

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2020
IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH AND VIA ZOOM**

21 people attended the meeting in church with 43 people joining us on zoom. The meeting was chaired by Bill Darley, Vice Chairman. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular thanked Terry Bufton for his technical expertise in making this hybrid meeting possible.

Chris Knox then opened the meeting in prayer.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Church Wardens and Deputy

Bill expressed his thanks to Olga and Matt who had worked exceptionally hard over the last 18 months during the interregnum and the Covid 19 situation. Both had been nominated and had agreed to stand again and were duly elected. Myra Campbell had been nominated as Deputy Church Warden with specific responsibilities for St Mary's. Alan Chapple was confirmed as Assistant Warden.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ruth Waller, Fran Huff, Lesley Prince, Annabel Taylor and Juliette Lewthwaite.

2. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting

These had been displayed in church and had been available on the website. Mike Warren proposed, seconded Matt Allum that these be approved and were signed by the Vice Chairman. Beverley was thanked for her work during the year as secretary.

3. Elections

- 3.1 2020 was the year for electing new representatives for the Deanery Synod. According to the number of people on the Electoral Roll, 4 representatives were allowed. Myra Campbell, Katie Durrant and Gillian Peard had been proposed and seconded for a three year term and were duly elected.
- 3.2 We were allowed up to 15 elected members for the PCC. There were 6 vacancies and 4 nominations for the PCC had been received. They were Sue Forward, Val Hanson, Stephen Holt and John Miller. There being no other nominations they were duly elected.
- 3.3 James Soper had agreed to stand as the LLM representative for one more year. This was approved by the meeting.

Bill thanked the retiring members of the PCC for all their work over the last six years. They were Alan Chapple, Jonathan Morris and Carol Tyler. Rebecca Webb had stood down during her term of office and was now working as a volunteer in the church office. All Deanery Synod representatives had had to retire in 2020 and Bill thanked Sue Forward, Joyce Rhoden and Gillian Peard for their commitment.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Hope Jones had been our Independent Examiner for many years and Alan was very happy to propose that we continued with them, seconded Matt Allum and agreed.

5. 5.1. Changes to the Electoral Roll.

Geoffrey Birch had taken over from Alyson Furness as Electoral Roll Officer. During the last 18 months since the previous APCM, 14 names had been removed from the roll but 35 new names had been added. The Roll now contained 255 names.

5.2. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC from April 2019 to September 2020.

This comprehensive report could be found on page 5 of the Annual Report. Bill commented that it had been a privilege to serve as Vice Chairman.

5.3 The Financial Statements for year ending December 2019

Alan Chapple reported that copies of the church accounts had been in church for the last 2 Sundays and also were available on our website. These had been certified by Hope Jones in March and approved by the PCC on 20th March 2020. Since then they had been filed with the Diocese and also the Charity Commission as we had been directed.

Initially, on unrestricted funds, Alan had anticipated an excess of expenditure over income of £17,000 for 2019, but in reality we had an excess of income over expenditure of £20,000 due to two substantial donations and some cost savings as our Family Worker had left during the year. However since March 2020, with the closure of the church and hall, there has been a loss of income from collections, the hire of the hall, and fees for weddings and funerals. Savings have been made where possible and with careful cash management we might break even at the end of 2020. We did go ahead and redecorate the church hall and have new blinds in the committee room. There were some donations towards the cost of £5,500.

Alan noted that we continue to be vulnerable in the areas of giving, where around half of our income from committed giving comes from just 12 mainly elderly families, and repairs and maintenance given the age of the church building.

Thanks were recorded to Bill Darley, our Gift Aid Secretary, who had recovered £38,000 from HMRC in 2019. Alan also thanked Mike Fitzgibbon who looks after the church hall finances, and Jackie Parker and Gail Bown who are responsible for magazine sales and advertisements. Alan thanked the collection counters and those who bank the collections (although these responsibilities had been curtailed over recent months), but most of all Alan thanked the church family for their consistent giving.

Bill thanked Alan for his continued diligence with the church accounts for many years.

5.4 The Fabric report

The Fabric Report of the church was listed on page 10 of the Annual Report. Matt commented that our Quinquennial survey was due. James Lunn-Rockcliff, the Diocesan Architect, had retired and we were awaiting a time for his replacement, Ryan Bunce to come to do the inspection. Matt also reported that the Terrier was up to date. During the last 18 months no items had been added or removed. Matt also gave huge thanks to Olga as she had steered the church and himself through this difficult time.

5.5 The proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The proceedings of the Deanery Synod had been recorded in the Annual Report at page 27. Gillian Peard had nothing more to add to her report.

5.6 Any Other matters of parochial or general church interest:

The Safeguarding Report was recorded on page 4. Annabelle Short explained that Safeguarding is a vital function in the church today to ensure that people feel safe. Annabelle had been appointed as our Safeguarding Officer but sadly much of her work had been curtailed due to the pandemic. Pocket leaflets called “Safeguarding – a pocket guide” were available from Annabelle. Relevant information regarding safeguarding was documented on Churchsuite.

The Churchwardens’ Report was documented on page 8 of the Annual Report but Olga wished to add the following. She had found it remarkable that since losing our vicar, family worker and youth minister there is a remarkable CAN DO mindset of many people. She had overheard a comment that we are doing so well without a vicar. That is a great compliment to everyone. Every house needs a strong structure – the framework, the steel girders and bolts are all unseen but essential for the house to be secure and run smoothly, and much unseen strengthening work has been done during the interregnum.

She wished to thank Lesley and her volunteers in the office for looking after day to day matters. She looked forward to the day when the office would be open again as the place seemed more alive when the office was open.

She also thanked Alan Chapple who had the unusual gifts of being both careful but also extremely generous. The healthy state of our financial affairs are largely due to his diligence.

At the beginning of the interregnum Matt and Olga had asked Bill to become vice chairman of the PCC. It has been a huge job and we are so grateful to Bill. He had also brought us into the digital age. He and Rebecca had been good teachers.

With all this in place our new vicar should find our house in order – so a big thank you.

Olga particularly wanted to thank Francis and Tina Cumberlege who had not only brought us spiritual refreshment, teaching and encouragement but had given us a sense of continuity which would not have been possible otherwise. And lastly, thanks to Colin who had made all our on-line services possible.

Church Hall Report – on page 9 of the Annual Report. Stewart Gillespie-Smith commented again how good the hall looked now that it had been decorated and the new blinds fitted in the committee room. With current restrictions the hall was only being used for a very small proportion of time but it was hoped that regular users would return once restrictions were lifted.

Twinklers – Currently unable to meet but a toy library had been set up to try to keep contact with young families.

Pumpkin Trail – as the Light Party could not be staged, Rebecca and her team would be leading a pumpkin trail around the village as an alternative to Halloween.

Mothers Union – the full report was on page 15 of the Annual Report. Val Butterworth reported that they had been telephoning each member regularly and had managed a Zoom meeting last week.

Bell Ringing – After a long absence the bell ringers were now allowed to ring again and were doing so for 15 minutes each Sunday morning.

At this point those on zoom were unmuted to allow for comments and questions.

Carol Tyler reiterated that Pastoral Care was available for anyone in need and thanked those people in the team for their support. She was grateful to home groups who were looking after many in the church family.

With regard to **The Crossings** which was documented on page 26 of the Annual Report, Sue Forward informed us that she and Joyce Rhoden and now Terry Bufton were involved and if anyone else was interested in knowing more and possibly joining the team they should contact Sue.

St Marys -Bill had attended St Mary's DCC Annual Meeting and there had been 18 reports in their document. Many things were happening at St Mary's. He thanked all those who were involved.

Stewart Gillespie-Smith asked if we knew how many people had applied for **Priest in Charge** role now that we had been allowed to advertise the position. In reply Bill reported that all applicants wrote to the Diocese, so we are not yet aware of the numbers. The closing date for applying was 5th November. A shortlist would be made at a meeting of the Bishop, Archdeacon, and Area Dean with the PCC interview panel on 6th November. Interviews would be held on 7th/8th December. Diocese are hopeful that licensing might take part before Easter 2021. Bill also commented that we were the only parish which had so far been allowed to advertise. The parish profile had been updated and with the length and breadth of the advertising campaign it was hoped that there would be a large number of applicants.

2nd Foundation Governor for Milford School . Rebecca Webb asked about the status of the appointment of the 2nd Foundation Governor. Bill reported that there had been an applicant who had gone forward but due to Covid-19 they had not been willing to engage with the school during the pandemic. If anyone else felt called to fill this important role as a Foundation Governor we would like to hear from them.

Finally Gillian Peard gave thanks to Olga and Matt for all their hard work over the last 18 months and also she thanked Bill for his leadership especially as we all had to work with the new regulations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 8.15pm