

**Egham Parish Church**  
**Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting,**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, 8.00pm**

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held in church on Wednesday, 1st May with Rev Esther Prior as chair. Following refreshments and ministry displays, the meeting opened at 8.00pm.

Rev Esther Prior welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with a question: What might you hope for, for this meeting? She went on to express her hope that everyone would leave with a real sense that God is with us and has been working in and through us, that He has a plan for us as a church, that in Him we have a hope and future, and that we would leave energised in hope, renewed in faith, reunited in our love for one another, and revived in our sense of being a people commissioned by the living God.

Esther prayed that the Holy Spirit would come, that each one of us would know we have been in the presence of the living God, and that we would be intentional about keeping Jesus at the centre, as the reason we are here.

### **Election of Churchwardens**

Rev Esther Prior confirmed that two nominations for election as churchwarden had been received, for Phil Holloway (proposed by Geoff Wickes and seconded by Fiona Davies) and Sam Senanayake (proposed by Fred van Huis and seconded by David Hassan). There being no further candidates, the APCM voted in favour of electing both by a show of hands.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM opened with a time of worship and reflection on God's faithfulness.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Kim Callaghan, Phil Johnson, Paul Kahn, Mike Owtram, Leah Robson, Philippa Stuart and Ruth Whitehead.

#### **2. Minutes of the APCM held on 25 April 2018**

One amendment was requested: in section 5 (Partnership Report and Annual Report & Accounts) the sum owed to Neilcott Construction was £666,667, not £6.6m. There being no other comments on the minutes they were received as an accurate record of proceedings. There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

The following details of numbers currently on the electoral roll compared with the two previous years were presented:

Number on Electoral Roll 2017	367
Number on Electoral Roll 2018	357
Number on Electoral Roll 2019	297

Rev Esther Prior observed that this reflected the numbers of people who had left or moved away from St John's since the electoral roll was last renewed.

#### 4. Election of up to 15 members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Conrad Benefield, Honorary Secretary, noted that up to 15 lay representatives would be elected to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). He went on to explain that under the current Church Representation Rules, lay representatives are ordinarily expected to serve for a term of three years, with a third of the lay representatives elected each year. Conrad added that St John's had in the past elected lay representatives for one-year terms, which is permitted under the Church Representation Rules, but that this must be reviewed at least once every six years, with any change to be agreed by a vote at APCM. Conrad added that Rev Esther Prior had considered the position and wished to propose the following resolution to reinstate three-year terms:

"This APCM resolves that:

- With effect from the election at the 2019 APCM, lay representatives shall ordinarily serve for a term of three years from the APCM at which they were elected.
- Up to fifteen lay representatives shall be elected at the 2019 APCM.
- Those elected shall draw lots. A third shall serve for one year, a third for two years, and a third for three years.
- Thereafter, at subsequent APCMs, five lay representatives shall be elected, with those elected for one year at the 2019 APCM stepping down in 2020.
- If a lay representative steps down before the end of their term, PCC may resolve to either fill the vacancy temporarily or leave it vacant until the next APCM."

The resolution was passed by a show of hands, with two abstentions and no votes against.

Rev Esther Prior added that fifteen nominations had been received (with statements from each candidate circulated to those attending the APCM) and these fifteen individuals were unanimously elected as lay representatives to PCC in a block vote by a show of hands.

(Following the APCM, the elected lay representatives drew lots to determine the length of their initial term on PCC.)

Those elected, and their terms, were as follows:

Debbie Benefield (to 2022)	Chris Gray (to 2021)	Michael Senanayake (to 2020)
Mel Cramer (to 2022)	Sarah Holloway (to 2020)	Stacey Sobers (to 2022)
Steve Cresswell (to 2020)	Grace Hopkins (to 2021)	Andrew Tebboth (to 2020)
Phil Darby (to 2022)	Chris King (to 2022)	Sally Thompson (to 2020)
Emma Evans (to 2021)	Victoria Mcharo (to 2021)	Geoff Wickes (to 2021)

#### 5. Presentation of the Partnership report, Annual Report and Financial Statements

Keith Malcouronne, Hon Treasurer, reported on the Partnership scheme and on the Annual Report and Accounts. The key points were as follows:

**Partnership Scheme:** There had been a slight fall in the number of Partners giving regularly to the General Fund (from 165 'giving units' at the beginning of the year to 163 at the end) comprising a total of 235 people, including 72 couples, and most of these had moved onto the Parish Giving Scheme, which was a much more efficient way of giving. This reflected a gradual decline in the number of Partners in recent years. However, average giving per partner was steadily rising.

**Building for the Future:** At the same time, there had been substantial giving towards the building of the Easter Centre, which had been the main focus of Gift Days in recent years, with over £300,000 pledged or donated in 2018/19, over £460,000 in 2017/18, and nearly £750,000 in 2016/17.

**Balance sheet:** The Easter Centre was now St John's biggest fixed asset, and the house at 25 Mead Close had been sold in 2018 to meet loan repayments to Neilcott Construction. Monies owed had reduced during 2018 and those monies currently owed were largely the Lloyds Bank

loan plus congregational loans.

**General Fund income:** Income from Partners and from events etc was higher in 2018, due in part to having use of the Easter Centre for the full year.

**General Fund expenditure:** 10% of income was tithed to our mission partners, and team costs - including clergy costs (within Parish Share) and salaries and other costs for those directly employed – was the largest area of expenditure. There was a modest increase in maintenance costs.

**General Fund overall:** As a result there was a surplus of £7,205 at the end of 2018. In the early part of the decade St John's had enjoyed larger surpluses and increased reserves, but significant maintenance costs were incurred in 2015 and the General Fund reserves had been recovering since then.

**2019 budget:** The expenditure budget had been increased by 7% and an increase in Partnership giving was budgeted for, with a Gift Day for both the General Fund and Building for the Future planned for September. Easter Centre related income included a £9,000 grant from the Diocese of Guildford towards funding the Easter Centre Development Manager role.

In response to questions, Keith confirmed the following:

- St John's holds CCLA investment units at a current value of £48,000. This is an ethical investment fund and funds can be withdrawn with three days' notice when needed. More details are available at [www.ccla.co.uk](http://www.ccla.co.uk).
- Current liabilities include congregational loans and a Lloyds Bank loan (on which there is approximately 12 years of repayments remaining). These will be progressively reduced and paid off through Gift Days over the coming years.

In closing, Keith expressed his thanks to the team that support finance functions in St John's:

Assistant Treasurers	Peter Gardner & Chris Gray
Partnership & Kitchen	Lesley Pocock
Building for the Future	Lesley Pocock, Chris Peters & Malcolm Bateman
Playbox	Chris Gray
Offerings & envelopes	Bob Bridgman
Traidcraft	Kathie Lyndsell in 2018
Flower & Coffee Funds	Brenda Richardson
Playtime	Peter Gardner

Rev Esther Prior thanked Keith for his hard work and commitment, and his God-centredness.

## 6. Appointment of Auditor

Keith Malcouronne proposed, seconded by Chris Gray, that Menzies LLP be reappointed as St John's Auditor. APCM voted unanimously in favour by a show of hands.

## 7. Deanery Synod report

The Deanery Synod report was noted. Current representatives of St John's on Runnymede Deanery Synod were Conrad Benefield, Sarah Gillies, Paul Kahn and Joyce Johnson.

## 8. Churchwardens' statement

Outgoing churchwardens Heather Cooke and Veronica Cresswell made a joint statement reflecting that Heather had been elected just after the decision was made to proceed to build the Easter Centre, and that Rev Jeff Wattley had announced his plans to leave St John's about a month after its opening in April 2017. They expressed thanks to God that we can turn to him for strength and understanding in challenging times, reflecting on Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Heather and Veronica added that it had been a privilege to be involved as Parish Representatives in the selection process for our new vicar, and that they were delighted that Esther was offered and accepted the position.

Heather and Veronica went on to express thanks to a number of people, acknowledging that it was impossible to mention everybody but that everyone’s contribution was important:

- Chris Peters and Dave Watts who spend many hours maintaining the church and Easter Centre
- Dave Watts for looking after health and safety and PAT testing
- Phil Darby and the Easter Centre fundraising team, who had raised £64,000 to date
- Joan Knowles and Hilary Gain for their assistance with clerical administration and getting everything ready for communion, noting that Hilary had stepped down after many years of service
- The teams who support worship in St John’s – Johnny Sheppard and the AV team, Malcolm Bateman and the worship team, and Di Maguire and the choir
- Luisa Hodgkinson and the handbell ringers, and the tower bellringers
- All who had helped with working parties over the year
- Hilary Gain for looking after the Easter Centre garden
- David Hassan for mowing the lawns, clearing drains and litter picking
- Brenda Richardson and team for the flowers in church
- Mel Cramer for cleaning the church
- The teams of sidespeople and welcomers
- Those behind the scenes who keep our buildings safe and secure
- Luisa and the coffee teams
- The assistant wardens – Joyce Johnson, Amin Deiry, Steve Merifield and Bob Bridgman

Rev Esther Prior thanked Veronica and Heather for their hard work over recent years, for stepping out of their comfort zones, for their support to her, for affirming her calling, and for being grace personified.

## **9. Chair’s report**

Rev Esther Prior began by expressing thanks to the outgoing Easter Centre Management Committee, adding that they were leaving “a great launching pad for future kingdom dreams”. Esther expressed particular thanks to Mike Owtram for his vision and expertise, and desire to see the Easter Centre reach full potential; Malcolm Bateman for his assured management of the finances and cashflows, and Lesley Pocock for her commitment to and love of the Easter Centre and her energy and passion.

Esther went on to share her dreams for St John’s:

- For people to come to faith, and be saved, for the graph to take an upward turn; in numbers she said she was praying for 200 regular attenders at the 9.15 service, 300 at the 11am service and 100 at the Revive service.
- Sacred spaces on the St John’s campus to help the community connect with God
- A thriving midweek ministry
- Strong 14-18s ministry
- For St John’s to be a discipleship hub for students with good mentoring
- For St John’s to be debt free

Esther emphasised that only God could make it happen, and asked: how do we know if our dreams are just personal fancies or if God has deposited them in us? One way, she said, is when we see God affirming our dreams, confirming them in unexpected ways.

Esther told the story of Jonathan, who had started worshipping at St John's, who had seen similar dreams realised by God at his church in the Philippines – including baptisms every week in all of five services, and debts cleared, but with much sacrifice and hard work, showing that nothing is impossible with God.

Esther went on to present the new St John's mission, vision and values, which she described as "the scaffolding to support these kingdom dreams".

- Our **mission**, our purpose, what we are here for, is to **love God, love each other, love our community**
- Our **vision** is a picture of the future: **a loving and growing community, released and empowered to join in God's transforming work in Egham and beyond.**
- Our **values** describe us:
  - **Inviting** – what we do out there: who can I invite? It may take many invitations before a person says 'yes'.
  - **Welcoming** – is like belonging, but is about what we do, not what we expect those we welcome to do.
  - **Courageous** – we are a community that takes risks and tries new things.
  - **Creative** – reflecting the things we are doing like Walk Through Easter, which allow people to engage and learn in different ways.
  - **Transforming** – we are open to the Spirit changing our lives and empowering us to change our community.
  - **Christ-centred** – we keep Christ is at the heart of all we do.
- Our new strapline is: **Experience Hope.**

There followed prayer in small groups over the mission, vision and values and over everything that had been shared in the meeting, and a final short time of worship.

There was no further business and the meeting closed in prayer, with a final blessing by Rev Esther Prior, at 10pm.