

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BROMLEY

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
&
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

11.30.a.m. on Sunday 25th 2021

Agenda

1. Introduction & Apologies for absence
2. Appoint Clerk to the meeting
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 28th April 2019
6. Elections
Election to PCC (5 vacancies)
7. Reports
 - a. Vicar's report
 - b. PCC Report
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Fabric Report
 - e. Deanery Synod Report
8. Appoint Independent Examiner
9. Any Other Business
10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PLAISTOW, BROMLEY
Minutes of
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 11 October 2020

Sally Adcock	Peter Fall	
Nina Arcuri	Debi Greer	
Jill Atkinson	Alan Keeler	
John Beale	Gill Keeler	
Carole Beale	Mary Mills	
Juliet Bermingham (Sec)	Lisa Morris	
Geoffrey Blachford	Maria Staines	
Sylvia Chance	Clem Sutton	
John Cox	Alison Tyler	
Mary Fall	Anne Yolland	

No.	Item For Discussion
1.	Introduction & Apologies for Absence
	Apologies were received from Anthia Page, Julie Simon, and Peter Yolland.
2.	Appoint Clerk to the Meeting
	John Beale proposed and John Cox seconded Juliet Bermingham as Clerk to the APCM meeting. A vote was taken, and all were in favour.
3.	Election of Churchwardens
	Alan Keeler told the meeting that Sally Adcock and Clem Sutton were both stepping down as St. Mary's Churchwardens effective after this APCM. He invited nominations for the two vacancies – there were none. There was some discussion around the potential negative implications to St. Mary's of not have any Churchwardens in place; with more responsibility falling to the Vicar and PCC etc. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next PCC meeting.
4.	Electoral Roll Report
	Alan Keeler reported that there were 96 names on the 2020 St. Mary's electoral roll, which was up on 2019's figure. 24 names had been added and 7 names removed.
5.	Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 28 April 2019
	Alan Keeler invited comments on the 2019 APCM minutes – there were none. With this, Jill Atkinson proposed, and Debi Greer seconded, that the 2019 APCM minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. A vote was taken, and all were in favour.
6.	Elections
	<u>6a. Election to PCC (4 vacancies)</u> – Nominations were received from Juliet Bermingham and Katherine Hevezi – and both were duly elected. Alan Keeler invited further nominations – John Beale put himself forward – he was proposed by Jill Atkinson, seconded by Mary Mills, and was duly elected. There is one PCC vacancy remaining to be filled. <u>6b. Election to the Deanery Synod</u> Alan Keeler reported that he had received two nominations to be St. Mary's representatives on the Deanery Synod: Sylvia Chance and Maria Staines. Both were duly elected.

7.	Reports
	<p><u>7a. PCC Report</u> Alan Keeler invited questions on the summary report of the PCC's 2019 business. There were none.</p> <p><u>7b. Financial Report</u> Jill Atkinson gave a brief overview of St. Mary's finances across 2019. There was a substantial £36,000 shortfall by the end of the year, and which was covered by St. Mary's reserves. However, this means that the reserves are seriously depleted.</p> <p>Alan Keeler thanked Jill Atkinson for her time and effort in managing St. Mary's finances.</p> <p><u>7c. Churchwardens' Report</u> Clem Sutton gave a summary overview of the Churchwardens' Report on St. Mary's life across 2019.</p> <p>He also gave an overview of the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments Report.</p> <p>He listed the major projects undertaken (updating the lighting scheme; repairs to the church porch, church roof and water-damaged chancel murals) and other remedial works carried out to the various buildings across the course of 2019.</p> <p>He thanked John Beale for the successful completion of the lighting project, which was to the benefit and enjoyment of all.</p> <p>The Churchwardens wished to thank the Clergy especially Alan Keeler and Alison Tyler, the Choir and visiting organists, Peter Fall, the sacrament assistants and Sidesmen, Sunday Club leaders, administrators, readers and flower arrangers for their time and efforts, without whom St. Mary's wouldn't run as smoothly as it has to date.</p> <p><u>7d. Deanery Synod</u> Alan Keeler invited questions – there were none.</p>
8.	Appoint Independent Examiner
	Jill Atkinson confirmed that Linda Wanniaratchy had agreed to act as Independent Examiner to the St. Mary's financial accounts for 2020.
10.	AOB
	<p>Alan Keeler invited any other agenda points for discussion – there were none.</p> <p>Alan Keeler formally thanked on behalf of the congregation and presented gifts to Sally Adcock and Clem Sutton who were both stepping down as Churchwardens, Keith Nye and Richard Handforth who were both retiring as part of St. Mary's ministry team.</p>
11.	Date, Time and Place of Next APCM Meeting
	11.30am on Sunday 25 April 2021

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PLAISTOW, BROMLEY
SUMMARY OF 2020 PCC BUSINESS

7 January 2020

Church Finance

Jill Atkinson updated the PCC on the state of St. Mary's finances to end December 2019. In summary, House & Hall has made less profit than anticipated so the H&H Committee is only able to transfer £20,000 to help offset the year end deficit. For 2020's budget and based on the assumption that House & Hall does make the anticipated profit, this will have to be reduced by £10,000 versus 2019 to account for expected drops in income – this is unless additional income can be found/raised.

Called to Grow

Alan Keeler updated the PCC that 30 people had accepted his invitation to date to join a communal meal next Sunday 12 January 2020 to launch the "Called to Grow" initiative. There was some discussion around how this initiative is evolving and levels of participation so far.

Committees – F&GP

Insurance Claim re. Chancel Murals - on making a claim for damage to the chancel murals caused by water ingress, the insurer's loss adjuster has requested a chronological list of events relating to the damage, and subsequent quotes for repairs. This is currently work in progress.

3 March 2020

Church Finance

There was some discussion around how to fund the end of 2019 deficit of £28,007 – and how this might be taken from monies available in the various unrestricted and restricted funds.

New Churchwardens

Alan Keeler noted that both Clem Sutton and Sally Adcock would be stepping down as Church Wardens at the APCM. He thanked them both for their invaluable contributions to date. He invited the PCC to nominate their possible replacements. There were no suggestions/nominations.

Committees – F&GP

Clem Sutton updated that, as it was not possible to make an insurance claim for the chancel murals repairs, he has applied for a grant of up to £10,000 from the Church of England's church restoration fund.

4 June 2020

2019 Accounts

Jill Atkinson gave a brief overview of the 2019 accounts to the PCC. Debi Greer proposed that the PCC accepts the 2019 accounts as presented. Anne Collins seconded. A vote was held, and all were in favour.

St. Mary's and "Lockdown"

Alan Keeler updated the PCC that the Church of England had issued four sets of guidance to date re. how to navigate the current lockdown situation, but it was still unclear as to when St. Mary's would be able to open next. There followed some discussion around the various ways in which St. Mary's has been managing to serve the congregation/community during lockdown.

AOB

Chancel Murals - Clem Sutton proposed that the PCC accepts the Church of England Buildings Council's £4,000 grant towards the cost of the murals' repairs. Jill Atkinson seconded. A vote was held, and all were in favour.

23 July 2020

Church Finance

Jill Atkinson updated the PCC on the current financial position. Jill reported that fortunately the "lockdown" does not appear to have had as detrimental an impact on St. Mary's finances as might have been expected. This can be attributed to the savings made on running costs whilst the buildings have been closed, and a small number of generous one-off donations.

Volunteer Policy

Anthia Page invited comment on the updated Volunteer Policy statement.

St. Mary's After Lockdown

Alan Keeler invited discussion around the PCC's hopes/aspirations for St. Mary's following lockdown. It was agreed to continue providing the services on-line. There was some discussion around how beneficial it could be to live-stream versus simply record services. However, live streaming is not currently possible without additional equipment being purchased. Alan Keeler to investigate costs of this further.

9 September 2020

Future Events

APCM - Alan Keeler suggested that the APCM meeting be rescheduled as a physical meeting after the Sunday morning service on 11 October, with the added option to join via Zoom for those shielding at home. There are some vacancies to be filled: the election of new Churchwardens, 2 x new Deanery Synod representatives etc. This was agreed.

Christmas Services

Alan Keeler suggested there would need to be new Covid-secure formats for the traditional services: Christingle, Nativity, Nine Lessons & Carols, Crib Service and First Communion of Christmas Midnight Service – with limits on the number of physical attendees, no singing by the congregation – and then making services also available on-line. The Sunday Clubs Committee to discuss how to manage a Covid-secure Nativity service.

BATS

Alan Keeler updated the PCC that as there are difficulties in socially distancing young children and the BATS helpers are well into retirement age and therefore so vulnerable, it has been decided that BATS will not open this year. Alan Keeler invited discussion – there was none.

18 November 2020

PCC Financial Liability

Alan Keeler explained the concept of PCC Financial Liability to the PCC - and then asked for PCC members' agreement. As the PCC meet was via Zoom call, it was agreed that there was no requirement for PCC members to sign their individual agreement this time round.

Safeguarding

Alan Keeler summarised the key responsibilities and activities of the Safeguarding Committee. It was agreed that the PCC members to be asked to undertake the C.O Introduction to Safeguarding training early in 2021.

Comfort and Joy

Alison Tyler updated the PCC that "Comfort and Joy" is the theme of the Church of England's and of St. Mary's Christmas celebrations. The Church of England has reported a 400% increase in digital attendance of services over lockdown; is therefore keen for all churches to capitalise on this by doing more going forward on social media. It was agreed to include a call-to-action for volunteers to assist with Christmas planning in the next newsletter.

St Mary's Church, Plaistow, Bromley

Fabric Report 2020

Church:

Porch: Still unresolved the work that is required, David Pullen is in touch with Thomas Ford and Paul Sharrock who built it originally. An e-mail has been sent to Paul Sharrock to ascertain a way forward and David will be discussing this further with Paul when he next visits Church.

Boiler: There have been issues with the heating; the condemnation of the flue was removed following an inspection that showed there was no carbon monoxide being released. We now have a gas safety certificate for the heating system. It was noted, however, that this wasn't a long-term solution, and that the boiler itself would soon need replacing.

Chancel Murals: A faculty was obtained and following a meeting Clem and Alan had on site with Paul Sharrock and Tom Organ (Restorer), they considered the area had dried out sufficiently for the first stage of work to commence. The first stage will be the stabilisation which would cost in the region of £5,500 (plus scaffolding). We have been awarded a grant of £4,000 for this from The Church of England Building Council which will be given on completion of the work. It was hoped this work would commence in April 2021. The second stage is restoring the murals. The cost of the two stages could be in the region of £45,000. Fundraising would be required to complete this work.

Roof slates: A number of slates have been replaced on the main Church roof. This is an ongoing task and we need to look at a more permanent solution. A drone survey had been carried out and a copy sent to Paul Sharrock for his comments.

Flèche: The drone survey also identified some deterioration in the condition of the flèche at the apex of the roof. Paul Sharrock's advice on this is also awaited.

Lectern: Handrails and a larger platform were fitted to the Lectern to assist access to the steps.

Organ: Maintenance has been carried out on the organ during the year.

Lighting: The new lighting project was completed; this project was funded by fundraising and generous donations from the congregation. It has enhanced the overall positive atmosphere within the Church building.

Quinquennial Inspection: This is carried out every five years, the next one being in 2021. The Committee re-focused on Section 17 Recommendations, work requiring urgent attention, in the report from 2016, also looking at some other sections.

Churchyard:

Noticeboards: Investigation work is been carried out on the replacement of the noticeboards.

Churchyard Maintenance: Working parties have been very useful in tidying the Churchyard. We are hoping to start these again in 2021. Some work is need on the flagstones.

31 Fairfield:

The property has been let through the year to tenants who are helpful and who pay their rent on time. There have been some maintenance costs, including a new boiler.

Looking forward to 2021 we have two major projects, Porch and Murals; and we also need to consider the replacement of the boiler and repairs to the flèche.

Margaret Eames

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Bromley Deanery Synod – Outline of meetings in 2020

Tuesday 18th February at St Augustine’s Church, Southborough Lane

The meeting explored several areas of social action.

We began with a theological introduction by Revd. Andrew McClellan, Vicar of St John Bromley. He noted that Social Action is always a Work in Progress and gave some examples of churches working with communities: Community Cafes; Places of welcome; Debt advice (CAP and Bromley Debt Centre); Homeless shelters; Lunches; Food banks; Befriending; Campaigning and raising awareness. He noted the need to set priorities.

He drew upon the Bible and noted some surprises in the ministry of Jesus: such as Love thy neighbour is the second commandment, after The Lord your God is the only God; Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength

Caroline Clark, the Diocesan Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Advisor then spoke about her work to help churches engage with agencies, public, council and congregations to find out the needs of the community.

Caroline mentioned some of the Social Action initiatives taking place in the Diocese: Modern Slavery, Debt, Addictions/obsessions – Recovery Course, Loneliness and social isolation, Messy Church, Talking The Good News

Angela Scott presented her report on the recent General Synod Meeting and mentioned debates about; Living in Love and Faith and the Pastoral Advisory Group; Windrush Commitment and Legacy; Safeguarding: Response to recommendations in IICSA Report May 2019 Investigation report; and Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Target

Revd Roger Bristow, Vicar of Holy Trinity presented his report about the Diocesan Board of Education

Wednesday 20th May, The Annunciation Chislehurst

This meeting was cancelled due to the Covid restrictions

Thursday 26th November 2020 held by Zoom

Having had new members of Synod elected by APCMs in the year, elections were made to the Standing Committee.

Ven. Paul Wright shared with the wider Archdeaconry (Bromley & Bexley) issues. Covid-19 has had an impact on many things, including the furloughing of the three Lay Archdeaconry Growth Enablers not long after taking up their positions. In each Archdeaconry there is a Steering Group comprising each Area Dean and a lay representative. There is an increasing focus on Lay Ministry. The Archdeacon also publicly thanked Rev. Alan Keeler for his service as Area Dean for the last 5½ years.

Living in Love and Faith: This is the most recent publication from the House of Bishops (November 2020) outlining the teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Rev. Alan Keeler introduced this item by highlighting ‘The Pastoral Principles’: to address ignorance, to acknowledge prejudice, to admit hypocrisy, to cast out fear, to speak into silence, and to pay attention to power.

Living Through 2020 and Beyond: There were four reflections on the challenge of Covid-19 across the Deanery. Rev. Andrew McClellan: introduced the use of puppets at St John’s with the 4 o’clock, Messy Church.

Rev. Steve Spencer: from St Augustine’s & St Luke’s outlined the way communication had developed since March. Rev. Liz Davis: shared using community facilities and meeting the community on its own terms.

Rev. Dave & Cath Johnston: spoke of a 12 week Wellbeing Course began early in the New Year and was able to continue after the initial lockdown.

Rev. Alan Keeler summed up by reminding us of the previous three year’s Deanery Synod focus... “What can we do together that we can’t do apart?”

Maria Staines from St Mary’s urged members to look up the ‘Open Spaces’ consultation from Bromley Council.