

ST MARY'S CHURCH, HITCHAM – ANNUAL MEETINGS 2021

Held at St Mary's, Hitcham on Sunday, 16th May 2021 at 10:15am

Some Zoom attendees due to C19 pandemic

Church attendees 22, Zoom attendees 8

Chairperson: Rev Sue Sampson

Secretary: Debbie Rainer

MINUTES

The meeting started promptly, Rev Sue Sampson welcomed all and started with a prayer. The report had been circulated online, together with minutes for last year's meeting. Apologies for absence received from Amanda Gatehouse .

Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 18 October 2020 and matters arising:

No concerns or matters arising. Approval proposed by Alan Merrington, seconded by Chris Berry, 20 accepted, two abstaining (absent last year).

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS (VESTRY MEETING)

Appointment of churchwardens for 2021-22

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the continued appointment of Chris Berry as Churchwarden, along with Carol Bader as Deputy Churchwarden, both of this Parish, for 2021-2022.

Marie Hill proposed and Margaret Woodley seconded, unanimous vote.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

PART 1: ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Election of one lay representative(s) to Deanery Synod

Existing members to continue as within three year term. Jo Cork co-opted this year; one vacancy remains.

2. Election of lay representatives to serve on the P.C.C.

Existing members to continue as within three year term of office. In addition, Josie Hefferman was proposed by Sonia Hart, seconded by Jo Cork and unanimously elected. Additional volunteers invited as can be appointed after APCM.

Three vacancies remain.

3. Side Person appointments

Welcome team has grown recently, led by Debbie Rainer, more volunteers invited as we are a welcoming church; Marie Hill continues to lead hospitality, again volunteers always welcome to join the team.

Sarah Naylor-Hagger has volunteered to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer. Sally Short proposed the appointment, Carol Bader seconded, unanimous vote. Sarah was welcomed by all; Janine Edwards, who has stepped down from the role, will be doing a handover. Our new DBS Check Administrator is Jo Cork, thanks given to Sally Short who has covered the role for several years. Gez Wheeler proposed the appointment, seconded by Margaret Woodley, unanimous vote.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the appointment of Sandeep Das as our Independent Examiner for 2021/22. Carol Bader proposed, Marie Hill seconded, unanimous vote.

5. Appointment of Treasurer:

Proposed resolution: that this meeting agrees to the appointment of Harsh Singh as our Treasurer for 2021/22. Henriette Watkins proposed, Mary Howarth seconded, unanimous vote.

PART 2: REPORTS

(written reports were circulated in advance and were not delivered verbally)

6. Report on the Church Electoral Roll

Marie Hill gave a brief update, advising that the electoral roll had been reviewed with Rev Sue and the number on roll reduced to 85.

7. Annual Report of the P.C.C. for 2020

Debbie Rainer thanked PCC members for their good attendance on Zoom. Rev Sue said this will continue for now as a very efficient way of working. Rev Sue added that quick decisions have been made in response to Diocese directions. We still have three vacancies if anyone would like to join us. Chris Berry added to the BFG report saying that BFG had received a £100 donation last year from a member of the congregation. As the BFG has not met due to the pandemic, the plan is to spend the money in or around September 2021. Sally Short served the PCC from 1st May 2016 and also served as Deanery Synod Rep from 2017, kindly extending her term of office until September 2019. Although thanked by the PCC at the end of her service, St Mary's wishes to formally record their gratitude for Sally's contribution to the life of the church within these minutes.

8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Roy Wetherell reported general maintenance has been carried out on the building and that the main expenditure for 2020 was on technical equipment to allow us to livestream our services and continue to connect with our congregation. Thanks to Adam Woods who organised and sourced the original set up.

9. Report on the proceedings of the Burnham & Slough Deanery Synod

No additions to the report, from the Deanery Synod reps, however Rev Sue shared the news that applicants had been interviewed for the vacancy of a new Area Dean, with the hope the appointment will be made soon for a proposed September start.

10. Annual Report of the Financial Affairs and the Audited Accounts of the P.C.C.

Harsh Singh made a short contribution, pointing out that we will be in some difficulty next year without an increase in giving. Potential to run out of funds in five years. Rev Sue added a request that all review what we can do for fund raising and invited ideas to be presented to the Finance Committee. Gez Wheeler added that he had recently met a potential new member for our congregation. Mary Howarth asked were there any plans to run Alpha in September, Rev Sue responded that might be too soon but it is definitely on the next PCC agenda. Rev Sue said that some churches have been facilitating Alpha via Zoom but we are unsure about this as sharing a meal is an integral part of Alpha. Alan Merrington asked how the Safeguarding Officer was appointed and Rev Sue clarified the process. Janine Edwards added about her input to the invitation.

PART 3

11. Chairperson's address

Rev Sue reported that we had a service every Sunday from early on in the pandemic and gave thanks to those involved. Last year Mary Howarth was licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister can lead services (other than communion – which can happen in an emergency situation). Our thanks have to go to Roy Wetherell who has been church warden alone for quite a long time and had worked tirelessly. Roy has completed a number of tasks and activities which others are not necessarily aware of; the handover to Chris Berry as Warden and Carol Bader as Deputy will involve an interesting division of duties. Rev Sue thanked Andrea Brokenshire for her role as secretary, also Adam Woods, Sonia Hart, Margaret Woodley and Mary Howarth for all their contributions. A big thank you to Chris Berry and the BFG who have continued online and remotely, linking with a church in Sunningdale, with a number of competitions – Light Fantastic, Easter Egg Hunt, etc. Rev Sue thanked Debbie Rainer for taking on the role of secretary. Our new strapline is LET'S GROW BACK BETTER TOGETHER. We want to grow our church family and pray for people to come to know Jesus. That has been easier in the past because we can invite to social events, we hope to restart these after the

summer. Finally, prayer is so important. This year we need to pray for our church, please attend our monthly prayer evening. Try to think of how you can pray more for our church and community.

12. Questions

No questions submitted to the Chairman beforehand. Marie Hill gave thanks to Rev Sue for everything this year, including the baking. Rev Sue said how this allowed her to see everyone during the pandemic and supported her ministry. If anyone has concerns or questions speak to a PCC member. All the PCC were in attendance, stood up and stated their names.

13. Date of the next Annual Meeting: To be confirmed in due course. First PCC Meeting to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 10:55 am