

**THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
THE PARISH OF ST. PAUL'S HOWELL HILL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2020 in the building and
on Zoom at 7.30pm**

1. WELCOME

Rev Paul Dever welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending online and in person and encouraged us to stand for worship. Paul prayed, read scripture from Ephesians, spoke briefly about St. Barnabas and showed a video from Bishop Andrew.

2. ELECTION OF WARDENS

Paul thanked Rosalyn Holiday and Steve McLeod for the encouragement they have been as Wardens and thanked them for standing again.

Rosalyn spoke briefly. She thanked God and talked about a good welcome and that we need more 'welcomers' to volunteer. She encouraged all to consider this role. She spoke about St. Barnabas and encouraged all to listen to the passion and excitement of the staff. She said we need to step out in faith and look for the positives.

Steve McLeod and Rosalyn Holiday were re-elected as wardens.

**THE PARISH OF ST. PAUL'S HOWELL HILL
58th ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Wednesday 14th October 2020 in the building and on Zoom**

1. MINUTES of the APCM of April 2019 and Matters Arising

These were available publicly prior to the meeting on the church website. The meeting approved the minutes (in the building and on Zoom). There were no matters arising.

2. ELECTIONS

a. Parochial Church Council

There were five vacancies for three years and two vacancies for two years. Seven candidates had been proposed in advance, namely Paul Clinton, Mark Goodman, Mervyn Wolffsohn, David Wright, Andy Wells, Craig Wilson and Hannah Duncan (who is standing for one of the 2 year posts).

There being no further nominations, all the above were elected to the PCC. Lots will be drawn for who will serve the other two year post alongside Hannah Duncan, the rest will serve for three years.

Following the meeting Mark Goodman was drawn to serve for the two year post with Hannah Duncan.

b. Deanery Synod

There were two vacancies for three years and one vacancy for 1 year. Three candidates had been proposed in advance, namely Les King, Sam Neill and Josh Carne (who is standing for the one year post) and there being no further nominations, all were elected the Deanery Synod.

c. Hosting Team (Sidespersons)

In keeping with past practice, it was proposed this would be delegated to the Church wardens. The meeting agreed for this practice to continue.

d. Electoral Roll Officer

Chris White, Church Manager was appointed to serve as Electoral Roll Officer for the coming year.

3. REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL

Paul Dever reported that the Electoral Roll currently stood at 374. This is down from 2019 (400), it is believed that the main reason that this is significantly lower than last year, is due to the fact that many people did not respond to the GDPR email and were therefore automatically removed from the Electoral Roll.

4. SAFEGUARDING

A formal Safeguarding Policy was presented to the meeting and unanimously approved. A copy is attached to these minutes. Paul responded to one question regarding the nature of the "few minor incidents" and explained that these were incidents that were not criminal and all parties were happy with the outcomes.

Paul thanked Iain Crawford for his work over the last few years as Safeguarding Officer and also thanked Angela Woolley for taking on this role.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND THE PROPERTY IN THE PARISH

Paul received the report which was signed following the meeting.

6. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE PARISH

Paul Dever thanked the Finance Team for their work in producing the accounts and smooth running of the audit process this year and invited Jeremy Randall (Treasurer) and John Woolley (Chair of Finance) to present the accounts.

a. Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019

Jeremy explained the Audited Accounts for 2019 and stated they had been approved by PCC and the Auditors. The full document has been available on the website, since early April. This is the first year that we have had no St. Mary's finances in the accounts.

St Paul's Income was £877k (including £59K to Resource Fund for Youth & Worship following appeal at last year's APCM) of which, Giving and donations (incl Gift Aid) was £739K.

St Paul's Expenditure was £1.1M (£71k more than budget). This includes technical adjustment of £411K in respect of transfer of 19 Ballards Green to St. Mary's.

Legacies of £6k were received in 2019

Deficit of £18K (excl 19 Ballards) was taken from General Reserves.

Fixed assets are £876K. Reduction mostly reflects the transfer of 19 Ballards Green to St. Mary's (411K). Transfer completed 26 Feb 2019.

£113K given to Mission Partners and other agencies.

The General Fund balance at the end of 2019 stood at £164k. Repairs & Maintenance Reserve £49K. Boilers need to be renewed in 2021. That cost will come out of R&M.

Jeremy formally thanked the Auditors (Kingston Smith), Tina Guilbert, Chris White for the work put into the audit. The Auditors report was unqualified which means everything was as it should be and no significant matters were raised.

Appointment of auditors

A review of the auditors was carried out (as is good practice) and 3 quotations were received. The Finance team and PCC had recommended to appoint Harmer Slater as Auditors for the coming year. JR proposed this, JW seconded it and the meeting voted this in, (in the building and online) with one abstention.

One question about Youth & Worship Fund – what has happened to it? Paul responded that since Matt Gatt left, the fund has been frozen and the PCC are assessing the next step.

b. Finance update

John gave thanks to God, to the Church family in these exceptional circumstances and to the Finance Team (Jeremy Randall, Chris White, Paul, Andrew Marriner, Gary Douglas and Tina Guilbert).

In good position. Surplus at year end is due to be £13K. Why are we better off than expected? Some savings, one off gifts – 20 that total £32,500 and £3K from new givers.

Jeremy spoke about reserves and youth and worship fund.

Not having an appeal this year but are having a My Pledge appeal (Giving Intentions), asking people to confirm what they are planning to give for 2021.

Planning for the future: starting from a strong position but we must and will keep looking at costs to keep on track. 2021 presents a challenge and we will postpone a budget until January 2021. Recommendations will be made to PCC after 3 months review of 2021.

John reminded everyone that Gift Aid adds a significant amount to our income.

Paul thanked everyone and explained that if you don't have email, we will get a My Pledge form to you. Please ask.

7. RECEPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC, DEANERY SYNOD AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2019/2020

Paul proposed that the Annual Report that has been available on the website, be accepted. Julia Marsh seconded. This was unanimously agreed online and in the room. Thanks to Lizzy Stockwell for her work on the report.

8. PRESENTATION ON VISION AND ACTIVITY OF ST PAUL'S

Paul Dever and Sally Thomas reported that this meeting enables us to look back and reflect on the last year and look forward to the next year.

Paul said that the last 6 months have meant that we have had to reinvent church. The volunteer team have been a huge support. There have of course been challenges but the staff team have faced them together and have been encouraging each other daily.

Sally explained that we have had to adapt to new patterns. We are so grateful that God has provided so much for us – technology and good weather. We can see new and positive outcomes from this time. Church – new things started, some things stopped, some have had to adapt. Life groups and Alpha on Zoom. She thanked Worship and Tech Team. Some onsite groups have started back and are flourishing. Sally noted thanks to all volunteer teams. There have been new patterns of services.

Missionary changes: Pat Blanchard (on home leave from end of Oct), Mike Harris (moving from working for Christians in Sport to working for his church, Greys (moving to be nearer Bible college in Dorset), Hazel Maunsell (retired and living in Lingfield). Goodmans have been in Malawi for longer than expected working for Hope4Malwi, due home soon. Prison Work – we have provided Bibles and printed matters.

Little Fishes has had to adapt. Weekday prayer gatherings on Zoom have started along with Hearts Cry on Tuesday evenings and Compline on Thursday evenings.

Thanks to Jane, Nick and Roger for their pastoral work.

Sally gave her thanks to Anne Maddox and her devotion to Mid Week Focus. She is moving to a more local church. Looking to build up the MWF team.

Thanks to Debbie for her gently leadership in the Hub and for adapting to new ways with Spartans and Knit and Natter.

Christmas will be different this year but we trust in God the Rock to lead us in spreading joy in our communities. Sally asked people to get in touch if they are aware of people not on our lists.

Grateful thanks was given to the Support Team lead by Chris White. We value your prayers.

What will we continue with, what should we do differently, what new avenues should we venture down? We are grateful to God for supplying all our needs according to His riches in glory.

9. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- What we are doing as a church, to address caring for God's creation? eg. changing to renewables, reducing plastic footprint or becoming an Eco Church through A.Rocha. Paul spoke

that he was challenged and asked for 6 months to look this. He said church should set an example and asked Mark (Turner) to hold us to account. Mark responded that he is happy to help build the future direction.

- How can we connect with those not online? Paul asked that you can let the office know if you know of someone. There are things being done to help eg Debbie McLeod is phoning people.
- Youth: it was stated after The Big Conversation, that it is not sustainable to have one person leading the youth. What is being done to find someone to work alongside Amanda? Paul responded that we currently have Seb McKie for a year and we are looking at Sept 2021 to support youth more. Details to follow soon.
- Youth: why did younger youth and older youth join? Older ones felt they were not with their friendship groups.
- Kids: why did we change Explorers – has it been better than it was? Following the meeting, Naomi responded that following the change 2 years ago, it is working better by starting together and then splitting into year small groups as we have been able to grow individually, with those younger and older than us.

Paul Dever ended the meeting at 9.10pm and following a short break, gave a presentation about the joint benefice of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 9.10pm by Paul Dever.

There were 46 members of the congregation present in the building and 117 members present on Zoom.

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Rev Martin Wainwright, Chris White, Shirley Quemby, Jean Ralph.

A short break was taken and Paul Dever made a presentation about

THE JOIN BENEFICE OF ST PAUL'S AND ST BARNABAS

A recording of the presentation can be found on the St Paul's website.

Paul ended with prayer and Angela Woolley paid thanks to Paul for his incredible presentation and time taken to do this.