

PARISH OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WOKINGHAM

WITH ST NICHOLAS'S, EMMBROOK

Minutes of the annual meeting of parishioners held in Woosehill Church and by Zoom
on Monday 25 April 2022

Father Richard opened with words of welcome and a prayer.

Present

Father Richard Lamey in the Chair, 17 parishioners in church and 12 on Zoom.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bingham, Paul Armitage, John and Fiona Albinson, Jane Clark, Cara Smart, John and Pippa Sutton, Peter Wells.

Minutes of Meeting Held on 19 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Election of Churchwardens

Fr Richard announced that there were two posts of Churchwarden and one nomination had been received for Peter Wells. In the absence of any other nominations, he declared him duly elected as Churchwarden, to general applause, and he thanked him for his work over the past year and his willingness to continue to serve in that role until the next APCM.

David Ruddock has stood down as Churchwarden after 8 years in the role but he will continue to serve on the PCC as a Deanery Synod Representative. Fr Richard said Peter and David had complementary skills and that David had been a joy to work with. He presented him with a book token.

David thanked Fr Richard for being such an inspiring leader. He thought the church was stronger and more welcoming under Fr Richard's leadership. David thanked Peter Wells for all he had done, especially the technical stuff. He also thanked Teri for being the Churchwarden Emeritus and handling the cleaning and sidespeople as well as the Electoral Roll.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Lesley Ruddock

Chairman.....

Secretary

Date.....

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**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Woosehill Church and by Zoom
on 25 April 2022**

Present:

Father Richard Lamey in the Chair, 17 parishioners in church and 12 on Zoom.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bingham, Paul Armitage, John and Fiona Albinson, Jane Clark, Cara Smart, John and Pippa Sutton, Peter Wells.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were accepted as an accurate record and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Home Start – Wokingham Branch

Fr Richard welcomed Emma from Home Start which is the new charity we will be supporting. Emma thanked Sally Dowling and everyone for inviting her to speak. She explained how important it is to support a Wokingham charity. Home Start was set up in Leicester in 1983 and there are now over 180 Home Starts. There are also Home Starts in Reading, Slough and Newbury, all under the same umbrella which gives confidence in the quality of their work. Home Start supports families with children under the age of 4. It is not a poverty charity but provides support for those in need through, for example, ill health, poor mental health, multiple births.

Referrals come from GPs, health care, social care and even self-referrals. The volunteers who work for Home Start come from all walks of life, most have been parents themselves. The families are visited to find out what help is needed. This is often practical support- another pair of hands, someone to talk to, advice on healthy eating, how to get children to sleep etc. They also run family groups enabling mums to meet other mums and build a network. They provide families with treats – a day trip, a Christmas hamper, Easter treats. There is a cost to all of this and Wokingham Borough Council provide about 18% of their funding and the rest is raised through grants and fundraising.

Following a question, Emma confirmed that health visitors are the main referrers. She also mentioned that they will be starting a group for pregnant mums next year.

5. Election of Pro-Wardens of St Nicholas

There were two nominations for Pro-Warden. Mrs Liz Gallagher and Mrs Fiona Albinson having been duly proposed and seconded, and there being no other nominations, Fr Richard declared them elected as Pro-Wardens, to general applause. Fr Richard thanked both for their willingness to serve again.

6. Appointment of Deputy Wardens

Fr Richard explained that Mary Cassidy and Pippa Sutton are both willing to continue in their roles as Deputy Wardens. Pippa Sutton will work with the Churchwarden across the whole range of their work, while Mary Cassidy will focus on mission, spirituality and community. The meeting agreed continue with these appointments, which will be ratified by the PCC. The PCC will appoint Pippa to Standing Committee and will co-opt Mary to PCC.

7. Changes in the Electoral Roll since the last meeting

Fr Richard thanked Mrs Teri Austen for her hard work in doing this important job. The new Roll now stands at 223 as against 216 on 27 September 2020. The names of those removed and added are detailed on p13 of the *Parish Reports*.

8. Election of Parochial Church Councillors

Fr Richard explained that 2 members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, 1 for St Nick's and 1 for St Paul's, and Tony Roberts is stepping down. There were three existing vacancies. Lyn Austen, Stefanie Cetin, Stuart Fairhead and Vernon Riley were duly elected or re-elected to serve for 3 years and there are now 2 vacancies.

Fr Richard explained that Tony Roberts was stepping down from PCC although remaining as Treasurer for St Nick's and Fr Richard wished to record his grateful thanks to him for his hard work and commitment to St Paul's and St Nick's.

9. Appointment of Sidespersons

Whilst the appointment of sidespeople will from now be the responsibility of the PCC, Fr Richard emphasised the importance of this role in the current pandemic to make people feel safe and welcomed and he thanked the teams at St Paul's and St Nick's for all that they had done and continued to do.

At St Paul's these are Susanna Allen, Peter Baker, Sarah Baker, Chris Barker, Alice Buddin, Jane Creasy, Gilly Crew, Tony Eggleston, Stuart Fairhead, Christine Field, Trish Gatland, Jo Gulliford, Alan Harrison, Rhoda Hart, Elizabeth Hunter, Noah Lamey, Brian Perris, Jenny Perris, Fiona Ross, Frances Self, Georgina Spencer, Diana Tuck, Penny Wallace.

At St Nick's these are Fiona Albinson, Paul Armitage, Ann Battersby, Sally Dowling, Liz Gallagher, Lynne Judge and Jean Vaughan.

10. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Financial Statements for 2020

The Treasurer, Mr Llewellyn Austen, presented the statutory financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021, reminding all that the figures referred to both St Paul's and St Nicholas' churches. He then followed this up with an explanation of the various Funds, restricted and unrestricted, which are maintained by the church.

The presentation started with an overview of General Fund parish finances comprising, firstly, unrestricted income that amounted to £158,249; this was reduced by some £900 compared with 2020. Conversely unrestricted expenditure at £159,265 increased by £13,600 with the result that a modest deficit of £1,016 was recorded, compared with the previous year's net surplus of £13,538. Mr Austen pointed out that the increase in expenditure was substantially due to a major bathroom refurbishment completed during the year at the Brook Close property.

Various items of income were then illustrated using a pie chart, and this was supplemented with a detailed explanation of their key sources. Of particular interest was income from planned giving which was some 2% ahead of 2020, supplemented by a number of generous donations through the year. Cash collections had increased slightly as more parishioners were returning to church; however very little fund-raising took place in 2021. Gratifyingly income tax recovered under Gift Aid contributed over £22,500 to parish finances, whilst the use of contactless giving via text and card reader continued through the year.

A similar résumé of expenditure was then presented. The accompanying pie chart illustrated the major item of expense, Parish Share, which amounted to just over £78,000 or 49% of total expenditure; this was once again paid in full and on time. Mr Austen then gave a concise report on the remaining items of expense, drawing particular attention to Diocesan fees, church running, parish administration, and service and ministry costs. He also highlighted our continuing commitment to support our mission partners: USPG, the Children's Society and Soulscape.

The various Restricted Funds were then reviewed, and a more detailed analysis given relating to the Lighting and Restoration Funds. In particular he summarised the cash available for these purposes which amounted to £71,485 and £64,638 respectively at the end of the year, the latter figure including over £22,000 in Lucky Numbers as this is also available for church restoration.

Turning to 2022 the Treasurer noted that his General Fund budget was constantly under review, reflecting the regular changes in the domestic economy. He was hopeful that the recent introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme would help in maintaining the real value of pledged giving. However, he would not be drawn on the possible outcome for the year but indicated that, on present information, a small deficit was likely.

Finally Mr Austen extended thanks once again to Reg Morton for managing the Parish Fees account, to the sidespeople who have assisted in recording the Sunday morning collections at each church, to Stuart Fairhead for running the Stewardship process and claiming our monthly gift aid, to Tony Roberts and Liz Gallagher for looking after the St Nicholas finances and banking their weekly collections, to Louise and Vanessa in the parish office for their continuing

support, and finally to Deidrie Geise for her very thorough and detailed examination of the accounts.

All those in attendance accepted the accounts as presented, and the Treasurer was thanked for his work in preparing them.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Lyn Austen stated that Deidrie Geise was prepared to act as Independent Examiner again. This was proposed by Lyn Austen, seconded by Gill Wilkins, that she be appointed. ALL IN FAVOUR, no abstentions and no votes against.

A vote of thanks was recorded.

12. Parish Report – Fr Richard Lamey

Fr Richard's report will be found on p6 of the *Parish Reports*. He has also tried to capture some reflections of the pandemic and these are also recorded in the *Parish Reports*.

Fr Richard reported that Cara Smart has started back on a phased return of three ½ days plus one Sunday service per week for the next two weeks. He thanked everyone for their support over the last two years and felt that we had a good foundation for the future. There were no questions.

13. Deanery Synod Report

Fr Richard encouraged people to read this report on p20 of the *Parish Reports*. There were no questions.

14. Parish Giving Scheme

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the church had joined the Parish Giving Scheme. We will continue to encourage parishioners to switch to this scheme as there is no reason not to join. Numbers using the scheme have grown which provides an easy way for giving to increase with inflation and reduces the workload on our Treasurer and Stewardship Secretary.

15. Parish Rooms Trust

The 2021 accounts for the Parish Rooms Trust were included in the APCM documents. There were no questions on the accounts.

Rhoda Hart wished to record formally her thanks to Reg Morton for examining these accounts over a number of years and also to Vanessa Hemmi for all her hard work in the office. Rhoda was also thanked for all her hard work chairing the Parish Rooms Trust Committee and as Treasurer.

16. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Inventory 2021

Fr Richard referred everyone to p8 of the *Parish Reports*. Jean Vaughan pointed out that the MU banner was not destroyed in the arson attack, just the pole was broken. It was the St Paul's banner that was destroyed. The Churchwardens' Report was accepted and there were no further questions or comments.

17. Any Other Business

None.

Fr Richard thanked John Hoskins for the technical support, Lynn Smith for the refreshments and everyone for their forbearance with the technical issues.

At 9.33pm the meeting ended with prayer and the Grace.

Lesley Ruddock

Secretary

Chairman.....

Date.....