Shirley, Addington, Selsdon and West Wickham meet several times each year to share their experiences within the intervening time span. These included building projects, improvements and necessary upkeep of listed buildings, and the vision of the various parishes in community service and spiritual care.

It has been intriguing and heartening to hear what all the churches have been up to, particularly over the last year with Covid-19 which altered radically our function without our church buildings. So much has changed for all of us, and the church is no exception.

We have a speaker at each meeting, and have learned much about ground level issues affecting us all, and the last one covered how we were going to debrief after Covid -19 and adjust to a different world.

I like going to the meetings because it extends my knowledge of the work of our church to include vital developments in the churches in the area around us. This way we can celebrate what we have achieved, and be included in the development of our joint vision.

### **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. Jane Sithole-Sadler has agreed to take on some of the work. If there are any more volunteers able to be involved in this area, please contact Lu.

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

John Kingdom reported that the **Food Bank** was coping well during the pandemic. John has resigned from Shirley Neighbourhood care. Anyone interested in becoming a trustee, please speak to John. Bernard and Mike Plymsol remain as trustees, with Mike as treasurer. Thanks to John. (Applause).

Viv Welch pointed to the need to start planning anew for social events and fundraising activity.

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.15pm