

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SHIRLEY

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2019**

51 members of the congregation were present at the meeting. Rev'd Lu Gale took the Chair.

Apologies: Stephen and Jennie Harrow, Joan Hobbs, Sally Maguire, Jackie Pontin and George Taylor.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:

ELECTIONS:

Wardens:

Paul Campbell
Gillian Goldsmith

Proposed by:

Teresa McCarthy
Julie Murphy

Seconded by:

Julie Murphy
Tim Roberson

Elected unanimously

Deputy Wardens:

Christine Healey
Tim Holmes
Mick Wall

Proposed by:

Carol Murphy
Julie Murphy
Tim Holmes

Seconded by:

Gillian Goldsmith
Gillian Goldsmith
Julie Murphy

Elected unanimously

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

1. Minutes of the 2018 APCM

Approved and signed on the proposal of Gerry Hobbs, seconded by Tim Roberson.
There were no matters arising.

2. To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2018

The accounts had been circulated and approved by the PCC, copies being available at the rear of the church two weeks prior to the APCM and including the usual financial review. Chris Nelson thanked all those who contribute to the financial process, without which his job would have been much harder. His detailed explanation of the accounts covered the following:

- A relevant comparison with 2017 is difficult due to the inclusion within income in 2017 of a substantial legacy from Pamela Gooding and considerable expenditure on renovating Church Cottage. Stripping out these items, the income and expenditure in 2017 and 2018 would be very similar with the current year some £800 ahead in terms of net income.
- A loss of £5,394.59 was recorded for the full year (2018) with total income being £140,911.21 and total expenditure £146,236.40. Within these figures is exceptional expenditure of £8,831 on the new pathway to facilitate wheelchair access between the Church and Tamberlin Room which was largely covered by donations in memory of David Miller and Joyce Pegg and from Barrie & Janet Austin.
- The debtor noted in the balance sheet at year end is HMRC in respect of Gift Aid which has now been received. Creditors are sums due to our Verger, the Diocese and our independent examiner which have now been paid. The balance sheet reflects £161k of total funds including £21k of funds which are restricted funds, primarily for purposes relating to the churchyard.
- Whilst finances are sound at present, Chris noted that there is significant expenditure due, notably on the spire and roof but also on the 25 year refurbishment of the organ and replacement/protection of broken windows. This will have a material impact on reserves. He noted also that the cost of running our church amounts to approximately £2,700 per week and that our regular income already falls short of this figure, a position which will be made worse by the increase in the pledge to the diocese to £80,000 this year and the declining attendance which means that there is a greater outgoing to be covered by a smaller number of people!

Accounts adopted – proposed by Don Good and seconded by Bernard Maguire – with a vote of thanks to Chris for his diligence as Treasurer.

4. Election of Independent Examiner

Peter Runacres was re-elected on the proposal of Tim Hastie, seconded by Viv Welch.

5. Appointment of Servers

The meeting took the opportunity of thanking the servers for their contribution to the ministry at St John's, the current team being Viv Barracliffe, Emma Collins, Bob Hall, John Kingdom, Philip Kingdom, Kris Kumar, Fred LeMay, Barry Payne, Mike Pardon, Lianne Price, Clive Still and Steve Taylor. Additional servers are needed, potential volunteers to speak with a warden please or a server.

6. Appointment of a representative of the Readers to PCC

Jackie Pontin re-elected unanimously - proposed by Mick Wall and seconded by Wendy Wall.

7. Election of Sidespersons

Tim Hastie read the list of sidespersons proposed for election. All nominees were elected (proposed by Tim Holmes, seconded by Kelvin Carter) and a list made available in church.

8. Election of PCC Members. The following members were elected unanimously to the PCC:

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Paul Duke	Paul Campbell	Gillian Goldsmith
Janet Martin	Sharon Taylor	Hannah Gordon

9. Appointment of Vice Chairman to PCC

Gillian Goldsmith elected unanimously as Vice Chairman. Proposed by Carol Murphy and seconded by Barbara Collins.

10. Appointment of PCC Secretary

Tim Hastie re-elected unanimously as Secretary - proposed by Steve Taylor and seconded by Les Jones.

11. Appointment of PCC Treasurer

Chris Nelson re-elected unanimously as Treasurer – proposed by Gerry Hobbs and seconded by Don Good.

12. Church Electoral Roll:

A completely new Electoral Roll is required every six years and this was completed prior to the APCM with grateful thanks to Catherine Foot, our Electoral Roll Officer. There are now 164 on the Roll of which 60 are resident within the Parish, a significant reduction on 2018. It was noted that several previous members of the Roll still attend Church on an occasional basis but have not applied to join the new roll.

13. Churchwardens' report on the fabric of the church

Julie Murphy's full report accompanies these minutes, key points being:

- The fabric remains in good condition with the exception of the spire which has been damaged significantly by parakeets with replacement of all the shingles scheduled this year. The budgeted cost of £85k also includes minor roof and stonework repairs identified in the 2015 quinquennial report.
- New churchyard contractors commenced their duties in April 2018 and additional work was agreed by PCC in the winter months to permit significant improvement in many areas including clearance of foliage to reveal 'lost' headstones and tree work following a new tree survey.
- The wheelchair path from the Church to the Tamberlin Room has been completed and Perspex envelope holders placed on pews to tidy and promote the giving envelopes, all funded by donations.

Julie has now completed her term of office and thanked Lu, her fellow wardens and officers for their support.

14. Vicar's report on the state of the Parish

Lu Gale's report is summarised as follows:

- There have been some great things happening over the past year including the development of a fabulous website to broaden our outreach. We were reminded that we all need to contribute towards the website to ensure that it remains fully up to date. Lu also highlighted the informal worship driven by Mick & Wendy Wall which is hoped to be a growth point over the coming years.
- Lu is looking to achieve a balance of worship to suit all needs and suggested that we take a step in faith to return to having Choral Evensong once a month in addition to the Healing Service and having some form of worship every Sunday evening – ideas to Lu please.

- Lu thanked the ministry team for their support including Tony Collier, Barry Goodwin and Michael Skinner who regularly lead our services. Especial thanks were given to Jackie Pontin (our Reader) who was described by Lu as 'faithful, glorious and true'.
- Hannah Gordon arrived at St John's at the same time as Lu with her youthful evangelical approach providing an interesting contrast to Lu's 'Liberal catholic' views which has worked brilliantly. Hannah has almost completed her three years of training with St John's and was thanked for her amazing contribution and goes on to her Curacy with our very best wishes.
- Lu thanked the warden team and in particular Julie Murphy who retires as warden this year and has supported Lu since her arrival at St John's.
- Lu used the parish data summary as a visual aid whilst noting the decline in attendance at St John's over a ten year period, the trend bucked only by the attendance at Christmas services and recent uplift in attendance by young children. The significant fall in the Electoral Roll more accurately reflects the current church attendance figures. Lu highlighted the many strengths of the congregation with a wide range of people coming to St John's with a trend to travel from other parishes rather than living within St John's parish boundaries. Whilst the long term trend in attendance locally (also a nationwide trend) is worrying, Lu urging us to walk in faith and with courage.
- Lu welcomed our efforts to be inclusive, albeit not always successful, and suggested that, via PCC, we consider joining Inclusive Church, which has many member churches including St George's and Southwark Cathedral (weblink: <https://www.inclusive-church.org>). Members unite together around a shared vision:

"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

15. Report on Deanery Synod affairs.

Steve Taylor reported as co-chair to Croydon Addington Deanery Synod and urged us to think prayerfully about our neighbours within the whole Deanery, not just within our own parish.

16. Report on Safeguarding

Lu Gale advised she is the only safeguarding officer for St John's which is not ideal and urged those with relevant experience to contact her and volunteer to assist.

17. Report on Youth Activities.

Hannah Gordon reported on the progress of the two groups and thanked Alice Taylor for her support in leading the groups. Both are now firmly established with Growing Disciples for the older children and lectionary based and Diddy Disciples based on interactive story telling. Hannah urged patience with children running around in church.

18. Health & Safety

Gerry Hobbs reported that a small group has been set up within PCC to look afresh at our overall responsibility for the health and safety of all those at St John's and that meetings would take place for both officials and the congregation in due course. He stressed that we all have responsibility for this area and urged us to take action where appropriate (eg: clear up a spillage or move an obstacle to reduce the risk of someone slipping or tripping and report concerns to the warden team). He also asked for volunteers to come forward to be First Aiders.

19. A.O.B.

- Gillian Goldsmith thanked the Vicar on our behalf for her encouragement and leadership.
- Dave and Julie Sutton expressed concern that there is still no provision for children once they reach secondary school age and Julie volunteered to help set up a new group to meet on an occasional basis. Lu noted that our friends at the Methodist Church are in a similar position and suggested a joint venture may be possible. Volunteers to assist should approach Julie (or the wardens) please.

Meeting closed with prayer at 12.45pm