

**Egham Parish Church**  
**Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting,**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 8.00pm, via Zoom**

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held via Zoom on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 with Rev Esther Prior as chair. The meeting opened at 8.00pm.

Rev Esther Prior welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Hon Secretary, Conrad Benefield, for his work in preparing for an 'online APCM'. Esther also thanked those ministry leaders who had prepared ministry reports and online ministry displays.

Esther went on to reflect on Romans 8, a passage which, she said, reminds us that we have moved from death to life, that we are God's children, that we are caught up in God's purposes, and that we will suffer but look to a much greater hope of future glory. She focused on verses 31-39: What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us...[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

A time of prayer followed.

### **Election of Churchwardens**

Conrad Benefield, Hon Secretary, confirmed that two nominations for election as churchwarden had been received, for Phil Holloway and Sam Senanayake, who were standing for re-election. There were no further candidates, and 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.

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

No apologies for absence were notified.

#### **2. Minutes of the APCM held on 1 May 2019**

The minutes of the 2019 APCM were approved and 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 2018	357
Number on Electoral Roll 2019	297
Number on Electoral Roll 2020	301

#### **4. Election of up to four representatives to the Runnymede Deanery Synod**

Rev Esther Prior confirmed that four nominations had been received for election of lay representatives to the Runnymede Deanery Synod for a three-year term:

Conrad Benefield  
Philomena Evans  
Joyce Johnson  
Clement Jones

There were no further nominations, and the APCM voted in favour of electing the four candidates by a show of hands.

## **5. Election of up to six members to the Parochial Church Council**

Conrad Benefield advised that, in line with the policy of electing lay representative to the PCC for three year terms, which had been introduced at the 2019 APCM, five PCC members had come to the end of their terms, and another had stepped down a year early. Therefore, he added, up to six PCC members could be elected by APCM, with five serving for three years and one for one year.

Nominations for the following people had been received:

Steve Cresswell  
Shamilka Hewagama  
Sara Holloway  
Steve Jenkins  
Sue Mahoney  
Michael Senanayake

There were no further nominations, and the APCM voted in favour of electing these six persons to PCC by a show of hands.

[Lots were drawn subsequent to the APCM which confirmed that Steve Cresswell would serve for one year and the other five persons for three years.]

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

Chris Gray, Hon Treasurer, reported on the Partnership scheme and on the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts. The key points were as follows:

- Partnership giving had risen by 4% in 2019 compared with 2018.
- Grants and legacies had driven an overall increase in income of about £36,000.
- Net assets had increased largely due to a reduction in the debt relating to the Easter Centre (it was noted that the church building is not counted as an asset as it is owned by the diocese).
- 22 people had left the Partnership Scheme (due to moving away, deceased etc) while the same number had joined.
- Chris expressed thanks to Lesley Pocock for her management of the Partnership scheme and for her efforts in supporting and connecting with existing and new partners.
- A total of 110 people were now giving via the Parish Giving Scheme compared with 93 in 2018, and the PGS was a much more efficient way of giving, with reduced workload for the Partnership Secretary.
- Average giving per giving unit was steadily increasing year on year.

## **7. Appointment of External Auditors**

Chris Gray proposed the appointment of Menzies LLP as external auditors for the 2020 financial year, seconded by Keith Malcouronne. A question was raised as to whether St John's should review the case for appointing Menzies. Keith Malcouronne confirmed that Menzies had served as

St John's external examiners/auditors since 2014 and had reduced their fees for 2020. It was noted that the 2021 APCM would have the opportunity to review and vote on this matter.

Thanks were expressed to those who had supported the management of St John's Finances in 2019, particularly Assistant Treasurers Peter Gardner & Keith Malcouronne, and Partnership Secretary Lesley Pocock.

Rev Esther Prior thanked Chris for his hard work and commitment in his first year as Hon Treasurer, and Keith Malcouronne for his support in handing over the reins to Chris.

## **8. Deanery Synod report**

The Deanery Synod report was noted.

## **9. Churchwardens' statement**

Phil Holloway and Sam Senanayake made a statement reflecting on their past year as churchwardens, acknowledging how effectively their predecessors Veronica Cresswell and Heather Cooke had served, particularly during the vacancy.

Phil and Sam said that it was a privilege and an honour to be re-elected and serve for another year with Esther at the helm. They also acknowledged their 'wonderful' team of assistant wardens – Bob Bridgman, Joyce Johnson, Amin Deiry, Kamani Hewagama and Shamilka Hewagama.

Phil and Sam went on to thank:

- The sidespeople and welcomers
- Mike Whitehead and the handbell ringers
- Joan Knowles (Church Clerk)
- David Hassan (for cutting the grass, clearing gullies and helping in other areas)
- Simon Fraser and the church hospitality team for Growing Together
- The flower team
- Luisa Hodgkinson and coffee servers
- Phil Darby and the fundraising team
- The Besom team
- Mel Cramer for keeping the church clean and COVID secure
- The Fabric and Furnishing Committee – particularly Chris Peters and Dave Watts who were building the new washup area
- Chris Gray and David Priestley for helping Shamilka with improvements to the galleries and installation of COVID screens
- Phil and Pam Darby for looking after and improving the Caddey
- The tech team for sustaining church services online during lockdown

Finally, Sam Senanayake proposed, and Phil Holloway seconded, the election of sidespeople for the coming year, and APCM voted in favour by a show of hands.

Rev Esther Prior thanked Phil and Sam for all their work over the previous year.

## **10. St John's Governance Structures**

Rev Esther Prior began by reflecting on the new St John's mission, values and vision that had been launched at the 2019 APCM. She acknowledged the work of the PCC in developing these, which had proved to be fit for purpose and relevant even at a time of crisis. She suggested that for her our mission inspires, our values shape actions, and our vision provides something to pray into.

Esther went on to say that the mission, values and vision need "a suitable vehicle to travel in",

namely the new governance structure. She added that Madalyn Brooks had come alongside the PCC in this, using her HR and training gifts to help shape the structure. Esther explained that she had done a lot of research and had several conversations with Madalyn prior to a PCC Vision Day where the PCC commissioned a group to look at Governance Structures, led by Sara Holloway. Esther noted that she herself was not involved in this and that a wider team taking ownership meant that what was produced became 'ours' not 'mine'.

Esther went on to explain the key elements of the governance structure:

- A PCC, Standing Committee and staff team provide overall leadership
- At the centre is the St John's church family – all of whom are called to 'love God, love one another, love our community'
- Ministry Area Co-ordinators (MACs) serve on the Standing Committee and each has oversight for one of nine ministry areas
- These nine ministry areas are static, but the outer ring (the ministries within each area) is more flexible as those teams can change, expand or shrink depending on our circumstances
- Each PCC member will lead or belong to a team
- For some teams, the new structure might not change anything but provides clarity as to where they sit and how they connect; for others it is a change, and they are running with it or being aspirational; and Esther noted that people still needed to be identified to take ownership of some areas

Esther concluded by confirming that the governance structure was being officially presented and launched now as the way that St John's will be governed going forward, providing a **suitable vehicle for the mission, values and vision. She expressed her belief that it was clear and fit for purpose, and committed it to** the church family for their prayers.

Finally, Esther noted that changes to Standing Committee meant that Keith Malcouronne would be stepping down from Standing Committee (but continuing on PCC) and expressed thanks to Keith for his many years of service.

There followed prayer in small groups 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 9.50pm.