

**ST MARY MAGDALENE
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS AND
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON
9th MAY 2021**

These meetings were held with participants both in the church and with participants in their own homes using ZoomAll those attending were able to vote at the meetings.

Present - in person: Jema Ball, (Vicar/Chair), Ann Thomas, Caroline Jowett-Ive , Jenny & David Baker, Mike Barwell, Gillian Baxter, Jo Bridgwater, Martin Bryan-Brown, Hayley Brydges, Angela Cattell, Mike Cole, Usha Devadoss, Brian Dunster, Richard & Pamela Elderton, Sue & Steve Fairbairn (PCC Secretary), John Gwyther, Jennifer Hall, Tony Hughes, Andy Judd, Al Meadows, Jo Morris (Curate), Rosalind Oliver, Caroline Owen, Gillian Palmer, Francis Parkinson, Carrie Patterson, Pauline & Albert Pearson, Simon Potter, Rachel & Nick Powlesland, Beverley & Brian Richardson, Peter Robottom, Jerry Sandford, Katherine Vincent, Alister & Caroline Simpson, Stephanie Wren, Chris Thomas, Zoe & John White, Victoria Whitfield, Tony Yeadon.

Present - via Zoom: Helen Brady, Cynthia & Peter Calvert, Anni Davey, Tony & Wendy Hughes, Joan Kelsey, Jackie & Miles Kitching, Kathryn Lonnen, Kim Linford, Uca & Paul Lewis-Smith, Glenda Lindsay, Margaret Maple, Helen Meadows, Peter & June Miller, Helena Neville, James & Pat Newby, Julia Patterson, Kate Pinfold, Rachel Sanford, Peter Sergeant, Keith & Judith Sheather, Peter Simpson, Jason Smith, Barbara Spedding, Shan Stock, Annabel & Matt Stott, Lucy & David Swithinbank, Diana Wyatt, Scott & Barbie Whitby-Smith, Diana Wyatt. (Two other participants' names were incomplete.)

The 2020 Ministry Report was completed before the APCM and electronic copies were made available ten days prior to the meeting as an attachment to the weekly Church Family Update email, together with printed copies in the Church.

The vicar, the Reverend Jema Ball, welcomed everyone and opened the morning's proceedings at 11:15am with prayers inspired by Ephesians 3. Jema noted that this part of the epistle encourages us to put our roots down in the love of God and that this helps us to persevere in faith through the times when the 'soil' of our lives feels hard.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT WARDENS

Following her prayers, Jema started the business of the meeting by telling attendees that it was necessary to vote on the re-election of our two Church Wardens. Steve Fairbairn reported that their nomination details were as follows.

	CHURCH WARDEN APPLICANT	PROPOSED	SECONDED
1	Caroline Jowett-Ive (re-election)	Stephanie Wren	Brian Richardson
2	Ann Thomas (re-election)	Paul Lewis-Smith	Uca Lewis-Smith

Jema asked attendees to vote on accepting the re-election of both of our wardens. The result was a unanimous acceptance by all attendees both in church and on Zoom. Jema welcomed this result and called upon Ann to give the Churchwardens' report of 2020.

Ann Thomas reported that the last year has been a very challenging time but noted that established services had been sustained in some form and that new initiatives notably "Explore@4" had been established. She noted the continuing problems posed by Covid and the need for prayer for the current pandemic in India. Major strategic shifts have been needed in church and Ann thanked Jema for her good guidance over a prolonged period. Ann reported that some meetings were imprinted in her memory together with the need to come to terms with Zoom. She thanked Jema for her strong leadership and encouragement of good teamwork, good teaching and the provision of poignant powerful services, especially around Advent and Christmas. Ann reported that our new curate Jo Morris has been much appreciated. She noted the creative work done for families, children and youth work. She felt that the weekend at home initiative had worked well and promoted a sense of community. Ann reported her appreciation of the newsletters from Jema.

Jema thanked Ann and Caroline for all that they contribute as Churchwardens, and then opened the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies had been received from Hazel Trapnell and Yvonne Penn.

2. MINUTES OF APCM 14TH OCTOBER 2020

Jema asked whether there were any corrections needed to the minutes of the last APCM. As there were no objections she asked whether the minutes could be accepted and this led to the following proposal.

Proposal The minutes of the APCM for 2020 can be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings and so can be signed by the vicar.

Proposed Stephanie Wren **Seconded** Nick Powlesland

Result This proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting attendees except for 3 abstentions on Zoom.

The 2020 APCM minutes were therefore signed by Jema.

2.1 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

3. THANKS TO THOSE STANDING DOWN

Jema expressed her thanks to those PCC members who have stood down this year, namely Jenny Baker, Steve Fairbairn, Wendy Hughes, Miles Kitching, Pauline Pearson, Justin Stratis and John White. She noted that Justin was moving to Canada to work in a theological college. She then thanked Jenny for her many years of service as electoral roll secretary and presented Jenny with a bouquet of flowers. Jema noted that Carrie Patterson would take over as electoral roll secretary and that Steve would continue as PCC secretary but with no voting rights at PCC meetings.

Jema then called John White forward and reported that he is now concentrating entirely on his pioneering work at Hazelnut Farm, and reminded attendees of his related contribution to the annual report. John thanked St Mary's for its continuing support and prayers and invited everyone to visit Hazelnut Farm in Lockleaze or Horfield. Jema urged everyone to also visit the Hazelnut Farm website and led everyone in prayer for John.

4. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

4.1 Independent Examiner Appointment

Jema asked whether Mazars could be engaged again to review our accounts. This led to the following proposal.

Proposal Mazars should be used in 2021 as independent examiners of the St. Mary's annual financial report.

Proposed Brian Richardson **Seconded** Mike Barwell

Result This proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting attendees.

At this point Andy Judd spoke up to offer formal thanks for the outstanding annual report for 2020 which was the best he had ever seen.

4.2 PCC Member Elections

Jema noted that the people listed in the table below had come forward for election as members of the PCC. She explained that Peter and Brian were now standing for elected places rather than being ex-officio members as lay ministers, and that this would help reduce the overall size of the PCC which has been overlarge recently and so more difficult to manage.

As the number of PCC membership applicants was one less than the number of vacancies, Jema asked attendees to vote on acceptance of the new members all together in a single vote. Jema explained that Caroline Owen was being allowed an unusual third term because of the essential work she continues to do as Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer.

The details of the eight candidates who presented themselves are list below.

	PCC APPLICANT	PROPOSED	SECONDED
1	Caroline Owen (re-election)	Tony Hughes	Paul Lewis-Smith
2	Julia Gwyther (re-election)	Peter Robottom	Julia Patterson
3	Caroline Simpson (re-election)	Jo Harrison	Paul Richardson
4	Alasdair Meadows	Alister Simpson	Hayley Brydges
5	Kate Pinfold	Jackie Kitching	Miles Kitching
6	Nick Powlesland	Susan Fairbairn	Noel Patterson
7	Peter Robottom	Albert Pearson	David Harries
8	Brian Richardson	Rachel Sandford	Carrie Patterson

All eight candidates were elected by the meeting attendees onto the PCC with no objections or abstentions. Jema welcomed Al and Kate as first time new members and noted that Nick does have previous experience from some years ago. Jema noted that there is one vacancy remaining on the PCC.

Jema reported that the administrative details of elections for sidespeople, welcomers, and deputy wardens would from now on be handled at PCC meetings due to a change in the Church Representation rules.

5. ELECTORAL ROLL, report on changes

Jenny Baker reported that at the APCM in 2020 we had 256 members. She noted that three people have since died and 5 have moved away and we had three new members and therefore the 2021 electoral roll has 251 members.

Jema stated that she felt that the church was poised for new growth as we continue to emerge from the pandemic.

6. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

see also p 32 of Annual Report

Caroline Owen opened her presentation by revealing the abiding fears she has had in connection with a potential Covid virus attack which gave her some insight into the position of those facing potential physical abuse. She stressed the importance of the idea that people should be safe from harm at church and that we need to be seen to be aware and put potential abusers off by our alertness. Caroline noted the importance of the regular PCC reviews of the Safeguarding Policy and stressed that she cannot do all the safeguarding alone, and that everyone needs to take part. She reminded people that basic safeguarding training can be done via the Bristol Diocese website to help establish safeguarding as a culture as automatic as prayer. Caroline reminded attendees that safeguarding affects everyone so we need to be aware, respect boundaries and pass concerns confidentially to her. She noted that there have

been issues of concern this year but, so far, all is well though there is no space for complacency.

Jema reported her appreciation of Caroline and what she does in her weighty role of Safeguarding Officer and Treasurer and said that Caroline is a huge support to the clergy when Safeguarding concerns arise.

7. FINANCE REPORT and Looking Ahead *see also pages 30 & 31 of Annual Report*

Caroline Owen presented her report. She explained that the annual report contains only extracts from the full financial report, copies of which can be obtained from the church office. Caroline reported that the accounts are inspected by Mazars.

Caroline explained that the funds are in two categories namely unrestricted and restricted ones. The unrestricted funds are controlled by decisions made within the PCC whilst the restricted funds can only be spent for a defined purpose. She noted that the church annual report contains information on only the unrestricted funds.

Caroline advised that the main income for the church comes from personal donations. She encouraged people to give via the Parish Giving Scheme if possible as this route minimizes the associated administrative work. She noted that people have continued to give sacrificially despite the church having been 'online' for much of 2020, and the response to the November 2020 Stewardship Appeal was encouraging.

Caroline reported that the biggest single cost is our Parish Share (£161K in 2020) which enables the church to have clergy and helps to support less fortunate parishes across the whole diocese. In that sense it is part of our mission giving. She noted that the second biggest cost is salaries and explained that it is simply not possible to do everything using volunteers.

Caroline went on to report that we had spent only £4.7K on building repairs in 2020. However, she noted that the old church boiler had lasted the winter, but may not survive 2021. She reported that there is £18K collected in pledges for work on the church rooms. Looking ahead to 2021 she noted that St Mary's still owns a house in St Lauds Close worth £445K, and that we are due around £18K in tax backs and an estimated income from regular donations of £184K. There is £81K in restricted funds covering various things including the church rooms development work. However, she reported there is a budget challenge in 2021 of a projected deficit of £63K which would worry her in commercial terms but for which she trusts God will provide. It was noted that St Mary's always has a significant projected deficit each year which is usually met via the Stewardship Appeal in November.

Caroline closed her report by thanking the office team for answering her many emails, Scott Whitby-Smith for doing our tax claims and Martin Bryan-Brown who does the banking each week. Jema expressed her thanks to Caroline.

8. CHURCH BUILDINGS

see also 2020 Annual Report page 25ff.

Jema opened this part of the proceedings by thanking Peter Robottom for all he does for managing maintenance and repairs to the buildings.

Jema then noted that the church hall redevelopment project, which was launched in March of 2020, had been paused but would be relaunched later this year, whereupon the PCC would

need to decide the scale of the works. She reported that this would happen over the next few months when there would be more information to share with the congregation.

9. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

see Appendix to the 2020 Annual Report

Jema explained that St Mary's is part of the Bristol West Deanery. She noted that St Mary's has 4 lay PCC members elected to attend the Deanery Synod meetings. She noted that St Mary's clergy also have the right to attend. She explained that the Synod provides a useful link to other churches in this part of the city and referred attendees to the Appendix of the Annual Report for further details.

10. ANNUAL REPORT queries

Jema then asked attendees whether they had any questions/comments on the Annual Report.

Peter Simpson queried via Zoom whether parish share contributions are related to numbers on the electoral roll. Jema explained that there is still a link between the two figures, but that the calculations are now more complex and nuanced than they once were. She explained that St Mary's is one of the churches in the diocese who is able to pay a large Parish Share and that it was encouraging that we have committed to covering the Parish Share in full again in 2021. She also noted that the Diocese is grateful for our contributions.

Peter Robottom noted that on a point of detail on page 36 of the Annual Report the Uganda link is not only to the Kitgum Diocese but also to the Nebe and Northern Uganda Dioceses.

There were no further questions on the Annual Report from the meeting attendees.

11. A focus on working with younger generations *see page 10 of 2020 Annual Report*

Jema expressed the view that she is passionate about this area of ministry and feels it is vital that we continue to invest in younger generations. She then showed a video of David Forrester, the Headteacher at Stoke Bishop C.E. Primary School, in which he recognized the importance of the long-held link with St Mary's which has become even stronger over the last year or so. Jema reported that she and the Ministry Team were looking to strengthen links to the school as well as to the community at large.

Jema expressed her thanks to Rachel Powlesland and Hayley Brydges for their leadership in this area of ministry. Jema mentioned Hayley's involvement at the Oasis Academy Brightstowe. Jema thanked Beverley Richardson who is a governor at Stoke Bishop C.E. Primary and a grandparent with 4 grandchildren there. She also mentioned that other members of the Ministry Team lead Collective Worship in the primary school which advertises the church and allows our church people to be recognized. Jema also praised the new Explore@4 initiative and the Christmas and Easter outdoor which deliberately aim to help families engage with the Christian faith.

On the topic of university student ministry, Jema noted that there had been prayers with students in 2020, but that in 2021 a start had been made with face to face contacts with students through having weekly drop-in sessions at the Wills Hall Chapel on the university campus.

Jema stressed the need for more support for children and youth work from the church family generally and asked people to pray about whether they could serve in this exciting area of ministry.

Jema closed this part of the meeting by drawing attendees' attention to the message of passing on the faith to the next generation Psalm 145:4.

12. LOOKING AHEAD

Jema noted that there had been many changes at St Mary's over the last year. She commented that we will not simply revert to our old ways, but will move into a new season together, and be prayerfully excited about the way ahead. She said that, although there will be changes, the fundamental role of *following Jesus and making Him known* will continue. Our focus will always be to look outwards and try to make the church and the Christian faith accessible for everyone.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no formal AOB.

Caroline Jowett-Ive thanked Jema and the clergy team for their efforts in a difficult year at St. Mary's and presented her a signed card and pot of flowers and garden vouchers. Flowers and vouchers were also given out to other members of the ministry team. These gifts were funded by a collection deliberately made to thank the team for their efforts during the Covid pandemic.

14. CLOSING PRAYER

Simon Potter closed in prayer and urged everyone to take Christ's message of reconciliation into the world.

Jema declared the meeting closed at 12:40.

Signed.....

Date.....