

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Chaired by Fr Steve Hawkins

Sunday 25th October 2020

Fr Steve opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- (1) Fr Steve proposed that Kathy Gibbs take on the role of Secretary for the meeting. This was seconded by Nick Gibbs and agreed by the meeting.
- (2) 15 members on the Electoral Roll attended the meeting with apologies from 9 people.
- (3) Acceptance of the minutes of the 2019 Meeting was proposed by Fr Steve, seconded by Teresa McGouran, agreed by those present and signed by Fr Steve.
- (4) **Election of Churchwardens.**
Trevor King has stood down as Church Warden and a vote of thanks was given for his work over many years. Nick Gibbs has agreed to stand. There being no other nominations it was unanimously agreed that Philip Goodfellow and Nick Gibbs are elected.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Chaired by Fr Steve Hawkins

- (1) **Acceptance of the 2019 Minutes.**
Acceptance of the minutes of the 2019 Meeting (having been previously circulated) was proposed by Fr Steve, seconded by Pam Hodder, agreed by those present and signed by Fr Steve.
- (2) **Chairman's Report:**

Fr Steve reported as follows:

VICAR AND PCC REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING 25th OCTOBER 2020

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans. These lyrics, written by John Lennon, reflect a little of what has happened to our church, our country and our world as a result of Coronavirus 19. At our last Annual Meeting in 2019 none of us could have imagined the way we live now as we try to control this pandemic. My report today highlights some of the things that have been happening in our church BP (before the pandemic) and DP (during the pandemic). Most of the activities and developments I am reporting were the subject of discussion at our PCC meetings. I am enormously grateful to

our PCC members for the advice they have given, the contributions they have made and the decisions they have made on your behalf.

The following list reflects just some of our activities up until Sunday 15th March when the national lockdown began on Sunday 22nd March 2020. From that day all churches were closed for worship and prayer by decree of the national church.

- A new Mass Booklet has been produced.
- A Planned Giving Campaign was produced and material distributed to everyone on the Electoral Roll.
- The Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham was re-established on 7th December The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A Pilgrimage took place to Walsingham in September 2019.
- We said a sad farewell to Fr Anthony as he left to take up his new post as Associate Minister at St Mary Redcliffe. We are delighted that he and Debora are with us to worship whenever they can.
- The Advent and Christmas Services were very well attended in particular the Advent Carol Service which was attended by record numbers.
- We held Quiet Days in Lent in 2019 'A Space for Grace' and again in Lent 2020: 'Entering into the Silence'.
- Lent Courses were run in 2019 ('The Mystery of Everything based on the film of the life of Steven Hawking) and in 2020 'Superstar' based on the film of the same name.
- On Palm Sunday 2019 we welcomed Bishop Jonathan who presided at the Mass and also preached.
- We took part in Churches Together in Knowle and Totterdown events such as Harvest Singing at Broad Walk Shopping Centre, Christmas Carols at Broad Walk and a Family Picnic in Redcatch Park.
- New equipment was purchased for the Children's Corner.
- The Summer Fayre in June 2019 was again very successful.
- In November 2019 the church, as in previous years was part of the Totterdown Arts Trail.
- We have supported several charities including Emmaus, The Sisters of the Church, for those suffering from Cyclone Ida, Christian Aid, The United Society for the Propagation of the Faith (USPG), The Matthew Tree Food Hub.
- Shared lunches took place after the Harvest Festival 2019 and the Dedication Festival in 2020.
- The music has continued to be a joy for us all. On 2nd February 2020 Kathy Gibbs celebrated 35 years as our organist.
- Clean air monitor installed as part of TRESA (Totterdown Residents Environmental & Social Action) campaign to monitor traffic pollution on the Wells Road.
- The church's Safeguarding Policy is displayed in the porch. All DBSs (Disclosure and Barring Service) are up to date. Risk Assessment forms for events and activities are stored in the sacristy.
- A fantastic new church website <https://www.holynativity.org.uk/> is now up and running.

The church reopened for worship on Sunday 12th July and the numbers attending have exceeded our expectations. Live streaming of services began on Monday 16th March. This has proved to be very popular and is set to continue for the foreseeable future.

Since our last Annual meeting we have mourned the loss of John Mead, Fr Jack House, June James, 'Jim' East, John Bradley and Joan Gilbert. May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

I want to end with a thank you to everyone who has worked so hard over the past year, some in the gaze of us all, many working tirelessly behind the scenes. I'm not going to name them all it would take too long but you know who you are and I thank God for your commitment and your hard work. Each one you has been called by God to be a part of his body the church and you have responded, each in your own way, to his call.

September 2020 marked the end of my third year as your Parish Priest. I feel honoured to hold that title. It is my role to encourage you to be good, mature, Christian disciples. Full Stop. Nothing else matters because everything else flows from that and nothing lasting happens without it. Sadly next October I will be 70 years old. This is significant because under the church rules you then have to retire. I'm very sad about that as I think, and I may be wrong, that I still have a few more years in me but rules are rules. The future of the ministry at Holy Nativity is, as yet, unclear but be assured that various options are under serious consideration by the PCC.

With God nothing seems impossible. Thank you all for all you are, and all you do – and may God continue to pour down his blessing upon you. God is doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves, praise be his Holy name.

(3) **Churchwardens' Report:**

Phil Goodfellow reported as follows:

A challenging year as always, and never more so than from March of this year!

Firstly I want to thank Trevor King for his help and assistance as my Co-Warden for at least 10 years. It's been a pleasure working with him and I am sure you will now enjoy a fruitful retirement from an Officer of the Bishop!

Planned maintenances of the church continues and it really does seem like painting the Forth Road Bridge, once you finish you have to start again . . . The metalwork on the South Side has all been painted and cleaned out but the North side will require large amounts of scaffolding. The flat roofs still give us problems in very heavy rain but we have used a non-lead based flashing material and that has helped in some places.

The Scout Hut was demolished in short order back in the early part of 2019 and work commenced shortly after – the present owners expect the work to be completed in April 2021 and the houses are already on the market. Part of the current deal is a landscaping of the area at the back of the church and grassing and bush planting to improve the whole area.

The present heating system does continue to function but very inefficiently. Local company, UES, have been engaged to replace the boiler with gas fired ones in May of 2021 which will

save us a considerable sum of money on heating the church. Full thermostatic operation and 3 split zones will mean we are able to control the heating a lot more efficiently and will also be able to be programmed via the internet!!

The biggest project this year has been the updating of the Parish website and many thanks to Andy Clayton of Triple W designs for a really excellent piece of work and I want to thank Nick Gibbs and Fr Steve for their help and critical input as the site took shape. I have received some very favourable comments from users and it really does the Parish proud. I am happy to continue as Warden for another year and thanks to everyone who do so much behind the scenes to make this wonderful church work!!

(4a) Tower Report

Trevor King reported as follows:

2019 started with a Full Peal to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of the consecration of the church.

In April I joined the band to ring all 8 bells for a Wedding.

In August, during Kensington Ringing Week, we were visited by a group staying in Bristol and ringing Peals and Quarter Peals in the surrounding area. A Quarter Peal was rung at Holy Nativity.

On the first Tuesday of each month, a group of learners together with more experienced ringers, visit different towers. They visited Holy Nativity Tower in October.

During 2019 and up until February 2020 we continued to welcome local ringers on the third Sunday of the month.

Due to Covid there has been no bell ringing since February. However following the opening of the church for services from August, I have been able to chime the bells for the Sunday Service.

(4b) Safeguarding Report

Mary Goodfellow reported as follows:

No-one at present needs to be DBS checked except for the new churchwarden when elected. When recruiting, we need to follow the procedure outlined in our safeguarding policy.

I attended a PSO (parish safeguarding officer) forum on 3rd August by zoom. There was another in September which I did not attend.

The following matters were discussed:

All training is now on zoom and has to be booked in the normal way through the Diocesan website. The current training is to continue at present but a new training framework is about to be introduced with 14 modules and 5 categories.

Registers and other data are not to be kept on a computer but on an encrypted USB stick or they can be on paper if this is kept in a secure place i.e. the safe.

There was a discussion regarding bell ringers and it was agreed a separate risk assessment needed to be done for them for insurance purposes.

DBS documents may be scanned but the PSO does need to see the completed certificate which is sent to the applicant not the church.

The diocese have introduced a Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which enables parishes to see what they need to do to improve their safeguarding procedures. We have successfully passed level one and now have to complete level 2. We had fulfilled all the conditions for level 1 except for the C2 (leadership) training of the choir mistress and an S1 (safer recruitment) course for the PSO. Kathy has currently not been able to get on to a zoom training meeting and there are currently no S1s available. The Diocesan Safeguarding officer said she would give us advice.

The dashboard shows that the PCC needs to approve the safeguarding policy every year. It was last done on February 4th 2020. The dashboard shows the PCC needs to make a policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders. The DBS has published a sample policy statement for use by the PCC.

(4c) Deanery Synod Report

Mary Goodfellow reported as follows:

There was a meeting of the deanery synod on Thursday 25th June at 7.30 via zoom. It took the form of a discussion on prayer and group prayer.

Another is scheduled for 4th November.

(5) Presentation of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019

The treasurer presented the accounts, previously accepted by the PCC. He highlighted several points within the accounts as follows:

The liabilities falling within one year on page 1 were mainly Parish Share.

On page 7 Gordon highlighted the reduction in Parish giving, which has reduced by £9,000 over the last 2 years. Lots of people are now paying by Direct Debit which is a great help, but the amount is still cause for concern.

Page 17 shows that we were still able to contribute the same amount in donations to various charities as last year, namely £1,300.

Gordon thanked Jim Driscoll for auditing the accounts, and all those who helped with counting the collection and banking.

There were no questions.

Fr Steve proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon Baker for all his hard work.

(5) **Elections and appointments:**

- i) PCC: The members of the PCC were all willing to continue.
- ii) Parish Treasurer: Gordon Baker is willing to continue.
- iii) Safeguarding Officer: Mary Goodfellow is willing to continue
- iv) Deanery Synod Reps: Mary Goodfellow is willing to continue but needs another person to assist her.
- v) Electoral Roll Officer: Wendy King is willing to continue.
- vi) PCC Secretary: Kathy Gibbs is willing to continue.
- vii) Planned Giving Co-ordinator: John Chamberlain is willing to continue.

(6) **Appointments:**

- i) The Sidesmen and women were reappointed en bloc.
- ii) Jim Driscoll was proposed by Gordon Baker as our auditor for the next year, seconded by Phil Goodfellow, and agreed.

(7) **Any Other Business.**

None

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended with The Grace.