

All Saints, Malvern Wells & Wyche Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 21st March 2021
APCM
by ZOOM at 10am

Minutes

Meeting of the Parishioners

For those on the electoral roll or who are resident in the Parish of All Saints. Others may be present as observers.

Present:

Revd Peter Myres, Revd Dave Bruce, Revd Helen Wilkinson, Sarah Yeadon, Peter Yeadon, Andy Green, Jacqui Green, Janet Simmonds, Angela Davison, Andrew Crumpler, Carol Wilson, Martyn Wilson, Diana Hunt, Paul Hunt, Janet Finch, Jean Williams, Joanne Spencer, Peter Buchanan, Margaret Buchanan, Paul Southern, Sheila Joyce, Sylvia Miles, Trish Beecroft, Ken Beecroft, Vanessa Everitt, Kath Midwinter, Pat Pool, April Walwyn, Bea Magowan

1. Apologies for absence were received from Diane Southall, Dawn Hatch and Sheila Fennell, who had submitted their votes by proxy.

2. Election of Churchwardens

The following church wardens were re-elected for a further year:

a) Patience Broad (first appointed in 2019): proposed by Trish Beecroft and seconded by Ken Beecroft

b) Janet Finch (first appointed in 2020): proposed by Ken Beecroft and seconded by Trish Beecroft

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

For those on the electoral roll. Others may be present as observers.

Present (as recorded for the Parishioners' Meeting)

1. Apologies for absence (as recorded for the Parishioners' Meeting)

2. Minutes of the Meeting held 4th October 2020 were accepted as an accurate record

3. Matters Arising. There were none.

4. Rector's Report - Brief reflections on the ministry and mission across the parish in 2020 and looking ahead. See Appendix for full statement.

5. Time for discussion in breakout rooms to reflect.

We will be asking specifically:

- **Think of one word which describes how you feel about returning to in-person services at All Saints.**

Feedback: anxious, uncertain, normal, hopeful, apprehensive, thrilled, beauty, excited, enthusiastic, forward-looking, journey, hope and expectation,

- **What has been new that has worked well during the pandemic and which we sense God may be calling us to continue with?**

Feedback:

- Live-streamed / recorded services. It has been useful to be able to watch recorded services later on in the week as well as joining in live. This may be helpful for those who have busy Sundays but excludes those who can't log in
- Greater social communication between people and a heightened sense of caring for each other
- More walking and exercise
- Less mobile people being able to join Zoom communities
- Better work : life balance
- Caring for others at work
- Meetings via Zoom especially during dark winter months
- Being more outward-facing and being able to bless our communities.
- Coffee Zoom following Sunday service. This has meant that we have got to know and pray for one another more effectively, rather than just talk to the same one or two people at the back of church
- Dipping in and out of different services across the parish

- New people joining our online services
- The birth of new, smaller life groups to support each other

6. Electoral Roll Report.

Sarah Yeadon, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that at the APCM in 2020, there were 51 people on the Electoral Roll. We have lost one person, who has moved away, and we have gained two new church members. This brings the total as of March 7th 2021 to 52.

The Roll is available for viewing at the back of church and is now open to new applicants who must be 16 or over and be a regular worshipper. Please see Sarah if you wish to apply.

7. Financial Report.

Paul Southern (PCC Treasurer) reported that 2020 had started with a prediction of a £5,000 deficit and ended with a £5,000 credit. This has been an amazing turnaround due largely to the continued monthly donations and the low running expenses due to church closure.

Our big gain was the tax refund due through the Parish Giving Scheme. This was a one-off and cannot be expected again. If you have not already signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme, please do give it some thought. It is easy to sign up online or find out more through Paul.

Thanks also go to Jean Williams, Jacqui Green and Patience Broad who supported Paul by ringing around to verify payments.

This year, a deficit budget of £11,000 is predicted. The year ahead is uncertain due to expected staffing changes. In addition, St Andrew's has suffered considerably in 2020 with the loss of income from its meeting rooms and All Saints would like to be able to contribute towards this financial loss. However, our reserves are good and will withstand a one-off deficit such as this. The Parish Share, which has been paid in full in the past, is due for an overhaul and the coming year will see a transition in the way it is to be calculated, which should be of benefit to both our churches. All Saints has received a letter of thanks from the Diocese for its past financial support.

Peter Buchanan added that where the Parish Share is our voluntary gift to the Diocese (to pay for our Clergy's stipends, housing and pension), in return, Dave Bruce and Peter Myres are their gift to us.

Everyone at All Saints was thanked for their continued generosity.

▪ Annual accounts for 2020 for approval

Paul Southern proposed that the 2020 Accounts be accepted, Janet Simmonds seconded and all were in favour.

▪ **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Paul Southern proposed that we continue with our Financial Examiner, Paul Lythgoe. Andy Green seconded and all were in favour.

▪ **Megan's Kitchen**

Megan Oliver left a legacy to All Saints in her Will and the PCC would like to be able to do something special with this gift related to families and children, which were important to Megan. Hence it has been decided to improve our kitchen and toilet facilities. The vision is to support the users of the church by developing something which can range from a coffee bar to a facility that can serve hot meals. It will also include a fridge and storage area for cutlery and crockery. In order to make space for the new kitchen area, we will also need to develop a new storage area for the chairs.

A sub-committee has been looking at potential ideas and the 'wish list' has been sent out to four architects. The next step will be to spend a small amount of money to consult with a couple of the architects to get things moving and gather ideas. Following that, we will present our plans to the Diocese and a faculty will be applied for.

We hope to have a good idea of what we want by the summer.

8. Receiving the Annual Report, which lays out the ministry and mission across the parish.

The Annual Report is available to view on the website and a few copies have been printed. Please apply to Sarah Yeadon if you wish to receive a printed copy.

It is a wonderful account of all that has been achieved over the past, rather different year and it is a great advertisement to new visitors.

9. Safeguarding update

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. The Safer Recruitment process is used for all volunteers. However, we all have a duty to be vigilant and report any safeguarding issues which concern us to Dave Bruce, Peter Myres or Val Fane, our Safeguarding Officer.

10. Elections and appointments

a) PCC members

Deanery Synod Reps Angela Davison and Peter Buchanan were elected to the PCC last year for three years.

Diana Hunt is retiring from the committee this year. She was thanked for her service on the PCC.

The following members were re-elected to the committee:

Ken Beecroft, proposed by Peter Buchanan, seconded by Patience Broad

Trish Beecroft, proposed by Jacqui Green, seconded by Sheila Joyce

All present were in favour.

There was one outstanding vacancy. Please talk to a member of the PCC if you would be interested in joining.

11. AOB

Dave opened the floor for any further questions:

- Carol Wilson asked how church services would run when we return on 28th March. Dave responded that they would be along the same lines as in late 2020 – socially distanced with masks and no singing.
- Janet Finch wished to thank Dave and Peter for guiding us through 2020 during the pandemic. She knows that it has cost them both a lot and they and their families continue to have our prayers and support.
- Angela Davison said that grants were available for making grounds more wildlife-friendly. Angela will move forward with this through the PCC.

Janet Finch closed the meeting with a prayer.

Signed.....date.....

APPENDIX

Rector's Review APCM All Saints 2020

2020 will be a year that we will never forget, and it has been one we could never have predicted. I'm not going to spend lots of time reflecting back as we all know what we have been through – and a year later still are going through.

But I do want to say well done and thank you.

Well done and thank you for still being the church in really difficult circumstances.

Well done and thank you for all the different ways that you have supported each other, encouraged each other, prayed for each other and cared for each other – and cared for me.

Well done and thank you to all those who have helped us keep our services going online and in person when we've been allowed to meet. And especially we want to say again a big thank you to Andy Green and the many others who have helped him in making that happen.

Well done and thank you for finding new ways of encountering God and holding firm in your faith in these challenging times.

Encouraged, we have found new ways to pray – midday prayer, evening prayer, churches together in Malvern prayer, individual prayer... waiting room in our own homes.

Well done and thank you for keeping giving generously so that our finances have not taken a hit like so many other churches.

Well done and thank you for finding creative and new ways to do mission and serve our community. Look at the Annual review... just to see how much outreach still has been done this year...

Looking out for neighbours

Holiday@home deliveries!

Bags of hope, boredom bags... kindness project

Christmas – nativity trail & online

New ministry at the Octagon – Community pantry, cook & eat projects

Early Birds service – 10/11 families connecting on regularly on ZOOM now

Mentoring of our youth

Alpha taken online

God has been leading us into new ministries and new ways of doing things over the last year... really important to notice that. That God has been taking us to new places and doing a new thing amongst us. There is much to celebrate.

We'll discuss that together a bit in a minute.

But now where do we find ourselves?

There is light at the end of the COVID tunnel... most of our congregation has been vaccinated once and some of you twice!

We are beginning to think about restrictions being lifted and life 'getting back to normal', whatever that means for us as individuals and as a church and we are about to move into a really important transition and recovery period.

But I think everyone who is discussing this is acknowledging it will not be easy.

And there are a few messages coming out...

Take it slowly.... Be kind to ourselves... it is going to take time to recover... we'll need to build confidence again... and learn to connect again.

During Friday prayers, Peter Myres was given an image – a picture of a newly born calf... all wobble and unsteady...

That is how we will be as a church and individuals for the next few months... it is going to take time to build confidence again... to help people to reconnect and heal from the difficult things of this last year.

Over coffee, there will be a time to listen to each other's stories and pray with each other
Picnic lunches will bring us together again.

August will be 'A month of reconnection' .

So, we're not going to rush into anything or just rush back to the old patterns we were in... we'll stick with our one service while we take time to discern what God is saying about the future... and we'll not rush into jumping back into all our other activity too but take our time to recover... and rediscover together God's purpose for us.

And I think this is really important in the light of staff changes that are ahead – Peter moving on... not replaced.... Eddy moving on in the summer... will be replaced.... There are significant changes ahead....

I heard a great quote from Oswald Chambers last week at the New Wine Leaders Conference which was this...

“Beware of paying attention or going back to what you once were, when God wants you to be something that you have never been.”

And I think this is a great invitation in this next season... to take time to discern who God wants us to be as we go forward from here....

Back to basics – a focus on prayer and worship....

Ezra... when the people returned what did they rebuild first? It was the altar. They rebuilt their worship...

And as I close, I want to finish with a great verse for us to hold onto from 2 Chronicles chapter 20. The context is that Jehosaphat the King of Judah finds himself facing a vast army who are just about to attack God’s people. And he could easily have felt overwhelmed with what they were facing and be overtaken by fear. But what we see him do is to first ‘enquire of the Lord’ and then he proclaims a fast and draws the people together at the temple, and after praising God he declares

2 Chronicles 20:12 “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are fixed on you.”

And I think that is a good place to be in this next season isn’t it. To acknowledge that we don’t know the way forward, but to fix our eyes on God and trust that he will lead us on.

Dave Bruce