

St. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, TERRIERS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 25th October 2020

11.15 a.m. on Zoom

Opening Prayers: led by the Revd Joanna Gallant

(A) Meeting to elect churchwardens

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Sylvia Dean, Chris and Juliet Chandler, Chris Bradbury
- 2. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019:** The minutes were proposed by Nick Gallant and seconded by Lakshan Wanigasooriya and unanimously approved.

Mary Amer and Liz Helps were thanked for their superb work as churchwardens and their support, wisdom and friendship to Jo as she settled in. A presentation was made to each.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Mary Amer has been nominated by Chris Chandler and Mary Phipps.

Lucky has been nominated by Sarah Wanigasooriya and Nick Gallant.

Prayers were offered for the outgoing warden and the new wardens, whose election was unanimously approved.

(B) Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Sarah Howe, Sylvia Dean, Chris and Juliet Chandler, Chris Bradbury
- 2. Approval of minutes of meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019:** The minutes were proposed by Peter Gee and seconded by Joy Smith, and unanimously approved.

3. The Reports

a. Revised Electoral Roll since last APCM

The roll was completely revised in 2019. Of the 59 people, 39 are resident in the parish and 19 are not. There has been no change to numbers as, although the Gordons have left, two other people have been enrolled.

b. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This was compiled before it became evident that the April meeting would not be held. Anything which has happened in the intervening months will appear in next year's Annual Report. Mike Noakes commended Jo and the Church for their efforts to keep everything running at this difficult time. Nick commended Jo for her decision to broadcast services online, and Mary added her thanks.

Val Stringer has not presented a report for The Community Garden, but in any case the project has been postponed until Spring, 2021.

The Annual Report was unanimously approved.

c. Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending December 2019

We had a deficit of £13,000 at the end of the year, but income from stewardship has increased since then. We completed the restoration of the organ because of donations. Our insurers inspected the Church last year and recommended major investments in the electricals in both the church building and the hall. 2019 was a challenging year, but we paid our parish share in full.

“Miscellaneous income” in Peter’s report relates to a payout made by the insurance company as we are insured against any losses incurred through theft by people in church offices. Mike Noakes wished to know whether safeguards had been put in place so that this could not happen again. There is, for instance, no need for cash transactions.

In 2020, we have lost income because the hall had to remain closed for several months. We have had to withhold three months of our parish share as the loss of income was significant. We face a further challenge in that much of the considerable amount we hold in assets is designated for particular projects. The amount we have to spend as we need is severely restricted, therefore the PCC may need to discuss whether we can reallocate restricted funds and approach the donors for permission to use the monies as needed. We cannot predict whether our main sources of income (Hall, stewardship and Telecom) will remain stable.

Jo observed that our main reason for existing is the ministry and mission of the Church to the surrounding area. We must be able to pay our bills if we are to fulfil this, and so she advised that anyone considering a donation should consider prayerfully what our objectives are and give accordingly.

Mary commented that we need to think of activities for our teenagers, since they often feel that there is nothing for them when they are too old for Messy Church.

The Annual Report was proposed by Liz and seconded by Mary.

d. Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Peter stated that our insurers required us to take remedial action: rewiring in the Church and Hall are now fully compliant with safety, but proved expensive. We have, however, recovered the VAT on this. Our boiler is working in the Church and is due to be fully serviced this coming week. Unfortunately, it is over thirty years old, the technology is outdated and the spare parts are no longer manufactured. We must have efficient, economical heating if the building is to be used by the community. Nick has obtained a quotation from a potential provider for two boilers as Heritage has recommended we replace the existing one before next winter. Graham Slocombe is the Deanery Lay Chair, and if we can raise some of the money for the boiler, we stand a chance of a grant.

Nick mentioned Neil Lamb, a commercial engineer who has been servicing our church boiler for years.

The PCC has discussed the sale of some of our church assets. If we have ornaments that are gathering dust and have no place in our ministry, we should consider letting them go to raise funds for our ministry.

e. Deanery Synod Report

The meetings are now taking place on Zoom. Jo noted the family feeling present in our Deanery and the willingness of the group to offer help and support at this challenging time.

f. Reports from other groups and organisations in the Parish

Mary thanked Nick for his technological expertise, which has helped Messy Church online.

Jo thanked those on the flower rota for beautifying the Church.

Hazel has received literature on how we can mark the Christingle service this year. Jo is gathering a worship team, and this, together with Christmas celebrations, comes within their remit.

g. Vicar's Report

Jo was drawn to think of the Wedding at Cana, as the story seems to her to speak of where we are, where we have been and what will happen in the future. This reading talks of transformation. The jars have run dry, but when the servants do whatever Jesus tells them, they fill. St Francis' jars, especially financial, were running dry, as was made clear when Jo responded to the advertisement for this appointment. Last summer, Jo invited us all to think prayerfully about our hopes, dreams and visions for Terriers. She felt that the very ordinary water poured into the jars was indeed transformed into a well of refreshment so that the Church would welcome and nurture everyone. By week two of Lockdown, we had an online service which attracted people to record music, intercessions and readings. Messy Church online is now a centre for teaching, ministry and fun. On Jo's estate, there are now many people who watch our services or whose children join in Messy Church. The website has daily meditations from Lyn Gooch and Sally and Irene Hasan has added her talents to the team. Lyn has now been licensed to minister at St Francis. Tessa has taken responsibility for the music at Messy Church. In November, we will have our first adult baptism for some time, and we have encouraged people who have not been attending services to venture back. Mick Relf has continued to work on our vision for the building as a community hub, with proper kitchen facilities and WCs.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that we have very little money. We need to give God thanks for the jars that have been filled, but also to bring to our financial situation to Jesus in prayer and to do what He tells us so that we become the beacon of light, well of refreshment and community of love that Terriers needs.

4. The Election and Appointments

a. Election of Deanery Synod

Sarah Bridgeland was formally thanked for her faithful work on the Deanery Synod for the past four years and for her full reports to the PCC.

Mary's re-election has been proposed by Mary Phipps and seconded by Chris Chandler.

Nick Gallant's election has been proposed by Chris Chandler and seconded by Mary Phipps.

b. Election of Parochial Church Council members

Peter and Val are standing again, and Sally has offered to stand for PCC.

Peter has been proposed by Mary Amer and seconded by Chris Chandler.

Val has been proposed by Nick and seconded by Janet Banks.

Sally has been proposed by Mary Amer and seconded by Chris Bradbury.

c. Appointment of Sides-people

Almost all sides-people are willing to continue to serve.

d. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Jo thanked Colin Helps for his offer, but although he is more than able, we need complete independence from the Church. The Charities Commission is especially vigilant at this time and so we shall continue to employ Chris Wylot.

5. Any Other Business

Friends of St Francis

Nick suggests that we seek out people whom we could invite to become Friends. We need to raise much needed funds, but the whole focus of The Friends is to enrich the community, therefore fund-raising is not paramount. We want people to know that we exist to serve them. Nick has drawn up a draft constitution but is encouraging people from both Church and community to sit on a committee whose primary aim is to realise the constitution. We are therefore looking for people with a love for the church building and a love for the community to become Friends. Jo, Nick, Lucky and Lyn were thanked for the many meetings they have already held to further this.

The Old Vicarage

This has become a Grade II listed building, but we do not know what its future will be as plans to update and rent it have had to be postponed. The Diocese has said that it may be two to three years before a new vicarage can be built on the former grounds of the old vicarage.

Online services

We plan to stream all services from the Church, but not until we can provide the quality of service that we currently enjoy online.

6. Date of next APCM

This must take place by the end of May 2021.

7. Closing Prayers: led by the Revd Joanna Gallant