

The Vicar, the Reverend Steve Newbold, welcomed everyone to the meetings and thanked them for coming.

With 62 people in attendance, the proceedings were opened at 8:00pm. The Curate Sam Sanya read Psalm 1 and members prayed.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

This meeting opened at 8:00pm, chaired by Steve Newbold.

Steve began by noting some practical points for the meeting as it was held over zoom.

Steve offered thanks to Caroline Jamieson and Dele Fasanya for their service as churchwardens over the last year. Caroline was standing for a further term bringing her particular gifts to the leadership team. Dele decided not to stand again so was thanked for his hard work. He was not able to attend tonight but will resume his role as Duty Warden on Sundays.

Election of 2 Churchwardens

There were two nominations: Mary Ann Auckland and Caroline Jamieson

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Caroline Jamieson	Fred Eaves	Sally Anniss
Mary Ann Auckland	Morgen Edwards	Ann Toley

There being no other nominations, Caroline and Mary Ann were declared elected for a one year term.

This first meeting closed at 8:07pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Steve Newbold was Chair of this meeting which opened at 8:07pm.

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members of the congregation: Noreen Barnes-Hoggett, Chris and Helen Irwins-Childs, Doreen Samaroo, Lindy Shaw and Rachael Sanya.

2) Minutes of Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019

Proposal to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019.

Proposed by Sanjay Joshi; Seconded by Janet Sehgal.

The meeting agreed unanimously. They were signed by the Vicar as an accurate record of that meeting.

3) Matters Arising

None.

4) Report of Electoral Roll Officer

(verbal update provided by Morgen Edwards, Electoral Roll Officer)

At the 2019 meeting the Electoral Roll was 204. After 10 removals and six additions our total was now 200.

5) Written Annual Church Report

The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ending 31st December 2019 was taken as read. The Annual Report had been approved at the last PCC meeting. Church members were encouraged to read the report. No questions or issues were raised.

6) Report on Church Fabric, Good and Ornaments

The Annual Report on the Church fabric, goods and ornaments, prepared by the Churchwardens, which had been approved at the last PCC meeting, was taken as read.

Caroline Jamieson offered thanks to Dinos Horattides for leading the repairs to the halls and doors. Also thanked the buildings team on behalf of the churchwardens and members of the church who noticed things that needed to be done and just did them. Particular thanks to Chris & Helen Irwin-Childs for their work in the grounds.

7) Elections to the PCC

Steve thanked the Church Council, particularly those retiring: Sue Charlton, Ian Jamieson, Ann Toley and Nancy Yang.

This year there were 3 full term vacancies. The following people were proposed as new members of the PCC for a three year term:

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Rob Yates	Jonathan Lutz	Tim Edwards
John Annis	Caroline Jamieson	Pete Devereux
James Morrow	Barbara Luland	Mary Ann Auckland

There being no other nominations, Rob Yates, John Annis and James Morrow were declared elected.

8) Elections to the Deanery Synod

This year there are 3 full term vacancies. The following people were proposed as members of the Deanery Synod Representatives for three years.

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Linda Rivans	Jane Maffett	Liz Cooper
David Gillingham	Dele Fasanya	Tina Yarrall
Liz Cooper	Gill Witcomb	Noreen Barnes-Hoggett

There being no other nominations Linda Rivans, David Gillingham and Liz Cooper were declared elected.

9) Finance Report – Sanjay Joshi, Treasurer

2019

Our main income was Stewardship giving by church members and our target of £146,000 was achieved. We also had tax refunds and other giving via weekly envelopes.

In addition £44,000 was received from St Luke's Trust – and this restricted fund was used to pay for 3 roles and our missionary giving to The Grove Community.

The third main area of income was from the rental of the Hall which was up from 2018.

Due to the generosity of the congregation we were able to meet our commitment of £93,000 to the Diocese Common Fund. Our ability to contribute over the required amount supports other churches in the Diocese who cannot afford to make the requested contribution.

Tithing is an important part of our missionary zeal – in 2019 we tithed just over £19,000 to our six core mission partners and to some others. We also paid out £19,000 to other mission partners including The Grove Community, Tearfund and Foodbank. The total missionary giving was approximately £38,000.

Balance Sheet Rebuilding – in 2018 we had completed our works on the toilet block, using reserves and taking on loans. We were fortunate to receive significant legacies and donations which have enabled us to pay off / reduce these loans and rebuild the balance sheet.

- Paid off interest bearing loan of £50,000
- Paid of the first instalment of the non-interest bearing loan of £20,000
- Rebuilt our reserves so we had a buildings reserve of £15,000
- We also built up our special projects fund to just under £50,000

No questions were asked.

Thanks to the Finance Committee for their help in putting together the accounts with particular thanks to Martyn Verity who does a lot of work to help in the background.

b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner

We need to elect our independent examiner each year and our current independent examiner, Val Steward has agreed to stand again for the next 12 months.

Proposal that Valerie Steward is accepted to continue as our Independent Examiner

Proposed by Sanjay Joshi; Seconded by Jane Maffett and agreed unanimously.

Steve Newbold expressed thanks to Sanjay for all his hard work.

10) Vicar's Report

Steve Newbold began his update by saying some 'thank you's':

- Firstly to clergy colleagues. To Sam Sanya, a fun, loyal and supportive colleague and a great encourager and to Caroline Newbold, bringing her special gifts as a teacher, pastor, leader and encourager – thank you both.
- Thanks too to the rest of Leadership Team – Enid Barron, Jo Leeds, Beth Skelton, Morgen Edwards, Mark Tate and Jane Maffett and to the Churchwardens – a great team, with lots of fun together and sharing a common vision of the Kingdom of God.
- Thanks to Morgen Edwards who as Communications Manager holds so much together behind the scenes and to Gordon Nunn who manages our Church Centre.
- Huge thanks to Sanjay Joshi our Treasurer who has managed over and above the call of duty in the past 18 months. Thanks too to Chris and Helen Irwin-Childs our Giving Coordinators and those who count the monies.
- Thank you to all who help with our Sunday services, our Duty Wardens, welcomers, coffee makers, sound and vision team, flower arrangers, servers, worship team, Children's and Youth workers, people who get Church ready and so many more.
- Thank you to the Pastoral Care Team who have been working extra hard in recent months to maintain contact with people. In particular thanks to Rosemary Beardow who led the team but will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year.

- Thanks too to the Connect Group leaders for all they have been doing – so encouraging that all groups have continued to meet online during these months – some meeting more often than usual. Thanks too to the leaders for their part in the pastoral support of those in their groups.
- To all the Parochial Church Council and so many others who may not have been mentioned but serve in any way – much appreciated.
- Looking forward to seeking more of God’s Kingdom together in the next year.

This was the most unusual of Annual Meetings:

- Almost 6 months later than it should have been and the intervening time has been completely dominated by a single issue – the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Our last annual meeting was in April 2019 so we have had to cover a lot of ground tonight and despite the many struggles and disappointments about where we find ourselves we do have much to be thankful for.
- Towards the end of 2019 the Church Council agreed to fund a re-branding project which we signed off at the beginning of 2020. Due to lockdown we haven’t got as far as we would have liked with implementation but have made steady progress. You will have seen our new logo, signage etc. There is more to come as soon as we are able.
- Prophetically, we also agreed at the end of 2019 to fund and implement a cloud-based e-office system. This came on stream just as we started Lockdown and Morgen Edwards was able to develop this in March and April enabling the leadership of the Church to work more effectively from home and indeed around the country!
- We have employed new staff – Ash Abbott our Worship Pastor left us in August 2019 and we were delighted to appoint Jo Leeds in October 2019. Jo has been a great asset to our worshipping life especially during this most difficult of seasons.
- Throughout lockdown Jo has also set up new software for the church projection system which is much easier to use. As you know Jo will be going on maternity leave next month and we will miss having her around for a while.
- Chris Willis our Youth Pastor left us in May 2020. Last month we were delighted to welcome Beth Skelton as our new Youth Pastor with Beth currently working on ways to enable our young people to meet in person and remotely.
- Last autumn, Morgen Edwards our Communications Manager was also appointed as part time Children’s Worker and she has worked hard to do both jobs, bringing energy, creativity and initiative to her work.

So we have a strong base of key leaders and processes from which to move forward but of course everything changed for us all back in March and gradually all our plans and ambitions for the year had to be put on hold:

- The decision to close all churches came as a shock to most of us and clergy everywhere spent weeks working out what to do.
- We quickly developed a programme of online worship which grew from a rather flaky first attempt on Mothering Sunday on 22nd March, to something which was both professional and engaging.
- Steve put on record his thanks to George Auckland who managed the whole process, worked tirelessly each week to put our initial amateur attempts at filming into something that was worth watching and enabling us to go online very quickly.
- George is now helping us with our weekly livestream but as time goes on we will need a bigger team of camera operators and technicians so if you want to get involved please do say.

Steve said that usually at this meeting he would spend time outlining our vision and hopes for the year ahead – plans that we have for outreach into the Community – our ambitions to make the building more environmentally friendly – the maintenance plans to replace the subsidence in the front car park – our future programme of events and activities BUT...

- In this most of unusual of years none of us even know who we will be able to spend time with at Christmas so it would be a brave Vicar who outlined a detailed plan for 2021.
- As this meeting is held we don't know what will be allowed and when. Nor do we know how our finances are going to shape up as furlough ends and sadly some people will face a less certain economic future.
- What Steve could say however, is that we have as strong leadership team. We have creative and energetic staff members. We have no end of ideas and desire to move forward just as soon as we are able. Until then, we will do all that we can to keep this church moving forward.
- If nothing else, Coronavirus pushed all churches to gain an online presence – for us at least that is here to stay.
- In the short term we will enable gatherings to take place when we are allowed and will always ensure that they are run safely in accordance with the latest guidance.

And we will pray and long for the day when we can once again gather in large numbers to celebrate and party together.

11) Any Other Business

Sanjay offered thanks to the clergy on behalf of the church.

Meeting closed with The Grace at 8:48pm.

Signed as record..... Date.....