

PARISH OF ST MARY, SHORTLANDS

Minutes of a Meeting of Parishioners and of the 101st Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's, Shortlands, held on Sunday, 4th October 2020, in the church following the 10.30 am service and was accessible online to those on the electoral roll

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens

1. The Chair stated that there were two nominations for Church Warden; Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard were appointed. A round of applause was given in thanks for their work in the past year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Present: Rev Gary Best (*in the Chair*), Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard (*Churchwardens*), Stephanie Maurel (*Secretary*) and parishioners

Minutes of the 100th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The minutes of the 100th Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 7th April 2019, which had been shared online and displayed on the church noticeboard, were taken as read. The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

2. The Electoral Roll was presented. There were 6 new additions to the electoral roll in 2019 and the total number of the electoral roll increased to 177. 90 of these reside within the parish and 87 outside. There was a brief pause to think of those who are no longer with us.

Election of PCC members

3. Rev Best presented the 4 individuals who were nominated, seconded and who wished to stand for PCC membership. Keith Mills, Kate Buchanan, Pat Chase and Sue Slaney were duly elected. The congregation offered a round of applause at their election.

Election of Deanery Synod Reps

4. There were 3 Deanery Synod places and following the election, St Mary's will be represented by Ann- Maire Jefferys, Jan Boam and Glo Sherman. Rev Best gave thanks to them for coming forwards to support the Church on Deanery Synod. Special thanks were given to Mrs Jefferys for her continued updates to PCC and the congregation.

Examined Accounts

5. The Treasurer was self-isolating and was not able to be present at short notice.
6. Rev Best spoke to the Financial report. The copies of the full Charity Commission accounts were available for inspection online and at the back of the church.
7. There had been no questions shared in advance and none were raised at the meeting. The Report and Accounts for 2019 were signed off.
8. Special thanks to the Treasurer were given for the work that he has done both in preparing the accounts as well as keeping the congregation updated with the church finances in a very open and transparent way. This was applauded.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

9. Rev Best shared that the previous Independent Examiner had moved out of the area and the Treasurer was currently looking for a new one. As soon as one has been recruited, the information will be shared publicly.

Report on the Fabric and Ornaments

10. Rev Best referred to the Fabric and Ornaments report that was available online and in Church. It was seen that the report was very detailed and constituted a lot of work and gave a clear view of the position of the church. Thanks were given to Graham Smedley for once more compiling the report.

11. Agreement was given to sign the report off.

Secretary Report

12. Rev Best read the Secretary's report to those present noting that 6 PCC meetings had been held and an extraordinary meeting on the refurbishment. The detail of the committees and members was shared.

Safeguarding

13. Rev Best presented the safeguarding update. It was shared that Mrs Coleman had ensured that everyone was well supported in 2019 and Rev Best praised the strong support that he had received from Mrs Coleman on the safeguarding area since his arrival. This was recognised with a round of applause.

Annual Report 2019

14. Rev Best urged all who hadn't yet looked at the annual report to do so. It was online as well as available in the church. The Annual Report highlights were commented on including that during 2019 since the Arrival of Rev Best, there has been increased togetherness. Other notable highlights that were covered include the twin parishing with the Church in Douai, the high level of commitment from so many volunteers, and the pushing forward of mission and ministry. Huge thanks were given to the volunteers of the parish who showed real love of the community and of wanting to serve God through so many things including the cleaning of the church, flower arranging and managing the church grounds, all areas of ministry in their own way.

15. There were no questions on the report, and it was accepted and approved.

AOB

16. There were no questions online nor in the congregation.

Vicar's Statement

17. Rev Best presented his statement on 2019 although stated that this wasn't exhaustive as he has been sharing his updates over the year.

18. Firstly thanks were given for the welcome in April 2019 when he was installed as the incumbent. This was a remarkable day and he felt the genuine love and support for himself and his family. The warmth really came through at the weekend.

19. Rev Best detailed the following areas that had occurred in the year:

- a. Morning prayer was introduced
- b. The role of the pastoral team was formalised
- c. Orders of service have been reviewed
- d. An introduction to the bible course has been run
- e. A confirmation class of 9 people were confirmed at St George's Beckenham
- f. The work of the Future Generations project has been moved forward

20. Thanks were given for all the support for making the above happen as this couldn't have happened without the support and confidence given by the volunteers at St Mary's.
21. The year also had a time to get to know people both those with a specific role as well as those in the congregation.
22. Whilst Rev Best stated that 2019 was partly about observing the time has also been used to get started on things in the church from a practical point of view but also in the spiritual side of St Marys.
23. Rev Best stated that he was pleased to have gotten to understand the role of music in worship more thanks to Graham Leach, Tim Aldred and Claire Tillotson.
24. As part of the reflection Rev Best talked about how he had come to understand the Future Generations project and how this was an opportunity to do something exciting for the church and the congregation including the young people. The project is an integral part of church growth and has been a real mission over the past few months.
25. Whilst the APCM focuses on 2019 Rev Best felt it important to reference the pandemic. He drew attention to the displays of courage, love and compassion seen from so many in the community.
26. Rev Best concluded with a statement on the change in worship since the pandemic and the need to ensure that we can continue to engage with all those we can; this has meant a change in the AV needs of the church that is being looked at.
27. Rev Best finished by saying thank you to those present for making him so proud of being the incumbent. All present applauded this statement.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Date

Chair