

Minutes of the Annual Churchwarden's Meeting held on
Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

1. Opening Prayers

The Revd. Mark Hayton opened the meeting with prayers. He welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

2. Present

Revd. Mark Hayton (Chairman), Claire Holt (PCC Secretary).

Paul Allen, Jane Allen, Joan Bell, Mike Benham, Brian Biffin, Anne Biffin, Jean Box, Trish Brooker, Sheila Buller, Richard Buller, Amy Canham, Jean Carr, Jan Cole, Linda Dart, Nancy Dawson, Nick Doran, Mike Ford, Carolyn Ford, Robert Frost, Jayne Frost, Chantelle Gardner, Rosemary Goodrich, Mary Goodson, Joan Hall, Sally Hastings, Jean Hawkins, Janet Henshall, Terry Henshall, Lynda Hix, Mike Huddie, Sue Huddie, Antony Jones, Jane Jones, Judy Keep, Karen Kite, Dian Kitts, Graham Kitts, Tim Lyons, Barbara Lyons, Karena Pearson, John Ragan, Suzanne Rogers, John Simson, M Simpson, Robert Smith, Ann Smith, Susan Taylor, Jenny Thorne, Elizabeth Waller, Kate Wickenden, Bill Wickenden, Geoff Wickes, Darren Wood, Juliet Worthington, Yvonne Wyatt.

2. 1 Apologies

Rosemary Jones, Tim Kite, Ros Piddington, Pamela Pimm, Erica Taylor and Ruth Waller.

3. Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting

The Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes of Monday 19th October 2020 were approved by the meeting without correction. Proposed by Karen Kite, seconded by Jean Hawkins.

4. Matters arising therefrom

None

5. Election of Church Wardens

Revd. Mark Hayton thanked Antony and Mike for their considerable work during a difficult time. Mark has enjoyed working with both of them over a number of years. Mark advised the meeting that Antony had wished to stand down this year, however he is willing to stand again with the proviso that someone is found to shadow him and succeed him at the next APCM.

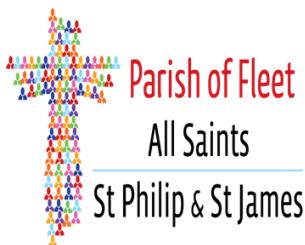
Antony Jones was proposed as Church Warden by Jane Jones and seconded by Claire Holt.

Jenny Thorne was proposed as Church Warden by Dian Kitts and seconded by Bill Wickenden.

In the absence of any other nominations, Antony Jones and Jenny Thorne were duly elected. Mark looks forward to working with them both.

The Churchwarden's Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed.....



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on
Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.50pm via Zoom

1. Present and Apologies

As vestry meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes. *The APCM Minutes of Monday 19th October 2020 were approved by the meeting without correction.*
Proposed by Antony Jones, seconded by Mike Benham.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Election of PCC Representatives

The Vicar explained the set-up of the PCC. He thanked Rogier Wieffer and Liz Whiting whose terms of office have ended. Two further vacancies have arisen following Jenny Thorne voted in as Church warden and Karen Kite who has resigned due to Tim being our independent examiner. The following nominations have been received:

	Proposed	Seconded
Linda Dart	Mary Goodson	Rosemary Goodrich
Mike Benham	Mike Ford	Richard Buller
Darren Wood	Mke Benham	Elizabeth Waller

There being no further nominations the above were duly elected to the PCC for a term of three years.

The new list of Elected PCC Members is as follows:

PCC Member	Remaining Term of Office
Mike Benham	3 years
Linda Dart	3 years
Darren Wood	3 years
Richard Buller	2 years
Amy Canham	2 years
Jean Carr	2 years
Jean Hawkins	2 years
Paul Allen	1 Year
Nick Doran	1 Year
Lynda Hix	1 Year

5. Presentation of Annual Accounts

The treasurer welcomed all to the second presentation of the Parish Accounts via Zoom and started his presentation with a caution that it should be noted that the accounting period (2020) reflects the effects of Covid, and it is not a “typical” year. He went on to outline the major points from the accounts which showed:

Total Assets of £1.5m of which:

- Land/Buildings/Fixtures: £692k
- Unit Trusts: £110k (103K last year)
- Disposable cash (net current assets): £733K

He clarified the net current assets as being predominantly the money highlighted for the All Saint development

Effect of 2020 result on our money:

There was a general fund deficit of £29k (following previous years' losses of £42k, £33k, £40k respectively) and he stated that the net cash available at 1 Jan 2021 for Parish activities was approx. £132K – the lowest that it had been for many years.

The budgeted spend for 2021 is £199k, broadly: Parish share - £110K, F&M & Oasthouse Drive - £44k; Parish Office - £27k (incl magazine, printing, postage, salaries, telephone, IT equip) and included other budget elements for social expenses / Youth / training / outward giving.

He then went on to list the highlights of 2020

- Parish Share (£99k/£109k): remains materially unchanged for 2020 and 2021 (but there was a £10k Covid rebate from the Diocese for 2020)
- Good income from recovery of income tax (£25k received in the year, plus ASF £2k)

- Significant Halls/ PJ Church lettings (£23k) BUT down from £48k last year – direct consequence of Covid
- social events and Coffee Bar income (£7k) BUT down from (21k last year – again a direct consequence of Covid
- and magazine advertising income (£5k)- an important element of our outreach
- Substantial capital growth in Unit Trusts (+£7k), and some dividends and bank interest (£11k) – but low interest rates were currently in play
- Temporary savings in day to day management costs of halls and churches with Covid restrictions
- We now have 4 payment card reading machines to develop our cashless drive - now being used on Sunday mornings and in the office. We also accept payment via various on-line sources. Total donated last year “on-line” was over £5k and this year over £4k to date
- Charitable Giving: about £3K direct to charities from pantomime, Gift Days, and other collections (we are moving more towards encouraging payment direct to charities, which will not be reflected in our accounts, to reduce cash handling and administration)
- Planned giving about £96k (holding up - £96k last). We have again sadly lost members of our congregation which is bound to affect giving in time, but giving levels are not keeping up with inflation
- Current (mid Covid) forecast budget deficits for each of next few years - 2021 £12k 2022 £12k 2023 £35k - although forecast deficits don't always materialise. We now have an opportunity to gear ourselves up for the future – a new All Saints, arrival of the new Curate, possible Youth Worker (in the plans), – all need funding in some way
- To do this (our challenge) we need to maximise our income resources!
- Income resources is not the only area of giving to be maximised – giving of our time and talents are equally important and always welcomed.

In summary for the year, we have suffered a serious loss of income from hall and church lettings, loss of coffee bar and social income and reduced collections, but this has been mitigated by and not replacing the Associate Vicar “like for like”, the letting of 38 Oasthouse Drive pending appointment of curate and general savings on cleaning, musicians, gardening, utilities. We have been very careful with our money.

He went on to extol the virtues of Planned Giving by Direct Debit – now over half of our donors are using this efficient and modern method of giving – he would like to see more moving across from standing order to direct debit.

He concluded by thanking the treasury team – all those who count, bank, advise, manage the planned giving scheme, and the Finance and Admin Committee for their support.

The Vicar invited questions about the accounts. There were none!
There were no questions.

The Vicar thanked Mike for a very understandable presentation. He had shared a very clear picture of the financial situation, he hoped everyone would heed the warnings and challenges ahead. The financial team are fantastic, with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom. They give a huge amount of time Mark is extremely grateful to them. Following Judith's departure Mike has spent lockdown learning the accounting format, for that we are truly grateful.

The meeting adopted the accounts, proposed by Geoff Wickes, seconded by John Simson.

6. Review of Annual Reports

The Vicar guided the meeting through the Annual Report, which is greatly reduced in size this year due to lockdown. He invited comment as he went through it.

Jenny Thorne advised the meeting that no further house to house collections will take place for Christian Aid. This year, instead, there will be a plant and cake sale in the car park at P&J on Saturday 8th May. Karen Kite offered to do refreshments.

The meeting received the Annual Report.

7. Electoral Roll Report

The total on roll at the Annual Church Meeting 2021 is 156, representing 116 households.

The Vicar is extremely grateful to Pamela Pimm for managing and compiling the Electoral Roll over a considerable number of years. She retires from her role tonight. Mary Goodson is to take over the role. He advised people to contact Mary should they wish to join the ER.

8. Engagement of Independent Examiner

The Vicar thanked Tim Kite for examining the parish accounts and for his high standards. We are very grateful to him.

Tim has agreed to undertake the independent examination of the Parish Accounts for a further year. The Vicar asked Karen to pass thanks to Tim on behalf of the meeting.

A motion to confirm the engagement of Tim Kite as Independent Examiner of the Parish Accounts was raised. Proposed by Nick Doran and seconded by Kate Wickenden. All voted in favour except Karen Kite who abstained. Motion carried.

9. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report has been circulated in advance of the meeting and is shown below. Mark began by informing the meeting of an important update on the building project. Following a meeting of the ASBG on Friday with the Architects and Quantity Surveyor, a letter of intent has been prepared. Following this meeting there will be a meeting of the PCC, where it is hoped they will propose that Mark signs the letter of intent. This will set in motion detailed negotiations with the construction company – Buxton's with a view to building work commencing at the end of May. Mark advised that there will be a relaunching of the fundraising programme for Phase 2.

Dear Friends,

Six months on from our last AGM, held in November, I want to thank everyone for all they have done to ensure that our parish has continued to worship God and serve him in our community during these incredibly challenging times.

In one way or another this has involved you all, so I just want to thank you all for what you have done, and congratulate you all on your faithfulness, fortitude, and patience during these times.

Out of necessity, we have focused upon two priorities.

- Ensuring that God continues to be worshipped by our church community.
- Ensuring that we have been able to keep in touch with one another, and that needs are met.

In other words, we have been a lot like the church that Jesus formed in Galilee all those years ago! (See Acts 2: 42 – 47)

I can't help thinking, that as times change, as restrictions (hopefully) ease, and as we reflect upon what God has been saying to us during this time of pandemic, and where he is leading us in the future, we need to keep hold of these two priorities and in the light of them, ask ourselves the following questions..

- 1) What have we learned from lockdown about being the Church of Jesus?
- 2) Of those things that we have started in lockdown, which do we need to continue and develop?
- 3) Of those things that we have not been able to do this past year, which are we content to leave behind in the past?
- 4) Given all this, what do we consider will be the most faithful use of the resources God has given us (Human, Financial, Spiritual, Administrative, Buildings)?

I would like these questions to start a conversation between us all, not just the new PCC, throughout the coming months, and be something we pray about, think about, talk about, argue about, learn from each other and God about, over the coming months as we become the 'Post – Covid' Parish of Fleet in 2021 and beyond.

We have much to look forward to in the months ahead – more opportunities to be together, the commencement of the building project, the arrival of Cally and her family, the Archbishop's mission in the Autumn and much more that God has yet to reveal to us.

As we embrace and enjoy all of this, we must not look back, remember what happened to Lot's wife when she did that! Instead, we must keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, and follow him as he leads us into the new future he has prepared for us.

Once again, thank you for all you have done and all that you are, and I look forward to all our adventures together in the year ahead.

May God bless you all,

Mark

Comments were taken from the floor.

GW – When would the church be opening fully, why are we sitting on our backsides and not moving to fuller opening. The majority of the congregation have probably had their second jabs, so there was no danger of anyone catching COVID.

JH – There is evidence that even if you have been vaccinated it doesn't stop you from catching COVID. It is not stupid to be cautious.

JK – Had visited St. David's Cathedral, where they attended sung evensong. The choirs were singing together quite safely.

JR – It is wise to wait a bit longer. It is sufficient to be diligent over the next few months.

JT – Plenty of people in the congregation have not had their second vaccinations or even their first.

AC – It is appropriate to be cautious. Everyone is missing the singing aspect of our worship.

MH – We have always done what is legally allowed and what we can do practically and safely in our environment. We have had some live music. There will be a slow and cautious return to live music. We have to strike a balance and I feel we have got it right. There is now an opportunity for outdoor singing, that is something we can explore.

GW – It is ridiculously slow; the Church of England is sitting on its backside.

MH – We have always followed government guidelines. It was a great privilege to be open for worship when shops, pubs and restaurants were closed.

KK – Thanked Mark for his work.

MH – Appreciation of the work of Jane and Mary should also be acknowledged. They are great assets and should be used wisely. The last year has taken its toll. We all need to value each other.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Signed

CH &MH