

ST PETER'S BELSIZE PARK

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD BY VIDEO ON 18 OCTOBER 2020

Attendance

1. The meetings were chaired by Fr Paul Nicholson, Priest-in-charge, and attended by 12 members of the congregation. The Chairman said for the record that the meetings were taking place by video technology (Zoom) as allowed by Church of England rules and in recognition of Coronavirus restrictions.
2. Apologies were presented on behalf of Hazel Hallam, Ruth Muffett and Pauline Sy.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. The minutes of the meetings held on 14 April 2019 were noted and approved.

Annual Parish Meeting

4. The meeting re-adopted the following resolution:

While recognising the general rule (in the Churchwardens Measure 2001) that a Churchwarden may not be elected to office for a continuous period of more than six years, the Annual Parish Meeting agrees that this maximum shall not apply for the time being in this parish.

5. This resolution having been adopted, Kenneth Robbie and Mary Shakeshaft were proposed and seconded for re-election as Churchwardens and were duly re-elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Electoral Roll

6. Kenneth Robbie as Electoral Roll Officer reported that the Electoral Roll currently contained 63 names. Among the changes to the Electoral Roll since the 2019 APCM, it was sad to recall that Patricia Woodall had died in June of that year.

Annual Report and Accounts

7. The Church Treasurer, Guy Daines, presented the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019. The document had been examined by John Helm, St Peter's Independent Examiner, and approved by the PCC. The report summarised St Peter's governance and activities and accounts, and described the PCC's future priorities. Expenditure in 2019 had been unusually high because of the cost of the external repair works, which had been met from the bequest of the late Peter Roscoe. It was too soon to know the full financial effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, but the reserves were such that PCC had been able to allocate £40,000 for internal improvements in 2021. The Giving Generously campaign in early 2020 had been successful in raising planned giving to a total of about £18,000 per year.
8. The Churchwardens proposed and seconded the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, which the meeting duly adopted. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Guy Daines for all his work as Treasurer.

Vicar's report

9. Fr Paul Nicholson said that the pandemic had brought obvious stresses and losses for parish churches, as for the whole of society, but it also brought the opportunity to think afresh

about the delivery of St Peter's mission. The live-streaming of Sunday services had been well received and had attracted some new people; and it was clear that the current "mixed economy" of live and streamed services would continue for the foreseeable future. There were also benefits in the newly introduced afternoon opening of the church for individual prayer. It was important to be an effective parish church, relevant to people and open to change.

Fabric report

10. Kenneth Robbie reported on the repair and maintenance of the church fabric since the last APCM. The delayed scheme of external repairs based on the most recent Quinquennial Inspection had been carried out by Fullers, builders, under the supervision of Thomas Ford & Partners, architects, from June to November 2019, all to a high standard of workmanship. The church clock had been restored by Smith of Derby in the autumn of 2019, with the four faces now resplendent in gold leaf and Trafalgar blue. A clock appeal had been generously supported by members of the congregation, local residents and the Belsize Society. A major pruning of trees had been undertaken in the same autumn. The internal redecoration of the church had been completed in January 2020.

11. The PCC had given considerable thought to the question of the interior of the church since deciding in 2017 that additional facilities and other physical adjustments were needed. Alun Jones, architect, had produced an outline scheme proposal which the PCC had accepted and submitted to the Diocese, and which was due to be examined by the Diocesan Advisory Committee on 28 October. The PCC hoped that it would be possible to carry out at least a first phase of work in 2021.

Deanery Synod

12. Fr Paul reported that the Deanery Synod had met at St Peter's in October 2019 in its tour of churches. In the near future, the Bishop of Edmonton intended to make formal provision for the amalgamation of the deaneries of North and South Camden and the creation of a unified Camden Deanery Synod.

13. Kenneth Robbie and Alaric Dunsmore-Rouse were proposed and seconded for election as Deanery Synod representatives and were duly elected.

Election of PCC

14. Fr Paul Nicholson reported that, in addition to the Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod representatives, the following had offered themselves for election or re-election to the PCC, all of whom were proposed and seconded and duly elected to serve on the PCC until the next annual meeting: Guy Daines, Helen Garrison, Kate Gilbert, Cecile Goorney, Ellinor Palmstrom and Margaret Tully.

15. The PCC expressed its gratitude to Hazel Hallam, Celestine Keise, Rosemary Mallard, Ruth Muffett and Pauline Sy, who for various reasons were not standing for re-election. The PCC also acknowledged with thanks the service of Margaret Rudolph, who had resigned earlier in the year.

Independent examiner

16. John Helm ACA was proposed for re-appointment and was duly re-appointed.

Close

17. The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Fr Paul Nicholson as Priest-in-charge. The meeting closed with prayers and the grace.

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