



THE PARISH CHURCH OF **ST LAWRENCE** **EASTCOTE**

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020

The parish meeting and APCM took place in St Lawrence's church and the meeting was live-streamed via Zoom link.

PARISH MEETING – 11.15 am

Present – Fr John Seymour (in the chair) and electors.

Opening Prayer

1. Minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting were distributed. These were agreed by the meeting as accurate.
2. Matters arising – there were none.
3. Election of Churchwardens for the ensuing year. Fr John had nominations for Elaine Wigington and Sadie Wright to be elected for post until the next APCM.

With no further nominations at the meeting, so Fr John declared Elaine and Sadie elected. He thanked them for their work since he had taken up post in February and asked everyone's prayers for the Wardens for the coming year.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 11.30 am

Present in church for the meeting were Jenny A'Court, Christina Barham, Beryl and Alan Braithwaite, Win Brion, Heather Chamberlain, Elizabeth Clubb, Gerry and Christine Edwards, Graeme Gibaut, Alan and Sylvia Hooper, Joan Jay, Margaret King, Gwenllian Leach, Christine Piper, Arthur and Barbara Plummer, Jasmine Ransom, Mary Sewell, Fr John Seymour, Jenny Smith, Duncan Sykes, Elaine Wigington, Janet and Mike Williamson, Elizabeth and Stuart Wood, Ian Woodhouse, Sue Worker Sadie and Alan Wright.

Zoom attendees for the meeting were

Malcolm and Dorothy Bentote, Brian Beeston, Julia Bevis-Knowles, Claire Bishop, Joanne and Richard Bursford, Anne-Marie Cadman, John Chrzczonowicz, Andrew Corsie, Angela Cummins, Catherine Dann, Darren Fletcher, Simon Hill, Katy Hinson, Paula James, Emma and Mark Kimsey, Catherine McCarthy, Malcolm Penny, David Rayment, Terry Smith, Margaret Walker and Joanne Williams.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ken Clubb, Sue Cobb, John Gay, Rosemary Ryder and Regula Sharp.

2. Notification of Any Other Business – Graeme Gibaut requested appointing CTE representatives. Fr John replied that this will be discussed at the next PCC, and noted that both Paula James and Graeme Gibaut are happy to continue as our CTE reps.

3. The Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 28th April 2019 were distributed and agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

An addition to the minutes was requested. Jenny A'Court was asked to add the names of the PCC members voted into the PCC in 2019; Gerry Edwards was the only person elected. The elected PCC members are therefore Claire Bishop, Dorothy Bentote, Malcolm Bentote, Elizabeth Clubb, Gerry Edwards, Robert Hinson, Gwenllian Leach, John Maxwell, Terry Smith and Mike Williamson. Everyone else on the PCC is ex officio other than Mark Kimsey who was co-opted onto PCC after the last APCM.

4. Matters arising – there were none.

5. Reports

a) Electoral Roll by Heather Chamberlain

With revision of the 2019 electoral roll, the total on the roll for 2020 year is 217.

The next renewal of the roll will be in 2025. Heather thanked Elaine, Sadie, Fr John and Jenny A'Court for their help with this year's roll.

b) Annual Report for 2019

As vice chair and then chair of the PCC in 2019, Alan Wright spoke to this – Fr Chris moved to a parish in Fulham; he was thanked for work at St Lawrence's and wished well.

The PCC has been very busy in 2019; setting out procedures to be adopted. In 2020 the PCC has moved forward. Thanks were given to Elaine Wigington who was the only Church warden until Sadie Wright was appointed in October 2019.

c) Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2019

The approval of the 2019 accounts following examination by an external auditor had been delayed because of access problems relating to COVID19. As such, the requirement that the parish had seven days access to the approved accounts ahead of the APCM had not been met. Fr John proposed to the meeting that the accounts be taken as approved if no objections were raised within seven days of the meeting. The meeting agreed this proposal unanimously.

d) Treasurer's report

During 2019 the rental fees were put into four categories and the Hall was redecorated and the car park was resurfaced. We have applied for the £10,000 retail and Hospitality Grant; we are still waiting to hear if will receive it.

Terry Smith stood down from the position of Treasurer at the end of September 2020. Fr John thanked Terry for his hard work as Treasurer, and a gift and card were given to Terry, via his wife.

e) Planned Giving report –no report was given.

g) Churchwarden General Remarks including Fabric from Elaine

Elaine said that she had given a comprehensive account within the 2019 Annual Report. Following gas safety testing in 2020, a further gas heater in the church has been condemned, so we are now two heaters down. This means that it will be colder in church this winter! There are plans afoot for having a new heating system in church within the next 12 months, it is also hoped to have new lighting installed as well. Elaine reported the parishes legal obligation to have CO alarms installed for everyone's safety – so you will be seeing one above each heater shortly.

Following a decision to have a defibrillator available for church and community use installed, an application for a ward grant of £2,010 was made and granted for the total cost of purchasing this. The grant and equipment have now been received, so it will soon be installed on the external wall of the hall. The only cost to the parish will be for installation. Training for 12 people by London Ambulance Service is included in the package purchased; contact is now to be made with them on how this can be delivered during COVID times.

Although this meeting is for 2019 reference to COVID needs to be made. A BIG thank you to Fr John who did not dream of the challenges he was going to have to deal with when he agreed to be our Interim Priest, we are so fortunate to have had his leadership. Thank you also to the stewards who are enabling services to go ahead and to everybody else helping and supporting during these difficult times. It has been hard for all of us, and in some cases have had to learn new skills. Finally, this plea has gone out many times but if anybody can help with some of the many vacancies that we have, please speak with John, Sadie or Elaine.

h) Update on interim process by Fr John

Following Chris Rankine's unexpected departure from post, Bishop Pete and the Area Dean came to a PCC meeting at the end of 2019. The conflicting responses which came out of the anonymous survey work done with the PCC, led them to conclude that the parish would be helped by a period of interim ministry.

Following Fr John's appointment in February 2020, a questionnaire was completed by the congregation which revealed conflicting priorities between different groups. Most see the church community as warm and welcoming, but there is also significant unhappiness relating Chris Rankine's departure, the inclusion and integration of young people and families, liturgical change, and inclusion and provision of care of older / more longstanding members of the congregation.

Due to COVID 19 groups cannot be brought together to allow the whole congregation to meet for the interim work, but the work that has been taken forward with the Standing Committee and has resulted in significant learning. This will help the standing committee to help lead the process at St Lawrence going forwards. There were no questions for Fr John.

6. Election of members to the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is a meeting of all churches in our area. Fr John had received one nomination, namely Christina Barham. No further nominations were forthcoming at the meeting, so Fr John announced Christina Barham elected. Three positions on deanery synod remain to be filled.

7. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council

There are six new places available on the PCC. Five nominations had been received for PCC membership: Scott Boobier, Richard Bursford, Darren Fletcher, Judith Howe and Julie Siddle. No further nominations were received in the meeting, so no vote was needed. Fr John declared all five candidates were duly elected. There remains a further position to fill. Alan Wright will continue on the PCC as he is the Lay Minister.

8. Appointment of Auditors.

With no Treasurer, our Churchwardens Sadie Wright and Elaine Wigington have to cover this role; Sadie asked again for someone to take on this role, but no one volunteered. The accounts for 2020 need to be taken to the next PCC meeting to look at the financial package. Fr John said "this meeting proposes that the first meeting of the PCC appoints the Auditors Samara & Co for the 2020 St Lawrence Eastcote Accounts". He asked the members to raise their hands if they supported this motion, everyone in the church and attending the meeting via Zoom agreed.

9. Safeguarding

Katy Hinson has stood down, she was tanked for her work and time she has given, over a number of years, as our Safeguarding Officer and given a gift and card. Christine Edwards, who was already a member of the safeguarding team, has now taken over this role, for which we are grateful. There is a team of people who take on various support roles but we still would like somebody, preferably, but not necessarily, with some knowledge of safeguarding. Please speak with John, Christine or Elaine if you would like more information.

Elaine Wigington completed an Action Plan for us to work to, together with a return which the Diocese required. This includes safeguarding training requirements dependant on each individual's role in the Church. This training is on-line and only takes a little over an hour to complete. When Certificates are received Christine or Elaine need to see a copy, as these records are held centrally.

Fr John asked Elaine whether the PCC had complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). [Church Representation Rules, M5 (3). Elaine responded that the PCC had.

Elaine was thanked by Fr John for her work.

10. Any other business (previously notified) – there was none.

The next APCM will be held in April 2021.

Closing Prayers

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: