

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Minutes 16th May 2021

	Vestry Meeting (Anyone living in the Parish and/or on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote)	NB: this was a virtual Zoom meeting
Item	Subject	Decision/Actions
1	Revd Bridget Shepherd welcomed everyone and explained the difference between the Vestry Meeting and the APCM. She then opened the meeting in prayer.	
2	<p><i>Present:</i> Adriaan Goosen, Allison Streetly, Angela Stebbings, Bridget Shepherd, Catherine Clough, Catrin Cox, Cherry Murdoch, Clare Johnson, Conway Tearle, Elizabeth Bentley, Gail Treves-Brown, Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, James Murdoch, Jean Parker, Jevan Green, Jo (Joanne) McCrone, John Murray, Laurie (Laurence) Roberts, Laurie Stuart, Margaret Aroguthur, Margaret Cadney, Mia Hadfield-Spoor, Min (Elmena) Britton, Patricia Herrera, Paul Adlington, Paul McCrone, Peter Watson, Petra Woodford, Richard Clough, Rosemary Thurbon, Roz (Rosalind) McCutcheon, Sonja Goosen, Sue (Susanna) King, Sue Tearle, Trudi Bramson, Yi Baylis</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i> John Savill, Nick Shepherd</p>	
3	Declarations of Interest: None declared.	
4	Approval of Minutes for 18th October 2020 No Corrections The minutes were approved ; Proposer: Trudi Bramson. Seconded: Elizabeth Bentley. All in favour except for one abstention.	<i>Carried: Minutes approved.</i>
5	Matters arising from 18th October 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no matters arising, questions or comments. 	
6	Election of Church Wardens <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sue Tearle was proposed by Richard Clough and seconded by John Murray b. James Murdoch was proposed by Joanne McCrone and seconded by Peter Watson c. There being no other nominations Sue and James were elected unopposed. d. The induction of Church Wardens will be done locally. <p>Thanks were offered by Bridget to the outgoing Wardens, Joanne McCrone and Angela Stebbings who were stepping</p>	<i>Sue Tearle and James Murdoch were elected as Church Wardens (w.e.f 20/6/21)</i>

	down. A gift had been made before the meeting. The Wardens have significant responsibility for people, buildings, finance and legalities; they are the senior laypeople in the parish. Much of their work behind the scenes is unseen. Joanne has been the backbone of the Foodbank and Angela has kept St Peters going. They have shown love for God and love for the church; their deep faith has been a light especially for those on the margin and the most vulnerable.	
7	The Vestry Meeting was closed	

Item	APCM (Anyone on the Electoral Roll can attend and vote)	NB: this was a virtual Zoom meeting
	Subject	Decision/Actions
1	<p><i>Present:</i> Adriaan Goosen, Allison Streetly, Angela Stebbings, Bridget Shepherd, Catherine Clough, Catrin Cox, Cherry Murdoch, Clare Johnson, Conway Tearle, Elizabeth Bentley, Gail Treves-Brown, Gladys Ekpo-Daniels, James Murdoch, Jean Parker, Jevan Green, Jo (Joanne) McCrone, John Murray, Laurie (Laurence) Roberts, Laurie Stuart, Margaret Aroguthur, Margaret Cadney, Mia Hadfield-Spoor, Min (Elmena) Britton, Patricia Herrera, Paul Adlington, Paul McCrone, Peter Watson, Petra Woodford, Richard Clough, Rosemary Thurbon, Roz (Rosalind) McCutcheon, Sonja Goosen, Sue (Susanna) King, Sue Tearle, Trudi Bramson, Yi Baylis, Nigel Drew, Richard Evans</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i> John Savill, Nick Shepherd</p>	
2	Declarations of Interest: None declared.	
3	<p>Approval of Minutes for 18th October 2020 No Corrections The minutes were approved ; Proposer: Trudi Bramson. Seconded: Angela Stebbings. All in favour except for two abstentions.</p>	<i>Carried: Minutes approved.</i>
4	<p>Matters arising from 18th October 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no matters arising, questions or comments. 	
5	<p>Receipt of Trustees' Report on the past year (May 2020-April 2021) (Hard copies of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts were made available at both churches, or can be downloaded from the PCC page of the website.)</p> <p>The Report which goes both to the Charity Commission and the Diocese covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Aims and Purposes</u> <u>Objectives and Activities</u> 	

	<p>c) <u>Achievements and Performance</u> d) <u>The Electoral Roll</u> e) <u>Safeguarding Report</u> f) <u>Fabric Report</u> g) <u>Deanery Synod</u> h) <u>Financial Report</u> i) <u>Reserves Policy</u> j) <u>Plans for Future Period</u> k) <u>Structure, Governance and Management</u> l) <u>Administrative Information</u> m) <u>Approval</u></p> <p>The Report was received by the APCM there being no comments or questions. Laurie Roberts offered thanks to all contributing and to James for putting it together.</p>	
6	<p>Receipt of Annual Accounts for 2021</p> <p>Yi, our Treasurer, gave a brief summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yi thanked all our donors and also the Finance team: Conway, Roz and Tanya for all the work they do. • It has been a difficult year in the pandemic with a huge reduction in Hall income but thanks to our regular donors our positioning remains pretty solid • There had been some additional donations for pandemic support • We were able to take the opportunity to catch up with repairs at the Good Shepherd, create an Office in the Choir Vestry and do essential Maintenance at Weigall Road. <p>Mia asked for clarification on Weigall Road and Yi clarified it was for essential repairs before letting. Gladys asked how people make one off donations and Bridget referred her to the pages on our website (Roz asked that purpose of gift be made in the reference)..</p> <p>Bridget said that we should give thanks to God for being in a sound position in spite of the loss of Hall income. She also gave thanks to Yi, Conway, Roz and Tanya.</p>	
7	<p>Deanery Synod and PCC Elections</p> <p>a. Deanery Synod Elections Three representatives were elected last year for three years; no election necessary. (Bridget commented that Laurie is now Deanery Secretary and that we should take pride in the lead being given by our reps).</p> <p>b. PCC Elections i) There were 4 three year vacancies based on the Electoral Roll number.</p>	

	<p>ii) Sue Tearle’s selection as Church Warden frees up 1 PCC vacancy until the 2022 PCC .</p> <p>ii) There were 5 nominations for 5 places and hence no election, the candidates being elected unopposed:</p> <p>Peter Watson and Catrin Cox were retiring from the PCC and not standing again this year; Bridget thank them and said how much we had valued their wisdom.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 595 1206 824"> <thead> <tr> <th>PCC Candidate</th> <th>Proposer</th> <th>Secunder</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Angela Stebbings</td> <td>Lorraine Elliott</td> <td>Dik Morling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sue (Susanna) King</td> <td>Yi Baylis</td> <td>Angela Stebbings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conway Tearle</td> <td>Richard Clough</td> <td>Elizabeth Bentley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mia Hadfield-Spoor</td> <td>Barbara Bird</td> <td>Jean Parker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trudi Bramson</td> <td>Cherry Murdoch</td> <td>Nick Shepherd</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PCC Candidate	Proposer	Secunder	Angela Stebbings	Lorraine Elliott	Dik Morling	Sue (Susanna) King	Yi Baylis	Angela Stebbings	Conway Tearle	Richard Clough	Elizabeth Bentley	Mia Hadfield-Spoor	Barbara Bird	Jean Parker	Trudi Bramson	Cherry Murdoch	Nick Shepherd	<p><i>Angela, Sue, Conway and Trudi were elected as PCC members for 3 years.</i></p> <p><i>Mia was also elected as a PCC member but volunteered to take the 1 year place.</i></p>
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8	<p>Reflections:</p> <p>1) Jo (Joanne) McCrone (Church Warden)</p> <p>Being the churchwarden during the pandemic I would say has been a unique experience, something that neither Angela nor myself nor any other Churchwarden across the country could have anticipated. Whilst it some ways we were presented with a crisis, I think we can safely say we were able to turn the crisis into an opportunity, a chance to get lots of jobs done especially repairs and changes to the building. I think my reflection before we went into lockdown was that it was a time for us to mend our nets. That has been achieved in so many ways, including the way our fellowship has been strengthened through meeting online, the time we have had to spend more time in prayer and in the ways we have been able to do some essential repairs to our building. Many of these are included in the annual report so I won’t list them, but they do include repairing all the windows in the building and moving the office from the vicarage to the back vestry... something I feel particularly proud of. If you haven’t seen the office, next time you are in the building sneak a peak or drop in to see our new Administrator Fiona who is very good at putting the kettle on. The office space does not belong to the Administrator or the Church wardens or the PCC but to all of us.</p> <p>There has been a lot of work behind the scenes especially this year, whilst we haven’t been opening up the building so much on Sundays, the unseen tasks have been going on every week in lockdown and I would like to thank Conway Tearle especially for all of the work that he has put in fixing and managing the building, helping me with that aspect of the Churchwardens role. In fact, as I step down after 5 years of being the church warden at the Good Shepherd, there are 3 people</p>																			

who have been a particular support to me and they are Conway, John Murray and Angela. Thank you. Your guidance, wisdom, common sense and unflappable attitudes have helped me immensely.

Some of you will know that I have always felt called to work in the community in some form of outreach or the other through the Foodbank, ESOL and other projects. For many years, I have been linking up with groups outside of our church, in our neighbourhood and on the margins. At the end of January, after praying about it for a couple of years, I was recommended to be put forward for training for ordination as a Distinctive Deacon. If this goes through, it will involve 2 years of training and possible other placements. Distinctive Deacons, embody the ministry that leads within the body and outside. One of my favourite passages is the one where Jesus encounters the woman with the bleeding in the community and she finds healing. She probably would never ever have been able to enter the temple. I feel that there are so many people out there to reach who would never come into our churches. One of the reasons I am stepping down is to follow the call to reach those such people in our community. Of course, you don't have to be ordained for that as we are all carrying Jesus' love out into our neighbourhoods but it feels right for me at this time in my life... but also, well there are only so many risk assessments one can cope with filling out. Thank you all for your support, As I always joke, before I came to the Church of England, I had never heard of a churchwarden, only a traffic warden, little did I know where this would take me. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you all in this way

2) Angela Stebbings (Church Warden)

Angela said that she saw being a Warden both as a duty and as loving service; she had got so very much back from folk in return. She will still be around to support St. Peter's. She reflected that the Foodbank at St Peters had been through a number of iterations becoming a full delivery service, she particularly wanted to thank Dik, Sue King, Diane and all who work behind the scenes. She particularly wanted to thank Jo, her fellow Warden who was a great colleague.

Thank you too for the card and present.

3) Revd Bridget Shepherd (Vicar)

Earlier this week I was praying about what to say today, and I had a conversation with Mia (Hadfield-Spoor) who mentioned the bit in the Gospels where Jesus talks about not putting new wine in old wine skins. It really resonated with me, so I'd like to start by reading that:

'And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.' Mark2:22

Over the past 5 few weeks we've been talking about the Church of England vision for the 2020s. A vision to be:

Christ centred and Jesus shaped

To reflect the character of Christ by being humbler, simpler and bolder

And to put our energy into pursuing four priorities:

- exploring, releasing and supporting each other to live out our faith in everyday life
- encouraging variety and creativity in our worship, mission and practice
- being a church that's younger and more diverse
- Pursuing social justice for all

When I was talking to Mia about this vision we agreed it was about *reorientation* rather than revolution. It's about re-centring ourselves on Jesus, and reshaping who we are and what we do in the light of that.

I think often in the life of the church we can find ourselves getting attached to the wrong things. We focus on the wine skins, and forget that they're there to hold the wine. What Jesus is saying here, is that he's the new wine, and his presence will change the way that people express and live out their faith.

As a church, we're seeking to reorientate ourselves on Jesus, and that will reshape who we are and what we do. Jesus talked about putting new wine in new wine skins – it *wasn't* a radical departure from what had gone before, it was about renewal, and ensuring that the wine skins were fit for purpose.

The world is changing rapidly; on top of that Covid has changed our lives in all manner of ways, so we need to make sure that as a church we are fit for purpose.

Going back to those four priorities, we need to think about the ways in which we're already fulfilling those priorities; but we also need to think about where there are gaps, and how we could do things differently in order to pursue those priorities.

For example, one of the priorities is to encourage variety and creativity in our worship, mission and practice. So we might ask ourselves:

What does this church already do well that shows variety and creativity?

Where do you see God's creativity reflected?

What could we do to explore new ways of being creative in our worship and outreach?

	<p>I suspect, as we have these conversations, that there will be other important conversations that we'll need to have as well.</p> <p>We'll need to think about how we use our buildings – what do our buildings mean to us? What do they represent to others? How would we like to use our buildings and grounds as we look to the future? How can we best look after them?</p> <p>At the moment lockdown is continuing to ease, but I'm pretty sure that online worship is here to stay. So how can we build a sense of community and belonging within the church, if some of us are at home, and some are in the building? And how do we build a sense of community if some people worship on Sundays at 10.30am at the Good Shepherd, and others worship on Wednesdays at 8pm at St. Peter's. At the most basic level, how do we get know each other? How do we have a sense of unity when there's diversity?</p> <p>And in amongst all of this, I do think we're going to need to consider how and where St. Peter's fits. As far as I'm aware, this is the first time that we won't have a churchwarden from St. Peter's, so what's the place of St. Peter's as we look to the future?</p> <p>And that's where I'd take us back to the new wine in the new wine skins. The C of E vision is calling us to re-centre ourselves on Jesus – so that we're not holding onto the old wineskins, but we're being renewed by God so that as a church we're fit for purpose and fit for the future.</p> <p>I very much hope that you'll get involved with helping to shape how that looks.</p>	
9	<p>Independent examiner John Howard was our IE this year. Bridget has thanked him It was agreed that the PCC approach John Howard in January 2020, and to appoint someone else if he is unwilling / unavailable. Proposed Richard Evans. Seconded Conway Tearle. All in favour</p>	<p><i>Carried: Agreed that it was delegated to PCC to appoint John Howard or substitute if not available</i></p>
10	<p>AOB None.</p> <p>Thanks were given by Laurie Roberts, on behalf of everyone, to Gail for facilitating the Zoom meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Closing Prayers The meeting closed in prayer, led by Paul Adlington, at around 1:00pm</p>	

