

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

HELD AT 11.05am ON 24th April 2022 in the church

Some 47 members of the congregation were present at the meeting. Rev'd Lu Gale took the Chair.

Apologies were received from Michael and Anne Pardon, Chris Foot and Gillian Goldsmith.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS: ELECTIONS:

Wardens:	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Christine Healey	Tim Roberson	Sam Nott
Elected unanimously		

Deputy Wardens:	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Sam Nott	Christine Healey	Tim Roberson
Elected unanimously		

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

1. Minutes of the 2021 APCM

Approved. Proposed by Paul Duke, seconded by Gill Jones. 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.

Becky O'Neal's main points were as follows:

- The accounts were handed over to me last year with a concern that we were running at a deficit, but this doesn't appear to have been the case by the end of the year, as we closed the books with £4k more funds than the prior year. However, I must caveat that the majority of this improved position relates to growth in restricted trust funds, which are investments that have bounced back during 2021; these may be subject to further fluctuations and as the investments are restricted for a specific purpose, the funds aren't readily available.
- Overall, our income has increased from various sources – regular giving has increased, collections at services have increased with the church reopening post-Covid, church cottage income increased from the prior year and the reintroduction of fundraising events such as the cinema, plant sale and Christmas tree festival have all helped to improve funds.
- Expenditure continues to be significant as should be expected with the costs associated with running and maintaining this wonderful building. There have been repairs to the stonework, windows and protective grilles; and we increased our pledge to the Parish Support Fund in 2021, and have further increased this for 2022.
- PSF is a contribution that the church makes to the diocese which largely goes towards the costs of our vicar and maintaining the vicarage, but also helps to support the mission of other churches in less affluent areas. At St Johns we are fortunate to be in a strong financial position compared to some areas, and although it may sound like a significant sum, our pledge to the diocese is currently lower than would be expected for a parish of our size; so it is hoped that as we continue to recover from the impacts of covid that we will in future be in a position to support the diocese further.

We still need to be mindful of possible expenses that can arise (for example, should there be an exceptional expense required, and increasing gas and electricity costs). Therefore, it's important that we continue to think about how we can continue to grow the church. We launched our Giving Campaign in November, with a leaflet which I hope you are all familiar with. We also had Gabby Parikh visit us in February to talk more widely about giving during our Sunday services. Although I don't want to dwell on it, I do feel that there hasn't been the level of change that perhaps I expected as a result of this campaign.

We introduced the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) last year. PGS enables congregations to simply and securely donate to their church via direct debit. We really want to ask is that everyone consider switching their standing orders to the PGS. There are a number of reasons, and benefits to doing this:

1. **Reduced administration** – PGS makes us a single payment on the 4th of the month, claims gift aid from HMRC and pays it to us around the 10th. So not only do we reduce the administration of reconciling the numerous payments, but also the administration of the gift aid processing and claim from HMRC.
2. **Reduced cost** – we pay transaction fees on every single payment that comes into our account, so we can save £25 per month by having 2 payments rather than 80. PGS takes no fee from the donation, unlike payments that are made via the Goodbox collection plate, or Stripe donations via the website – so PGS is the preferred method of donation.
3. **Donor benefits** – safe and secure direct debit scheme, it's quick and easy to register online (or by phone). Donors have easy access to review or amend their payments.

Thank you for welcoming me into the PCC and strengthening my bond to St Johns. I look forward to helping to support the church as we continue to grow and develop as we emerge from the last few difficult years and I have an optimism that we can and will be able to bring people together and ensure our church thrives financially going forwards.

Accounts adopted – proposed by Bernard Maguire and seconded Mick Wall with a vote of thanks to Becky (Applause)

3. Election of Independent Examiner

Peter Runacres was re-elected on the proposal of Tim Roberson, seconded by Becky O'Neal.

4. Election of Representatives for Deanery Synod

There was one candidate for the two vacancies unfilled from 2020 meeting:

Janet Martin. Proposed by Tim Roberson Seconded by Christine Healey
Elected unanimously

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:

Nominated	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Charlotte White (co-opted by APCM 25 April 2021)	Tim Roberson	Maureen Clark
Rebecca (Bex) Henderson	Christine Healey	Paul Campbell
Miranda Heester	Mick Wall	Christine Healey
Marie-Claire Bailey	Christine Healey	Mick Wall

7. Appointment of Vice Chairman to PCC

Christine Healey elected unanimously as Vice Chairman.
Proposed by John Kingdom and seconded by Fred LeMay

8. Appointment of PCC Secretary

Tim Roberson was elected unanimously as Secretary
proposed by Wendy Wall and seconded by Teresa McCarthy.

9. Appointment of PCC Treasurer

Becky O'Neal was elected unanimously as Treasurer.
Proposed by Don Good and seconded by Paul Duke.

10. Church Electoral Roll:

There are now 167 on the Roll (an increase on 2021), of whom 59 are resident within the Parish.

11. Churchwardens' report on the fabric of the church

Christine Healey reported as follows:

The warden team feel that the church is generally in good condition.

Repairs and general maintenance are ongoing with our Church which is over 160 years old. The premises committee led by Paul Campbell have worked hard to keep the fabric of the Church buildings in good condition.

Church

The annual Church inspection did not go ahead again this year, we must expect a visit in 2022. All the necessary documentation and certificates as last year have been filled online.

Repairs to the glass in the windows of the Lady Chapel have been completed. Along with the installation of the protective grilles to the Lady Chapel, and to the North and South Chancel. We have had many favourable comments from our congregation about the sensitive and professional way the contractors completed their work.

Our Organ builders have repaired one of the Organ pedal couplings and have tuned our organ on two occasions. We are very fortunate that Trinity School have funded these invoices as their Organ scholars continue to use our Organ for practice and lessons.

A new master key system has been installed throughout the Church. We now carry just one or two keys instead of a bunch of 10+. A huge thanks to Paul for funding and for completing this task.

A brief note about Church Cottage as officially it should be included in next year's report. The previous tenants left at the beginning of January this year. Repairs and redecoration have been completed, thanks to Sharon and her family for giving their time to bring the cottage back to how it should be. A new tenant will hopefully be living in Church Cottage soon.

Churchyard

Our Churchyard needs constant maintenance. A 'No mow May' to develop our wildflowers under Bernard Maguire's tutelage saw many varieties in our Churchyard. However, many of the families with loved ones in our Churchyard felt that it looked uncared for which was not the case. At the same time, we felt our contractors were not offering such a consistent service as they had in the past.

We were very happy when Charlotte White agreed to take on the role of gardening contractor. Our Churchyard hasn't looked so good for a long while. We have had many compliments from families. Thanks to Charlotte for all the love and care put into St John's Churchyard.

Thanks also to Ian Strachan who continues to work tirelessly helping Charlotte in the Churchyard.

Premises committee has an ongoing plan to assess where there are any potentially hazardous headstones with those identified either being laid down or reset.

Thank Bex Henderson for her excellent skills in the Tech Team. Also big thanks to Gillian and Karen for their help at the back of Church.

We have to say goodbye to Mick as Deputy Churchwarden and thank him for all he has done, particularly with setting up the Live streaming our services and generally bringing us up to date.

During Paul Campbell's tenure as Church warden, he has overseen several significant building works, he has been working quietly in the background liaising with building companies, architects, ensuring faculties are in place, checking on budgets, monitoring spending and many other things. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. (Applause).

I look forward to receiving support in the coming year as the duties and responsibilities of Churchwarden rest with me. I am however delighted that Sam Nott has agreed to step up as Deputy Churchwarden and look forward to us working together in 2022.

2021 was Paul Campbell's last year as Warden but he will remain as chair of the premises Committee

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

Lu said how good it was to be back in the church after two APCMs on Zoom. The Wardens Team has worked incessantly throughout the year and the extraordinary circumstances have taken their toll. Thanks to Paul, Christine and Mick as wardens and to Becky for taking on the role of treasurer.

Streaming has widened the congregation. 50 – 60 watched on an average Sunday with 94 on Easter Sunday. Feedback from watchers was encouraging and a number had joined the congregation.

Thanks were due to Gabby Parakh and Kell Bolton from the Diocese who had contributed to evolving a vision of the way forward for St John's.

Particular thanks was due to Jackie who had given Lu her all, given hope, friendship and fellowship.

The 9am service provided a valuable alternative to 10am Mass. On occasions where children come to this service it should be a one where they would want to come [as illustrated by Easter Sunday].

Re-establishing the Growing Disciples required a commitment to prepared to help.

Lu thanked Janet and Ros for the choir over the last year.

The appointment of Norman Hunter Rose is for 6 months, extendable by mutual consent. Norman should have everyone's support and given the freedom to be different.

The Healing hub – healing and wholeness is part of making St John's a safe place alongside Eco Church and Eco Church.

Finally, Lu thanked the Congregation keeping faithful and for their prayers.

(Applause)

13. Report on Deanery Synod affairs. (Summarised from a report from Gillian Goldsmith)

Having kept in touch over Zoom, returning to in-person contact was more relaxed. Churches in the Deanery have used new ways to maintain and extend contacts in their communities, focusing on Mission, Nurturing and Evangelising, Equality, Safeguarding and Caring for the Vulnerable and Needy.

Deanery Synod provides a worthwhile opportunity to share experience and work together.

14. Report on Safeguarding.

Shelley Paddon has agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding Policy will need to be reviewed.

15. A.O.B.

John Kingdom congratulated the clergy on the superb services over Easter.

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.15pm