

St Paul's Church, Rusthall
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 8:00pm
at the Church Centre and on Zoom

Present:

In person – The Revd. Ronnie Williams, Paul Barter, Tim Cripps, Gillian Penny, May Graves, Ann Palfrey, Jean Steyn, Susan Powley, Clive M^cAllister, Chris Maguire, Caroline Johnson, Fiona Johnson, Mione Palmer, Nick Farman, Jennifer Farman, Tony Bourne, Chris Dobson, Angela Culley, Graeme Anderson, Pat Cripps

On Zoom – Daphne Pilcher, Vreni Gould, Shirley Barter, Jean Kerr, Liz Goddard, Sue Hare, Tony Rutherford, Deborah Bruce

- 1) Welcome – the Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Apologies for absence – Ginette di Palma, Barbara Gillinder, Wendy Anderson, Margaret Brown.
- 3) Minutes of the Parochial Church Meeting held on 29th October 2020, having been circulated before the meeting, were taken as read and accepted as a true and accurate copy of proceedings.
- 4) Matters arising from the Minutes – none.
- 5) The Vicar's report –
 - a) the Vicar reminded us of the CofE instruments in place to ensure those joining us through Zoom are part of the APCM and have voting rights.
 - b) During a minute of silence we remembered all those known to us, in or out of the parish, who died in the last year, including the Revd. Michael Dent.
 - c) The Vicar expressed gratitude and appreciation to everyone in the parish who played an immense role in, not just keeping things and people ticking over but, ensuring that things were developed and people enabled to flourish. An example of this was the setting up of the Rusthall Community Larder in November.
 - d) Those people specifically mentioned were: Clive and May our dedicated Wardens, Graeme Anderson and Margaret Brown, deputy Wardens and Susan Powley who is both deputy Warden and leader of the Church Centre, Pat Cripps our Treasurer, Mione Palmer our PCC Secretary, PCC members, members of sub committees and Deanery Synod, Daphne and Tim our Lay Readers, Fiona and members of the choir, including Alex Robson, Jean and John Kerr, Chris Maguire, Mary Holmes and all those leading services, speaking, preaching, reading the scriptures, leading intercessions, welcoming, and those involved in the maintenance, administration and running of the parish, especially Ginette our Parish Administrator.
 - e) The Vicar noted that Sunday School was severely affected by the lockdowns but nevertheless he was grateful to Mary Holmes and Daphne Pilcher for their leadership.
 - f) May was thanked for doubling up as the Safeguarding Officer.
 - g) Mentioned was made of all those who clean and maintain the church buildings and the grounds, including Lorraine our paid Cleaner, the dedicated team of volunteers who empty the bins at the New Churchyard and inform the Parish Office of anything untoward, the team from the Community Pay back Scheme who help tidy the grounds of the Parish Church and David and Anne Vernon for initially organising this.
 - h) The Vicar gave special thanks to those who stepped down from the PCC and those who would be offering themselves for election.
 - i) Thanks went to Deborah and Sue and the editorial team who edit and produce our parish magazine and to all those who contribute articles and other materials to make it such an appealing and readable church magazine.

- j) Thanks went to everyone involved in the life of Rusthall St Paul's school, especially Miss Powell and her teaching staff and those who serve as governors.
 - k) Thanks also went to all those who are involved in other forms of ministry within the parish community. The link between the Church and the Rusthall Community continues to grow from strength to strength.
 - l) The Vicar touched on working with our neighbouring Anglican Parishes, particularly the URC.
 - m) Mention was made of the need to continue to explore new ways of being effective Disciples of Christ and the lockdown gave us the opportunity of meeting on zoom although no internet service is available at the Parish Church.
 - n) The link with our companion parish of St Peter in Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe has not flourished over the past year but some members of St. Paul's are still in regular communication.
 - o) Although last year was strange and difficult, there were some great moments of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement and it is hoped that St. Paul's will continue to be supportive of each other and we work towards making the parish a growing and ever more vibrantly positive Christian community.
- 6) The Electoral Roll Report
- 7) The Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish (including a Group Reports booklet with input from various organisations including the Deanery Synod) was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- 8) The Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 was commented on by the Treasurer as follows –
- a) Thank yous to Mione for producing copies of the accounts for those present and Bill for making the accounts and annual report available on the website.
 - b) 2020 finished with a deficit of £15,965, a little over £1,000 less than 2019. Both income and expenditure were less. Grateful thanks go to planned givers, particularly envelope givers, who have all continued to support St Paul's during these difficult times, and to Nic Farman who worked hard to bring services to St Paul's when the church was closed and with very little cost to the church.
 - c) Compared to 2019 income was reduced from lack of service collections, fees from weddings and baptisms and hall hire – see page 4 of the accounts. However, we were blessed with £6,500 in legacies.
 - d) Expenditure on page 5, was also less than 2019 but even with the imposed Covid restrictions everything has to tick over and the decrease comes from the obvious things, less service costs, less organist costs and running costs, but maintenance remained similar; during lockdown the buildings still require upkeep.
 - e) There are new tenants in 2 Church Cottage and an increase in rent will be very welcome in 2021.
 - f) The church cottages gain in value every year and there is still nearly £50,000 in the legacy fund but each year this is reducing. The PCC must continue to find ways to increase income and reduce expenditure or it will not be long before very hard decisions need to be made.
 - g) The Accounts were proposed by Tony Bourne and seconded by Paul (Bill) Barter.
- 9) Election of Deputy Churchwardens – no new expressions of interest. The below were duly re-elected.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Deputy Churchwarden	Graeme Anderson	Chris Maguire	Liz Goddard
Deputy Churchwarden	Margaret Brown	May Graves	Clive McAllister

Deputy Churchwarden	Susan Powley	Graeme Anderson	Vivien Littlechild
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10) Election of members of the Parochial Church Council – no new expressions of interest. Paul (Bill) Barter was re-elected. Mary Holmes retired.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
PCC	Paul (Bill) Barter	Tim Cripps	May Graves

11) Appointment of Independent Examiner – David Ralph was appointed at the Independent Examiner.

12) Open to the Floor –

- a) WiFi at Parish Church – the ongoing problems were outlined.
- b) Magazine on line – this will continue thus keeping costs down.
- c) The individual members of the team at the Church Centre were thanked for all they do.

13) The Grace.

The meeting closed at 20:30