

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks held by video conference on Tuesday 29 September 2020

Present: The Rector and about 150 parishioners.

The Rector, Rev Angus MacLeay opened the meeting by advising all present that only those on the Electoral Roll were entitled to vote at the meeting.

1. The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 23 April 2019 had been duly on display at the back of Church and were unanimously approved and would be signed by the Rector. This was proposed by Caroline Berry and seconded by Sue Stimson.

2. Electoral Roll

The electoral roll had been revised and now stood at 561 (2019: 492). The Rector thanked Lis Lidbetter, Electoral Roll Officer, for her continued hard work.

3. Election of Deanery Synod representatives

There were 5 vacancies and 5 duly nominated candidates and the candidates were deemed duly elected.

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Andrew Coates	Stephen Wehrle	John Collett
Tony Jennings	Peter Scott	Ian Nash
Peter Scott	Christine Brindley	Terry Boxall
Emma Osei-Mensah	Rob von Kaufmann	Deborah Drury
Chris Barton	Katie David	Christine Brindley

4. Election of PCC Members

After 10 years as Treasurer Ian Leigh was standing down and not seeking re-election. Chris Webb was also standing down after many years as church warden and more recently chair of the Financial Strategy Group. Henry Warde had served two terms and Stephen Wehrle had served three terms and were not standing for re-election. Stephen was thanked for his work as chair of the Risk Management Committee and Henry for his work on the Truscott Implementation Group.

Isabel Hodgson had been co-opted during the year and was now standing for election. Mark Walkington had served on the Deanery Synod and was now standing for election to the PCC. Sarah Mackenzie had completed one term and was standing for re-election. Additional nominations were received for Carol Carpenter, Peter Harlow and Robert von Kaufmann.

As there were 6 vacancies there was no need for a formal vote and the following were deemed duly elected:

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Carol Carpenter	Emma Watson	Helen Greig
Peter Harlow	Phil Day	Wendy Billington
Isabel Hodgson	Giles Witchell	Heather Williams
Rob von Kaufman	Christine Brindley	Rupert Brindley
Sarah Mackenzie	Mark Walkington	Henry Warde
Mark Walkington	Adelbert Jennings	John Collett

Christine Brindley led the meeting in prayer for the new Deanery Synod and PCC members.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Rector thanked Ian Leigh, Treasurer, Chris Webb, Chair of the Financial Strategy Group and Alan Edwards, Payroll and Pensions Administration citing their hard work and diligence over many years.

There was an opportunity for questions via the Zoom webinar chat function.

6. Receipt and adoption of the Audited Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Tony Isaac, seconded by Alan Edwards and carried unanimously. The statutory Churchwarden's Report, Fabric and Furnishing Report and Deanery Synod Report could all be found in the meeting booklet.

7. Appointment of auditors for 2020

The re-appointment of Messrs Norman, Cox and Ashby was proposed by Paul Batchelor, seconded by Mark Walkington and carried unanimously.

8. Annual Safeguarding Update

Rev Dr Gavin McGrath, Parish Safeguarding Officer, announced that Ros Collett would be assisting him as Deputy Safeguarding Officer with particular focus at Grace Church and 4 O'Clock Church. He expressed thanks to his colleagues for their hard work in following Safer recruitment guidelines.

Following the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting a video interview was shared between Chris Brindley, Warden and Angus MacLeay, Rector to help explain the church's new vision statement and congregational structure which had been adopted by the PCC.

The interview highlighted the outcomes of the Ministry Review report from church consultant John Truscott and how the PCC was seeking to implement the recommendations from it and the subsequent Truscott Implementation Group paper. The Rector was excited by the new vision and in particular the clear focus on Jesus, the emphasis on reaching out, especially to the parish, and the desire to send out from St Nicholas more. He hoped that the new congregational structure would help the whole church to flourish while recognising that there would be challenges ahead and varying

time periods for implementation. Acknowledging that all change is hard and that the current climate with COVID-19 restrictions seems an unlikely opportunity he suggested that the current “pruning” would prepare the church for better growth in the years ahead. He asked everyone to apply the topical “PPE” acronym to increased **p**rayer, supporting **p**eople especially in the new Congregational Leadership Teams and **e**xcitement for the next phase of the church’s life.

As the meeting was being conducted via video conference due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic the opportunity to ask questions in advance had been publicised and questions were received via email in advance and also submitted via a chat function throughout the meeting. There was approximately an hour of questions with answers from the Rector, Treasurer and Wardens.

9. Chairman’s Address

The Rector thanked the church family for the practical love amongst one another which had been demonstrated during lockdown. He referred to the increase in regulations and the associated administration and management required in many aspects of the church’s ministry as a tsunami and paid particular thanks to all those involved in administration, technical expertise and making worship available online

Before leading the meeting in prayer Justin Greig and Chris Brindley, Church Wardens, expressed deep gratitude on behalf of all congregations for the hard work and dedication of the entire staff team. Justin paid special tribute to the Rector and his wife Sue’s tremendous resilience while shielding.

The Meeting closed with the Grace.