

**Draft minutes of St Paul's Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 11th October 2020 in church at 10.00am**

1. Welcome and opening prayers

Revd Tim Fox welcomed those present and opened the meeting in prayer. He used the first two verses from Psalm 127 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.'

The Lord is watching over the life of our church.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lyn and Alan Lygo, Sheila and John Christophers, Hilary Smart and Val Robinson.

3. Election of churchwardens

Two nominations were received. Charles George and Wendy Pearce were duly elected and applauded. Tim prayed for them both, having first thanked Wendy for being warden in waiting for the past seven months. She has been a tremendous help. Charlie has worked very hard behind the scenes as well as putting a huge effort into producing the risk assessments. Tim is excited that Wendy is now warden. She and Charlie make a great team, the envy of other churches!

4. Minutes of previous APCM 7th April 2019

The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by Ian Robinson and seconded by Ann Shephard. All who had been present were in favour.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Elections to PCC: 3 places

Three nominations were received: Ann Jordan, Ann Shephard and Hugh Williams. Tim declared with joy that all were duly elected. He prayed for them all and they too were applauded.

7. Elections to Deanery Synod: 3 places

One nomination was received. Tim explained that the position carries great importance in shaping what happens in the deanery before inviting those present to consider joining Andrew and himself as representatives of St Paul's. The purpose is not just to listen but to work together as churches by co-operating and not competing with each other. No volunteers were forthcoming, but the vacancies can be filled at any time. Andrew was duly elected, Tim prayed for them both before Andrew was also applauded.

8. Revision of the Electoral Roll

As Electoral Roll Officer, Maureen Hollins reported that, following the second the second revision this year, there are 125 members on the electoral roll, 51 of whom live outside the parish; 87 women and 38 men.

9. Annual Report

a) Accounts

i) any questions

There were no questions. Tim expressed our thanks to Debbie for all her hard work.

ii) acceptance of accounts

Hugh Williams proposed and Glenys Duce seconded that we should accept the accounts as an accurate record. All were in favour.

iii) appointment of independent examiner

It was proposed by Hazel Little and seconded by Ann Shephard that we appoint Eddy George chartered accountant, as independent examiner of the accounts. Everyone was in agreement.

Taken from the minutes of the PCC meeting on 14th September 2020:

Following the retirement of Richard Nowell who has been our auditor/independent examiner for many years, a willing volunteer, Eddy George, a chartered accountant and audit manager at Smith Cooper has taken his place. He also carries out other independent examinations. All PCC members are very happy that Eddy is going to take over the role.

b) Any other questions or concerns

Tim invited comments from the Annual Report published in March or any other questions or comments which have arisen since then. There were two.

i. Hugh Williams commented on the fact that there had been no Christmas Fair (in 2018). The lack of this huge community event had been a break from a very long tradition. Carol Williams, who had offered to organise it, felt there was insufficient help available to proceed. It may be possible to hold such an event in the future or perhaps find a different way of outreach.

ii. Sue Cooke asked if Richard Nowell had been thanked for his 30 years of loyal service to St Paul's, as our independent examiner. Andrew Little confirmed that he had written to thank Richard for his long service.

10. Final Comments: Revd Tim Fox

Tim commented that normally the business section of the meeting would be completed quickly before moving on to vision and involvement, although not this time. It will, however, be the intention for the next APCM.

Tim thanked everyone for the tremendous welcome he, Helen and the family had received just over a year ago on their arrival at St Paul's. He commented on the wonderful things that were going on and his appreciation of so many committed people. Covid 19 has acted like a sledgehammer to the pattern and rhythm of life at St Paul's, but it has given us the opportunity to see God moving in our midst while we lament the changes it has brought. We can look forward to a time of excitement and vision in 2021.

Betty Rootham paid tribute to Tim for bringing Evening Prayer to us throughout lockdown as well as her appreciation of those who have worked so hard behind the scenes. Tim seconded the latter.

The office bearers will be appointed at the PCC meeting tomorrow evening, 12th October. Following a change in the Church Representation Rules the acceptance of the sidespeople's list will now take place at a PCC meeting instead of the APCM. Changes can then be made if they arise during the year.

11. Closing Prayer

Tim closed the meeting in prayer at 10.28am

Signed as a true and accurate record

Tim Fox

vicar March 2021