

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**held on Sunday 24th April 2022**

Revd. Jonathan Ward was in the chair

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on zoom on 2nd May 2021** were unanimously accepted.

**2. Matters arising –** there were no matters arising not on the Agenda

**3. Electoral Roll –** the number now stood at 168 – an increase of 2 over 2021. Paul Kingman was thanked for all his hard work in his annual updating of this report.

**4. PCC Secretary’s report –** there were no questions.

**5. Trustees’ Report and Financial Statements for 2021**

This document had been circulated to the PCC before the meeting. Lenka Ellmann, our Treasurer, had prepared a power point presentation for all to see.

Lenka thanked the members of the Finance Sub-Committee for their support throughout the year and then talked us through her presentation.

**Income** (regular and one off) – this totalled £209,551 in 2021 compared to £183,757 the previous year. £24,967 of this related to income for the Lighting Project.

There were no questions re Income.

**Expenditure** in 2021 totalled £243,729 compared to £191,736 the previous year. Most of this related to the General Fund, the Restricted Fund expenditure related to the lighting project, Amber and other. The total cost of the lighting project was £80,996.

There were no questions re Expenditure.

**Total Loss** amounted to £29,750. Without the cost of the lighting project Lenka felt our finances were in a good position.

**Discussion re Finances –**

\* It was agreed that Lenka’s presentation was very clear Covid had had implications on our finances, also the departure of Amber (there was a period in 2021 without Amber)

\* Re the future – nothing can be presumed our income will be affected. We will continue to budget for a Families Worker but the forecasting our financial position was not easy.

\***Jon** reminded us that our Parish Share had been reduced, also that the cost of living was currently rising.

There were no further questions and thanks were expressed to Lenka and to her finance team.

**6. Rector’s Report**

It was disappointing that no applications had been received for our Families’ Worker advert. Jon remained convinced that the appointment was to pursue. The PCC will consider this and Jon will leave a discussion plan with the Churchwardens when he goes on sabbatical.

Jon noted that whilst there was no specific report from our Youth Leaders, there was a number of volunteers undertaking a lot of vibrant activity. Jon expressed his thanks for their work and to all volunteers across the different areas of ministry, as well as for all that will be done while he is on sabbatical.

**Discussion on this Report**

Richard Ford - agreed that this report was very helpful. Did Jon have any reflections on the future?

**Jon –** the last few years have been very strange for the PCC. Regarding reflections on the future, what does this mean re going forward? We are in the process of digesting the impact of Covid and we need to discern where God is directing us. This is not unique to us, churches across denominations share this experience.

Reports suggest many young people are deconstructing their faith, and there is a question around how we shepherd them through this without the result being abandonment of faith. There are big questions to be faced like: What is church? How do we do it? How do we engage young people? What does that mean for us?

Jeremy – update on a possible church hall please. **Jon** responded that 2 weeks ago the council responded to the planning application for building on the baseball court by asking – why a church hall? They needed reasons – Jon felt this was a less than favourable response, so some care is needed to take this forward.

Nick Lang – what about the dialogue between churches? Was there any progress on working together more? The Good Friday service at St. Francis was really special. **Jon** responded that Churches Together in W. Wickham feels like it is moving into a more dynamic season and there is a greater sense of honest collaboration. In terms of our links with St Mary’s and St Francis, there does not appear to be a great appetite to move beyond the loose structure we currently have. Hazel appears to be pulled in lots of different directions. She is always willing to explore options, and there was established trust between Jon and her. It remains unclear what vision the diocese have for the 2 parishes going forward.

Barbara asked a question re the Families Worker – is our emphasis to raise up a homegrown worker? Do we have a different approach? **Jon** has found that the diocese is very helpful re this challenge and they are looking to move towards equipping/training people with potential ‘on the job’. This is a model they have picked up from the London Diocese, but one they are yet to implement fully. Do we have anyone in St John’s who might step into that sort of development?

Ben Morgan asked – what does this mean for me? **Jon** responded that part of the ongoing approach will be to hear more regularly from young people like Ben as to what their hopes are for the role and how they approach church.

Bron – Have we formulated a plan as yet? **Jon** responded that we are still working out the landscape post-Covid and what this means for our young people. As such, we don’t yet have a detailed plan going forward.

Penny asked if a church hall would be of benefit just for us? **Jon** responded that such detail hadn’t yet been tabled, as we were still some way from establishing whether a hall will be built.

Penny commented that we have a larger number of “elderly” people and we need to strike a balance in responding to their needs as well as the needs of the young. **Jon** responded that there is now a different understanding of retirement and a wider cultural trend. He added that it remains our challenge to decide which areas we will prioritise, as we cannot respond to every need.

**7. Other Reports**

**Churchwardens –** no questions

 It was agreed that the formation of a Maintenance Team was a good development. Thanks were expressed to Jeremy and Bill for all their continued hard work.

**Safeguarding** – no questions

Massive thanks were expressed to Sarah and Michele for their weekly and consistent work, much of which is unseen.

**Deanery Synod –** no questions

Thanks were expressed to Jeff and Philippa for their continued work.

**Churches together in West Wickham** – no questions

Thanks were expressed to Penny and Stuart

**SJs –** no questions

The team has shrunk – should more people be recruited? We need to make more of this facility but we do not have a massive clear vision for this asset.

**8. Team Reports**

**Caring –** no questions

There was growth of connections with the community and those outside the church. Thanks were expressed to Sue and Maureen

**Mission –** no questions

There had been emphasis on support for Ukraine and Afghanistan. Thanks were expressed to the team – a lot of thinking went on and young people were encouraged to be involved.

**Prayer –** no questions

Thanks were expressed to Richard and Elzbieta and their team. Richard C. commented that working together across the teams is to be encouraged.

**9**. **Authorised Lay Ministries**

**Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA) –** no questions.

SPAs have a specific role regarding pastoral care. We need to encourage others to follow this training.

**Reader –** no questions

Julia Cernoch is to be commissioned as a Reader in about 8 weeks’ time, to join Sally in this Ministry. Thanks were expressed to all our preachers.

**9. Inclusion Group**

It would be good if the profile of this group were raised. It was confirmed that the unit for children’s resources is in the Baptistry.

All these reports were accepted.

**10. PCC Elections**

One-third of PCC members step down each year. Sybil & Martin are re-elected and Julia is elected. Thanks were expressed to Karen who is stepping down. So, no vote is needed this year. Lenka, our Treasurer, is an ex-officio member of the PCC.

**11 Welcomers**

The circulated list is accepted, proposed by Lenka, seconded by Maureen. More Welcomers are needed!

**12. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was agreed to re-appoint Philip Landergan, proposed by Jeremy, seconded by Richard

Jon then led us in a time of prayer.

Signed ………………………….. Date …………………………………