

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, RUSTHALL
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the 101st meeting held on Thursday 29th October 2020 at the Church Centre and on Zoom

1. **Welcome:** The Vicar welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** 17 electoral roll members attended in person at the Church Centre and 18 members attended on Zoom. Apologies were received from Pam Munro, Pat Churchill, Graham Robbins and Wendy Anderson. 5 people attended either at the Church Centre or on Zoom who are not on the electoral roll and therefore have no voting rights.
3. **Minutes of the Parochial Church Meeting held on 7th April 2019:** The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Caroline Johnson and seconded by Fiona Johnson and carried unanimously.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** no matters arising.
5. **The Vicar's Report:**
 - a. The Vicar welcomed everyone and explained that the meeting this year was being held on Zoom and in person and that although this APCM is being held six months later than normal, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, his report would cover 2019 only.
 - b. We were asked to remember all those known to us in or out of the parish who had died in the last year, including Ruth Webster, Barbara Keane, Elizabeth Norman, and Anne Connelly by observing a minute's silence.
 - c. The Vicar thanked the following people: Clive McAllister and May Graves (Wardens), the deputy Wardens, Pat Churchill (PCC Secretary) and Pat Cripps (Treasurer), PCC members, members of sub committees and Deanery Synod, Daphne Pilcher and Tim Cripps (Lay Readers), Mione Palmer, Fiona Johnson and members of the choir, including Alex Robson and Paul Jeffery (organists) and Jenny and the Music group, Susan Powley for her leadership at the Church Centre, and all those involved at Church on a Sunday, those involved in the maintenance, administration/running of the parish, especially Ginette di Palma (Parish Administrator), Mary Holmes and Sarah Palmer (formerly) and Daphne Pilcher (latterly) Sunday School Leaders at both churches, Lisa Aubrey (formerly) and May Graves (temporarily), our Safeguarding officer, Church cleaners, David and Anne Vernon and their team of grounds men, Len Evans and Margaret Plass (service register preparation), Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare (magazine editors), Miss Powell (head St Paul's School) and her teaching staff and governors. Mention was also made of the Home Communion team and Lunch club. Finally thanks to all those who conducted services and other pastoral care during his Study Leave. See separate short report.
 - d. **Ministry – Church and Community:** Mention was made of Services on Sundays and Thursdays, Prayers on Monday and Wednesday mornings and at special times, ministry to all and sundry within the parish, and in some cases outside the parish in various forms, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral home visits and administration of Holy Communion. Last year 17 baptisms, (2018 – 30) and 7 weddings (2018 – 5) were conducted. The Vicar mentioned Tim's very active part in bereavement ministry having conducted many funerals both at the Parish Church and at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium. He also advised that there were occasions when the New Churchyard was used by neighbouring parishes for the interment of people who had had some link with Rusthall and had expressed a wish to be laid to rest at our Churchyard. St Paul's now has a Churchyard Policy which is given to bereaved families to help them understand and access the support that we can offer to them.
 - e. **Ecumenism and Collaborative Ministry:** The Vicar spoke of the close links with the URC, Speldhurst and Langton Green Parishes. The joint 2019 Confirmation service would have

been at King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells had it not been for the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- f. **Mission and Mission Opportunities:** Mention was made of our companion parish of St Peter in Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe which continues to flourish although in a rather restricted way. They are very keen to welcome some of us and regularly ask when we would visit them.
- 6. **The Electoral Roll Report:** The reported figure of 175 assumes the Pinks had been removed following their move to pastures green. However the published revision shows them still on the list. Additionally a couple of spelling mistakes were noted.
- 7. **Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish (see Group Reports booklet with reports from the various organisations including the Deanery Synod):** The report was posted out to most in advance of the meeting and was assumed to have been read by all.
- 8. **The Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2019:** Pat Cripps, the Treasurer highlighted the following:
 - a. The total income for 2019 was £145,004 which was higher than 2018. The total expenditure for 2019 was £162,156 again higher than 2018. This means we spent £17,152 more than we received in income and this deficit reduces our reserves, an ongoing situation with our finances. The overall situation is good because we are fortunate to have savings and property but each year these are reduced and we must be very diligent in our financial dealings.
 - b. The lockdown during 2020 has obviously affected our income but thanks go to our planned givers, money has continued to come into our bank account from standing orders, and an even more heartfelt thanks to those who use envelopes for their giving all of whom have ensured the envelopes have reached Pat one way or another. However other income has been less because the hall has not been available, weddings have been postponed, the only income that continued was from funerals not Covid related but still a difficult time for the mourners.
 - c. Staff were not furloughed so we continued to pay them along with the parish offer to Rochester, utilities and other regular payments. To help reduce costs we changed our insurers to Trinitas, which after so many years and good service with Ecclesiastical was hard but the reduction in premium has been welcome. We have had an added expense – weddings, funerals, and monuments in church yards have Church of England statutory fees which we are obliged to charge. These fees basically have two elements, money to the PCC and money to Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance. An example is the crematorium fees which are £199, with the PCC element being £31 and the DBF £168. In the past we have kept both elements because we have always paid the money to help cover stipend and pension to the diocese, this year we are required to pay over the DBF element which so far has amounted to £3,129 from three quarterly returns.
 - d. St Paul's is a very fortunate parish with generous givers, property and reserves but these are being reduced year on year and the aim must be to raise income and reduce expenditure.
 - e. No questions were received and the Vicar thanked Pat Cripps for all she had done as Treasurer. The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Tony Bourne and seconded by Graeme Anderson.

9. Election of Deputy Wardens:

Name	Proposer	Secunder
Graeme Anderson	Ann Palfrey	Karen Miller
Margaret Brown	May Graves	Clive M ^c Allister

Susan Powley	May Graves	Mione Palmer
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There being no other nominations the above were duly elected.

10. Election of Deanery Synod:

Name	Proposer	Second
Tony Bourne	Tim Cripps	May Graves
Tim Cripps	May Graves	Clive M ^c Allister
Vreni Gould	Tony Bourne	May Graves

There being no other nominations the above were duly elected.

11. Election of members of the Parochial Church Council:

Name	Proposer	Second
Nic Farman	Tim Cripps	Tony Bourne

There being no other nominations Nic Farman was duly elected.

Chris Maguire and Graham Robbins, having reached the end of their three year term, retired.

12. Appointment of Sidesmen: The following were duly appointed:

Parish Church: Clive M^cAllister, Susan Powley, Ray Beaumont, Margaret Brown, Christopher Everett, Tony Maylam, Jill M^cAllister, Chris Dobson, Fiona Craig and Barbara Bourne,

Church Centre: Chris Bassett, Pat Cripps, Pat Churchill, Janice Tapp, Christine Hyder, Alison Greenfield, Liz Goddard, Viv Littlechild, Laura Jorden, Jenny Cooper and Karen Miller.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner: David Ralph was appointed as the Independent Examiner.

14. Open to the Floor:

JB: An additional apology for absence was received from Susan Barber.

DB: It is difficult to gauge how many are picking up the magazine on line and Deborah asked for a show of hands both in the hall and on line.

JB: A vote of thanks was proposed for Deborah and her team for all the hard work they do each month to produce the magazine.

MH: A vote of thanks was proposed for Chris Maguire for all the IT work he does for the Family Service.

DB: A vote of thanks was proposed for Nic Farman for all the IT work he does for the Parish Church.

TB: A vote of thanks was proposed for Fiona, Caroline and Jennifer for all the work they do with the music at the Parish Church and for making it possible to sing again.

RW: The Vicar thanked everyone who attended and asked us to think of someone who would like to have been with us but was unable to with particular mention of Daphne Hodges, Justin Woodhouse and Kim de la Mare.

15. The Grace: There being no other matters the meeting closed at 20:49 with the Grace led by the Vicar.