

# Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS held on Sunday 25 April 2021 at 10.30 via Zoom

The Rev'd Jeff Hopkin Williams opened the Vestry Meeting to elect two church wardens by explaining that attendance was open to all those on the electoral roll or living within the parish. Under Church of England guidance church wardens may be appointed each year for up to six consecutive years, but provision can be made for this to be extended in exceptional circumstances. Judy Britton, one of St Mary's existing wardens, had already served for six years, but with the pandemic it had not been possible to find a replacement for her. The meeting was grateful to her for being willing to stand for one further year to enable a successor to be found.

Two nominations for warden had been received:

- Judy Britton had been proposed by Jenny Kelly and seconded by Julie Hall.
- Barbara Williams had been proposed by Jean Love and seconded by Chris Britton.

Those present at the meeting unanimously elected Judy and Barbara to serve as church wardens for the coming year. Jeff thanked Barbara and Judy for their dedicated service, their 'can-do' attitude and for ensuring that the church was Covid compliant and for all the time and commitment they gave to the role.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held immediately afterwards

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Peter Jenkins and Elizabeth Sledge.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 4 October 2020:** These were approved by all present and signed as an accurate record.
3. **Appointment of Tellers:** No appointment was required.
4. **Election of 6 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council to serve for 3 years:** Five nominations had been received, all of which were properly nominated and seconded: John Albasiny, Stephen Tetley, Annie Atlay, Sheila Preece and Audrey Thomas. They were elected unanimously *en bloc*. Thanks were offered to those whose terms of office had come to an end at this meeting.
5. **Report on the Electoral Roll:** Toby Kiddle reported on the third revision of the Electoral Roll. The electronic form for updating the roll had worked well. All the additions, removals, notice and display periods had been carried out in accordance with the rules. The roll stood at 279, up from 262 the previous October. 73 lived within the parish. Thanks were offered to Toby for his work.
6. **Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church:**
  - **Fabric:** The completion of the reordering had been reported on at the previous APCM. Judy explained that, although we had had limited opportunity to enjoy the space because of restrictions, different seating configurations had been tried, including clearing the church for use by a film crew. The new seating worked well and was easier to clean than the old pews. The acoustic was better than before and the church was warmer. Little maintenance work had been carried out in the church since last October, although the tower clock face had been cleaned. Funding restraints would limit future building work, although the south

door would be repaired and the hall boilers might need to be replaced.

- Goods and ornaments: It had not been possible to account for everything on the inventory as some things had been stored away in places which were still not accessible within Covid regulations. The November silent auction had sold a few things that were not needed. Two altar crosses that were in storage had been brought into the church and were on display. The Memorial Garden had been particularly enjoyed during the year. The bell was tolled to commemorate the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the Union flag had been lowered and raised to mark the official mourning of the Duke of Edinburgh. Thanks were offered to all who had been involved in these matters.

**7. Safeguarding Report:** Sophy Fisher, as safeguarding officer, highlighted the severe impact of the Covid restrictions on members of the congregation, affecting people in different ways, including feelings of isolation, difficulty managing home schooling with working from home, financial concerns and bereavement. The Hampton Deanery had offered a support group for those dealing with safeguarding issues, which the safeguarding team had welcomed. Sophy thanked St Mary's champions for vulnerable adults, Katherine Cox and Francis Drasar, and the children's champions, Judy Britton, Katherine Cox and Julie Hall. Jeff offered his thanks to Sophy for her work this year.

**8. Report on the work of the Parochial Church Council and presentation of Parish Reports:** The PCC had met 3 times via Zoom since the last APCM. Each of the meetings considered how best to support St Mary's ministry during the period of government restrictions. Four challenges had been identified as requiring particular attention over the coming 12 months:

- Ensuring that opportunities were given to the congregation to continue worshipping together both online and in church.
- Ensuring that the lack of assistant priest to assist our ministry to children and young families in the church and in the school was dealt with creatively.
- Ensuring that good communication continued to exist amongst the congregation.
- Ensuring that steps were taken to increase the amount of money people pledge and give regularly to support the life of our church.

Sophy Fisher had kept the PCC informed of our compliance with all canonical requirements in relation to safeguarding, in particular section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC had given thought to opening our new interior for hire by local groups and had welcomed the fact that for the first time the whole of St Mary's School could be accommodated in church. Jeff and Katherine Cox had been recording collective worship for the school from different places within the church, which would not have been as effective with the old configuration.

The detail of the work of each of the Vision Groups as well of other areas of St Mary's life was contained in the Parish Reports, which were commended to the meeting.

**9. Report on the Deanery Synod:** Liz Webborn reported on the two key areas of focus for the Deanery Synod since last October. The first was Activate, a pioneering sport and wellbeing programme in the deanery to enhance community, wellbeing and faith through sporting activity and fitness; and the diocesan wide Capital Vision 2030. Bishop Graham had explained the vision's three ambitions: to create confident disciples, compassionate communities and to effect creative growth. To reach every Londoner we would need to reflect on the diversity of our city (including combating racism), be a welcoming and a safe place (saying sorry for past safeguarding abuses), and appeal to a younger cohort (students, young professionals and parents). Thanks were offered to Liz and the other Deanery Synod members on the PCC.

**10. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2019:** Francis Drasar, as treasurer, presented the annual accounts and treasurer's report. Note 9 on page 18 provided a useful summary.

Reordering had been achieved within budget. General fund income had been £200,000, with expenditure of £230,000, leaving a deficit of £30,000, following the fall in collections and lettings as a result of the enforced closure of the church. Thanks to some capital donations in 2020 the deficit had been reduced. Operational savings in the current year would reduce the anticipated deficit for 2021. Francis encouraged all signed up givers to increase their giving by £1 a week if they were able to. Jeff thanked Francis and the Finance Group for his balanced approach to church finances over a difficult period.

**11. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Francis proposed that Zoe Longstaff Tyrrell of RSM UK Tax and Accounting continue to be appointed as our independent examiner. This was seconded by Barbara Williams and agreed by all present.

**12. Results of elections (if appropriate):** Not required.

**13. Closing prayer:** Before the closing prayer was offered Barbara Williams thanked Jenny Kelly and the cleaning team for sanitising the church between permitted openings. On behalf of the congregation Barbara thanked Jeff for nurturing us during a difficult year, for maintaining contact with everyone and for inspiring us with his weekly pastoral letters and Zoom services. The meeting closed with a prayer.