



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2020 and 2021

The meeting opened with a prayer.

1. Present: In church: 27 members and on Zoom: 11 members
2. Apologies were received from Joan Wheeler-Bennett, Claire Johnstone and Karen Aldred.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 4 April 2019 were signed as a true record.

The Treasurer presented accounts for 2020 and 2021 together (see below).

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

A. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2021

These church wardens were elected to serve for the coming year:

- Fouki Heller, nominated by Judy Gowing, seconded by Wendy Kyrle-Pope
- Phillip Bladen, nominated by Fouki Heller, seconded by Steve Cox

James gave his appreciation of all the help Fouki and Phil had given him over the past couple of years.

B. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

1. Report on the Church Electoral Roll. The number on the roll increased from 229 in 2019 to 259 in 2021. James announced that Rachel Skilbeck has taken on the role of Electoral Roll Officer. Appreciation was shown to Cheryl who had performed that role for many years.
2. The following were elected to the Parochial Church Council to serve for 2 years:
William Heller, nominated by Michael Murison, seconded by Steve Cox
Michael Murison, nominated by William Heller, seconded by Lis Munden
Lis Munden, nominated by Steve Cox, seconded by Peter Boyling

The following were elected to the Parochial Church Council to serve for 3 years:

- Peter Boyling, nominated by Wendy Kyrle-Pope, seconded by William Heller
Michael Ross-McCall, nominated by Patrick Findlater, seconded by Trisha Hawkins
Paul Teverson, nominated by Fouki Heller, seconded by Steve Cox
Sue Macworth-Praed, nominated by Fouki Heller, seconded by Geoffrey Barnett

The Rector thanked Jo Fraser for her service on the PCC.

The following were elected to Deanery Synod:

Annie Sullivan, nominated by Christabel Gairdner, seconded by Sebastian Munden

Judy Gowing, nominated by Peter Boyling, seconded by Jo Teverson

Phil Bladen, nominated by Peter Boyling, seconded by Jo Teverson

Cathy Putz, nominated by Sue Macworth-Praed, seconded by Lis Munden

Fouki Heller, nominated by Judy Gowing, seconded by Michael Murison

Under the revised Church Representation Rules, the stewards will be appointed at the next PCC meeting on 11 May.

3. The written report on proceedings of the PCC in the Annual Report was received.

4. Report on the annual accounts

In 2019, the gain on investments was £12,000; there was an anonymous grant of £10,000; earnings from Kitson Hall produced almost £30,000; the Friends' surplus on events was £58,000, and £22,000 was given to charity. There was a disappointing response to an appeal during the interregnum. However a responsible level of spending meant that we were able to record an overall surplus of £48,709.

2020 was affected by pandemic almost all year, so very little collected at services - just over £10,000, (just over £30,000 in 2019), but a generous response to an appeal saw bank gifts rise from £116,000 to £132,000. Overall income dropped from £474,000 to £396,000. Luckily expenses also fell from £438,000 to £396,000. There was almost no capital spending at all, either in Church or Hall.

The main features of 2020 were receipt of £28,000 from Boileau Road, net £19,000 from the Charity Ball and £7,000 gain on investment. Kitson Hall managed £9,000 profit, which was transferred to the Youth Fund. We benefitted by £17,000 from the Job Retention Scheme. The overall surplus on Friends' events was £36,000, of which £13,000 was given to charity.

The future is 'cloudy'. There are large amounts to spend on capital works both in Church and Hall, but giving remains encouraging, and we hope to be back to normal service by 1 October. The large decision to be made following the hopefully successful sale 52 Boileau Road, is to how we deal with the cash proceeds.

There was a question about whether not having a house available made a request for a Curate less likely to succeed. The Treasurer said that it was the contrary, as we will be able to find suitable accommodation for whoever is appointed rather than expecting one house to suit everybody. Another comment requested that the proceeds from Boileau Road should be put into a restricted account, and that the sale of the Team house (not initiated by St Mary's) further weakened the Team. The Rector replied that the PCC would be taking a decision about the use of proceeds but that he would wish to see them restricted to generate income to enable the parish to house a curate or support others training for ministry in the future. He added that the intention is to strengthen the team by enabling Holy

Trinity to use its share to advance its mission aims, and to explore new avenues for collaboration free of the burden of managing a property.

5. Alastair Cameron was appointed as independent examiner of the accounts for 2021, proposed by Judy Gowing, seconded by Peter Boyling.
6. The written reports on the fabric of the church, and of the church hall in the Annual Review were received. Thanks were extended to Peter Boyling and William Heller and all who work with them.
7. The written report on the Team Council in the Annual Review was received.
8. The written report on Deanery Synod in the Annual Report was received.

The Rector pointed out that anyone on the electoral roll is eligible to attend Deanery Synod meetings. There are often interesting discussions. Watch out in Weekly News for announcements.

9. Notes on the Rector's reflection

First, a huge thank you to all for the way the church family has maintained and enhanced the life of the parish during the pandemic. James also said how grateful he is for the support given to Alice, the family and him since moving to Barnes.

John 15:1-5. Essential that we always keep Jesus the true vine as the centre of our church life, and recognise our fellowship together as branches of that vine. After Covid, we can't assume church life will just bounce back as before. Habits of churchgoing and of faith may well have been lost in lockdown, and so will need support in re-forming and nurturing afresh. Some ways in which we can do this include:

- work with families. Jackie and Julie have done all they can but it will be so much better to have renewed face to face contact with groups. The new toddler service on a Tuesday morning will start after half term in June as a new way of engaging with that demographic;

- care for creation is the key global issue post-pandemic, with the General Synod commitment to net carbon zero by 2030. I am excited at how the environment group has developed, cutting across all aspects of church life and in living out our faith personally and in the community.

- Welcome. We formed the Welcome Group in the wake of the death of George Floyd. While St Mary's is indeed a welcoming place for many, we must always look at how this may not seem quite the same for others. The group can help us attract others to our life together who have been excluded through race, gender and sexual orientation and disability. The communications group is planning a new welcome video for the website.

- Communications. It was fortuitous that we had already formed the communications group before Lockdown, and this has played a big role in transforming how we communicate internally and externally. Live-streaming equipment will be installed soon, and the website has just been refreshed. We mustn't forget our online congregation.

- Deepening faith and vocations. It would be good to have a curate, but we should be a parish which is growing vocations and exporting people to ministry

elsewhere, not relying on importing! We have people with many God-given gifts, so there is much potential, but it will be a challenge. Developing the new monthly Sunday evening service with a team of leaders from the congregation is one example of seeking to address this.

- Looking outwards. We need to be adept at being alongside others as they respond in different ways to recovering from lockdown. The Barnes Fund research will help us identify how best to support those in need locally. And charity may begin but should not end at home. Barnes has had a much easier experience of the past year than many, so we must not be Parochial!

The Rector ended with quoting John 15:1-5 again and urged us to seek to abide in Christ in all we do as we go forward.

The Youth and Children's report and House Group report were omitted from the Annual Report and/or Review. These reports will be added to the online review and further printed editions

10. Churchwardens' report

Phil Bladen thanked James warmly for all that he had achieved during the Lockdown and the 'can-do' attitude that he adopted. One of the wardens greatest achievements was being on the Patronage Board when he was appointed! He is definitely the right man for the job.

11. Any other business - none

12. Date of next annual meeting: Tuesday, 26 April 2022