

St Peter's with St Mark's Hospital Church
Annual Meetings 2020
Monday 19th October 2020 held ONLINE via ZOOM at 7.30pm

Present: There were 37 people taking part in the meetings

Apologies: Ian Bellinger; Kevin Colyer; Dave France; Sarah France; Larry Galliford; Julie Hopkins; Ruth Knight; Fran Sharp

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)

David Short opened by welcoming all to these meetings, being held online because of COVID 19 pandemic restrictions.

1. **Apologies** as listed above
2. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 24th March 2019**

Tony May proposed and Ian Knight seconded a motion that the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Parishioners be accepted as a true record. This was passed unanimously. The minutes will be signed at a later date.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**

The nominations are Franziska Cheeseman (nominated by Kira Holland, seconded by Debbie Watson) and Ian Knight (nominated by Richard Thorogood, seconded by Tony May).

As the number of nominations matched the number of available vacancies (2), Ian Knight and Franziska Cheeseman were duly appointed as Churchwardens.

David Short thanked the retiring churchwarden Jean Stevens, who was stepping aside from the role for personal reasons, for the service she had given as Church Warden over the past 2.5 years. There are gifts to mark her service which will be presented to Jean on behalf of St Peter's and St Mark's. Jean thanked David for his encouragement, saying that her period as Church Warden had had a significant impact on her faith, which has grown as she has learned to rely on God in so many situations, which in turn had given her an increased confidence and trust in Him. She has seen many answers to prayer during her tenure. Highlights for her had included Carol Cooper's ordination, as she had walked with her through this journey over many years, and David and Catherine moving into the Courthouse Road vicarage, a journey not without hurdles to overcome.

She thanked many for the help, support and friendship she had received in carrying out the role, from all of the office staff, Sandy, Kira and Hazel, her fellow Church Warden Ian, friends and family, the church teams and all others involved, especially her husband Jeremy whose patience, love and support have carried her through some very challenging times and enabled her to fulfil her role as Church Warden.

David prayed for Jean and thanked God for all the work that He had done in her, for her encouragement and support to so many, for her pastoral heart, for her ability to go above and beyond the call of duty, and in the new season ahead of her, that God would continue to guide & bless her and grant her good health and rest. David thanked Ian Knight, who was a great asset and support to the leadership and church family, who was standing again as Church Warden, and Franz Cheeseman who was standing for the first time, and then prayed for them both.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was then closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

This meeting followed straight on from the AMP.

David Short shared the scripture from Proverbs 16:9. A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps", before praying for God to direct our steps. After this the meeting united around singing the creed (This I Believe) in worship and as a statement of our shared faith.

1. **Apologies for absence** – see list above
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th March 2019**

Alan Berry proposed and Jean Stevens seconded the proposal that the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting be accepted as a true record. This was approved and carried.

The Minutes will be signed at a later date, with an amendment reflecting that the minutes had omitted the fact that David Short had thanked the outgoing PCC members of 2019 – Linda Goulding; Lesley Haldane; Carole Streeter; Andrew Fleet for their service to St Peter's and St Mark's and also for the work of Hazel Cronbach as Finance Manager and her attendance at PCC meetings.

The PCC Secretary, Tony May, also pointed out the APCM pre-reads would be formally filed alongside the meeting minutes to form part of the meeting record.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. **Declaration of Any Other Business**
There was no other business raised under this item.

5. **Elections to the PCC and Deanery Synod**

David Short thanked the outgoing members of the PCC: Alan Berry; Carol Cooper; Fran Sharp and Wendy Frampton for their commitment and work. Carol Cooper, previously an elected member of the PCC, is now an ex-officio member by reason of her starting her curacy in the parish. Alan Berry had offered to stand again for election.

The following candidates have been proposed for both the Deanery Synod and the PCC:

Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by
Abi Griffiths Price	Emma Olorenshaw	Elizabeth Stone
Richard Thorogood	Ian Knight	Brian Colthorpe
Alan Berry	Jean Stevens	Tony May
Anna Holloway	Nick Holloway	Brian Colthorpe

As the number of nominations (4) matched the number of vacancies, the above were duly appointed.

All of the new members of the PCC and Deanery Synod have been appointed for a period of three years.

David took the opportunity to remind the meeting of the purpose of the PCC, and invited people to be in prayer for the coming year about the PCC vacancies, normally four, that may arise next year. David asked that if anyone was interested in joining the PCC, or wished to discuss it further, please would they speak to either the churchwardens or himself during the year.

The appointments to the PCC were warmly received from those present. David prayed for the new PCC, and the retiring members, thanking God for their service to the Church, and for all of the PCC as they continue to seek to serve in many different ways to the glory of God.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiners of 2020 Accounts

Alan Berry proposed a change, agreed by the Finance Sub-Committee, that our Independent Examiners change from Assets (formerly Wilkins Kennedy) to Verdant Accountants, whose quote for the same work was much less.

Alan Berry proposed and Stephen Cronbach seconded that Verdant Accountants be appointed to carry out the independent examination of the Accounts for 2020. The proposal was carried unanimously with no votes against and no abstentions.

7. Reports on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments; Safeguarding; the PCC and Deanery Synod

The Reports on Safeguarding; the PCC; the Deanery Synod; and the building Fabric had all been made available as pre reads for the meeting.

After those present were offered the opportunity to ask questions in relation to these, the Reports were duly noted and would be formally filed alongside the meeting minutes to form part of the meeting record.

8. Electoral Roll Report

Adrian Young, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the number of names on the 2019 roll, as reported at last year's APCM, was 172. The number of names entered upon the church electoral roll in 2020 is 175. Of those 55% reside in the parish and 45% outside of the parish. David thanked Adrian for his role as Electoral Roll Officer.

9. Finance Review for 2019

The Treasurer Alan Berry presented a Financial Review of 2019 which was based on the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2019, made available to the members as a pre-read via the church website, with hard copies available where required. St Peter's and St Mark's operates as one Charity – members of the PCC are the trustees.

Hazel Cronbach (Finance Manager) was thanked again by Alan for her outstanding work – paying bills, making things balance, sorting out the gift aid etc., and in particular for preparing accurate paperwork for the Report and Accounts under difficult circumstances during the period of COVID 19 pandemic lockdown.

Alan also thanked all those who were present, and those who weren't, for generous and continued giving to St Peter's and St Mark's. Without money, there would be no mission. Giving remains very important to us.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 had been signed off by the PCC, independently inspected by Wilkins Kennedy Chartered Accountants, signed off by them, and then posted on our website. Once accepted by this meeting, they would be submitted to the Charities Commission by their 31st October 2020 deadline.

Income & Expenditure 2019

St Mark's	£	St Peter's Unrestricted	£
Income	4,420	Income	185,702
Expenditure	5,883	Expenditure	180,706
Deficit	(1,463)	Surplus	4,996

Headlines:

- Although St Mark's income, mainly from collections, was in line with previous years, expenditure was higher resulting in a deficit, broadly in line with previous years. The deficit had been entirely caused by depreciation of £1,870 for the new sound system and Notice Board, so St Mark's is in a good financial state. They also have reserves of £54,000.
- St Peter's expenditure in 2019 was £20,000 more than in 2018 due to repairs to the church roof, reinstatement of the vicarage, and work resulting from the quinquennial inspection. An important income was the £29,000 gift aid reclaimed and is reflected in both churches figures above.
- Net Assets of £260,962. The net assets at 31st December 2019 have increased by £12,000 compared with 2018, mainly due to an increase in investment values.

PARISH FUNDS	£	Where?
St Peter's Unrestricted	117,942	£116,801 Held in Bank Accounts £1,141 Fixed Assets
Restricted	77,715	Investments
St Mark's Designated	65,305	£57,361 Held in Bank Accounts £7,944 Fixed Assets
Total	260,962	

- During 2019 the Parish allocated £17,356 to Mission Partners/Charities

Donations to Mission – St Mark’s

£1,074 was distributed to: Alzheimer Dementia Support; League of Friends of St Mark’s Hospital; and Mission to Seafarers

Donations to Mission – St Peter’s

£16,282 was distributed to: Mark and Rosalie Balfour in Guatemala via CMS; Street Kids Direct; Alpha Liberia; R and R Recharge; Yeldall Manor; Christian Connections in Schools (CCIS); and Open Doors

In addition, a £300 contribution was made to Maidenhead Foodshare from donations raised at the Christingle services.

In conclusion, Alan explained how income peaked in 2018, when in addition we received a grant for mission from Bishop Andrew of £10,000. A fall in unrestricted income between 2018 and 2019 of 2% was due in part to churn with some parishioners leaving/dying or changing their giving.

Looking ahead, because of the Covid pandemic it was estimated that there will be a deficit of £20-24,000 this year, mainly due to a large reduction in church centre bookings, coupled with a reduction in our voluntary giving of £8,000, along with fewer one-off donations and no collections. Expenditure has reduced, particularly whilst the Church and Church Centre have been closed for many months, but the cleaning bill may be increased due to the measures we need to take to ensure safety when opening the building.

We started 2020 with reserves of £195,000 so effectively the deficit will come out of our reserves meaning we should start 2021 with reserves of approximately £175,000. Although it has not been a good year accounting wise, we remain in a strong position because of the reserves we are able to call on.

The meeting was opened to questions from the floor. There were no questions arising.

Alan Berry proposed and Hazel Cronbach seconded that the members accept the Annual Report and Accounts as a fair representation of the Parish finances for 2019. This was carried without dissent or abstention.

David Short thanked Alan on behalf of everyone in the church for all of his hard work as Treasurer throughout the year, and in preparing this report.

10. Any Other Business

There were no additional items raised.

The formal part of the meeting then concluded with prayer.

A review of the past season during the Covid-19 pandemic.

David shared a little about the Church activities during lockdown and our vision and values as a church.

Love Jesus: In Covid times we have continued to fix our eyes on Jesus, with this verse from Hebrews 12 v2 being a theme throughout this season. David thanked the many individuals that had contributed to the online services and those who were helping us to prepare to return to worship within the church building.

Sharing Lives: Connect Groups, and groups for young people have continued, mainly meeting online due to Covid restrictions. David shared how encouraging it is to witness the depth of relationships that has grown through this season. He thanked all those who had contributed to this mutual love and support, especially the Connect Group leaders and leaders of other groups.

Transforming Communities: Despite the obvious challenges of Covid and lockdown, as a church we are still seeking to transform the communities that we are a part of. We are now running our third online Alpha in three months, and seeing people come to faith. Our mission giving, and other fundraising activities has enabled us to partner in the transformation of communities beyond Maidenhead.

Looking forward, we do not know what the future holds but we know that the Lord will direct our steps (Proverbs 16:9). The values that we hold dear give us confidence for the future:

Compassion – we will seek to care for the vulnerable.

Creativity – we will seek to continue to be agile and adjust to whatever is in front of us.

Generosity – we are blessed by the generosity of the church family that enables mission and ministry.

Joy – we can step forward being confident of the goodness of God because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Although the nation is locked down the Holy Spirit is free to work within us and through us. David concluded with a prayer.

Jo Ellington thanked both David Short for all his hard work for the Parish, and others within the church for their valuable efforts over the past year.