

St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham

Minutes of the combined Annual Meeting of the Parishioners and Parochial Church Council held in the St Peter's Church Building and virtually via Zoom on Sunday 18th October 2020. The meeting was held at this later date as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

PRESENT: (In the church building) J. Drake-Smith, N. Parkin-Tyrie, I. and P. Lapworth, P. Yates, S. Rossiter, A. Jones, S. and H. Woods, R. and S. Durrant, W. Coxell, J. Emberson, C. Wilkes, J. and C. Crawford, A. and R. Forsythe, Jim Reed, V. Bolton, E. Ambrose, B. Parrott, E. Hendry, J. Covey. (On Zoom) P. Smith, G. Blues, R. Jefferyes, K. Beesley, J. Birch, V. Goodlet, S. Davies, S. Knowles.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners – 18th October 2020

The meeting commenced at 11.23am. Rev. Jacqueline Drake-Smith welcomed parishioners to the meeting, both those present in the church building and those attending virtually via Zoom.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received. A list of those parishioners attending is included above.

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners held on 24th March 2019

The minutes of the meeting, which had been circulated electronically prior to this meeting, were unanimously accepted as a true record. (J. Crawford proposed; P. Yates seconded.)

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Churchwardens

| Nominated | Proposed | Seconded |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Rob Durrant | Jacqueline Drake-Smith | Wendy Coxell |

Rob Durrant was elected unanimously.

Election of churchwardens: Rob Durrant nominated; proposed JDS; seconded Rob Durrant. Agreed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.28am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 18th October 2020

Rev. Jacqueline Drake-Smith opened the meeting at 11.28am.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received. A list of those parishioners attending is included above.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parishioners Held on 24th March 2019

The minutes of the meeting, which had been circulated electronically prior to this meeting, were unanimously accepted as a true record. It was proposed by J. Crawford that they be accepted and seconded by P. Yates.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Electoral roll report

Chris Wilkes, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the number on the roll was 120, of which 87 were resident and 33 non-resident. This is an increase on last year's figure, which was 105.

5. Annual Report

The report meets the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and the PCC (2001 2nd edition) and is submitted to the Guildford Diocese with the Annual Statement of Accounts. The report had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting. A copy is held on file with these minutes. JDS drew people's attention to the report and said it was an impressive list of achievements.

6. Financial Statements for Year End 31st December 2019

The Treasurer, Pat Lapworth, gave a summary of the Church accounts for the year to 31st December 2019, which had been independently examined by Mr Patrick Andrew and had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting.

A deficit budget had been planned for this year and the deficit at the end of the year was less than planned for. This was partly owing to a transfer of £16,955 from the fabric fund, which was now depleted at £478.

Pat reminded those present that the financial figures were for 2019, and that we were now a long way through 2020, owing to the postponement of the APCM because of the Covid-19 pandemic. She explained the transition to a higher parish share, with the new calculation by the diocese, and that we were recognised as a parish that will struggle to pay the higher amount. There would be a five year 'phasing in' period.

Pat noted that our outward giving amount was reduced because of the increased parish share.

She reported that, with regard to building work, a transfer from the fabric fund to the general fund covered some of the repairs. The church has finished paying for the loan from the Methodist Chapel Fund (with contributions from the Schroder Trust).

The Leverton Hall earned nearly £6,000 from those hiring the hall. Work to upgrade facilities in the hall took place in 2019, including the installation of a new kitchen and electrics, costing around £16,000 in total.

The church received a generous £15,000 in-memoriam donation in 2019, with £5,000 for the vicar's discretionary fund.

Pat noted that this year (2020) the Diocese made a reduction to our parish share because of the Covid-19 situation. The PCC also decided to create a more formal reserves policy, to make sure that we have enough money to make every-day payments. Pat reported that we will have underpaid our parish share by around £9,000 by the end of 2020. She presented the 2020 budget and explained it was created pre-Covid, which will have an impact.

Pat also highlighted things to celebrate, including successful building repairs, hall refurbishment, and £6,000 in grants received.

J. Crawford enquired about the increase in the parish share: as it is increasing by multiple times the rate of inflation, does that imply that the Diocese is not trying hard enough to make its finances work? Pat said that the Diocese had overhauled their staffing, systems etc. to save money. Jacqueline explained that ninety-five percent of the Diocese's income comes from the parishes. Previously, growing churches were being penalised and small ones subsidised.

Jacqueline thanked Pat for her conscientious care of the church accounts and for her report.

7. Election of Representatives of the Laity to Serve on the Parochial Church Council

Kathryn Beesley stood down after serving six years on the PCC. The meeting thanked Kathryn for her service to the PCC.

Paul Smith and Gerald Blues were willing to serve for a first term.

| Candidate | Proposed | Seconded |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Paul Smith | Sally Woods | Philip Yates |
| Gerald Blues | Ian Lapworth | Pat Lapworth |

There being no other candidates, both were elected unopposed. There remain four casual vacancies on the PCC.

8. Election of Vice-Chair to the Parochial Church Council

It was proposed by Sally Woods and seconded by Pat Lapworth that Rob Durrant should be elected as Vice-Chair to the PCC. Rob Durrant was elected unopposed.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Naomi Parkin-Tyrie and Paul Smith stood down as Deanery Synod Reps and there were no new candidates for election.

10. Election of Churches Together in Farnham Representative

It was agreed unanimously that Rosalind Forsythe should continue in this role.

11. Appointment of Stewards

A list of the Stewards currently serving was displayed. The meeting was asked whether it was happy to confirm the list en bloc and this was unanimously agreed. The list is filed with these minutes. [Note: The displayed list mistakenly including Deborah Ling, who has now stood down as a Steward. This has now been corrected.]

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting thanked Mr Patrick Andrew, who had acted as the Independent Examiner for 12 years. Pat explained that Mr Andrew was now standing down and proposed that from 2020 Mr Chris Hyland should be our Independent Examiner. This was seconded by Wendy Coxell. It was agreed unanimously to appoint Mr Chris Hyland as Independent Examiner for 2020.

13. Deanery Synod Report

This was delivered by Naomi Parkin-Tyrie and is filed with these minutes.

14. Annual Report on Church Fabric

This was delivered by Ian Lapworth and is filed with these minutes. Ian thanked the people who help with cutting grass and grounds maintenance, noting that it saves the PCC a lot of money. Jacqueline thanked Ian and the other members of the Fabric and Finance sub-committee for their work.

15. Safeguarding Policy

This was delivered by Sally Woods, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, and is filed with these minutes. Sally reported that everyone had undertaken their relevant training and risk assessments were completed, particularly for youth and children's work. Jacqueline thanked Sally for her work.

16. Combined Churchwarden's and Vicar's Report

Jacqueline delivered her report (which is combined with the churchwarden's report as there was no elected churchwarden for 2019–20). She thanked Kathryn Beesley, who stood down from the PCC after 6 years. She thanked Chris Wilkes, who became Parish Administrator in 2019. Jacqueline spoke about the church's financial situation and how each of us should just contribute what we can in the stewardship campaign – financial or otherwise. She said that it was great that we are such a warm and caring church family. We need to follow God and he will get us where we need to be. Rob also spoke in his capacity as newly elected churchwarden. He said that Jacqueline should have our thanks too, for leading us and doing a marvellous job – particularly in 2020 with the Covid-19 lockdown and online services. Rob led the meeting in a prayer.

17. Any Other Business

There was no further business to be transacted.

The meeting closed at 12.33pm.