

## St John's Church Egham Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

25 April 2022, 8pm, via Zoom (including attendees in the church building)

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

*The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held via Zoom on 25 April 2022 with Rev Esther Prior as chair. The meeting opened at 8.00pm.*

#### **1. Opening prayer and welcome**

Rev Esther Prior welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer, reflecting on Ephesians 3 verses 14-21. Esther thanked Shamilka Hewagama and Johnny Sheppard for making the hybrid meeting possible.

#### **2. Election of (two) Churchwardens**

Esther thanked Phil Holloway and Sam Senanayake for their work in their role as Churchwardens. St John's received two nominations, proposing Amin Deiry and Joyce Johnson for election as church wardens. Majority voted in favour, no abstentions.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

*The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held via Zoom on 25 April 2022 with Rev Esther Prior as chair, following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.*

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

Barry Audsley, Sue Gray and Kim Callaghan gave their apologies.

#### **4. Worship**

We sang Be Thou My Vision (CCLI #3106721) and Goodness of God (CCLI #7117726).

#### **5. Minutes of previous APCM and matters arising**

Esther gave an update on Malcolm Bateman's legacy gift, £30,000 has been set aside as a Music and Worship Fund. There are plans for a choral scholarship scheme working with Royal Holloway, scholars to start in the autumn. The option of using some money to meet contemporary worship musical needs is also being considered, to be used for equipment, training and instruments.

Shamilka asked if all were in favour of receiving the minutes of the 2021 APCM as an accurate record. Majority voted in favour, some in the church had not seen the minutes and therefore abstained.

Esther noted that we should provide hard copies of the minutes next year to those who cannot access them online.

#### **6. Vicar's Report**

Esther gave thanks for all that God has been doing in our lives and encouraged us to do this regularly. Esther went on to thank everyone for being a wonderful church family and welcomed those who are new.

Esther encouraged everyone to read the ministry reports (available at <https://stjohnsegham.com/apcm-2022/>).

Esther looked ahead to the new year and an increasing sense that God is calling us to be more intentional about outreach and evangelism, and talked about the launch of the Evangelism Season, culminating in a Mission Week following the Jubilee weekend. Esther commended three words to us to think about and reflected on these from the gospels: visibility, invitation and participation. Esther spoke about the partnerships we have built with the Egham community.

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

Shamilka thanked Veronica Cresswell and announced that we have 300 people on the Electoral Roll this year. This includes eight new additions to the congregation; the reduction from the 2021 figure of 311 was due to some people moving away and others passing away. Shamilka also confirmed she will be following up on those who may have missed the deadline to join the Electoral Roll, who can be added to the Roll with PCC approval.

#### **8. Election of up to five members to the PCC**

Shamilka noted that up to five lay representatives can be elected to PCC at this APCM and announced that five nominations have been received, proposing to elect Sacha Sheppard and Andrew Tebboth, and re-elect Phil Darby, Phil Holloway and Debbie Benefield as Lay Representatives for the PCC. Majority voted in favour, 2 abstentions.

#### **9. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements**

Chris Gray reported on the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts, Partnership Giving and the budget for 2022. The key points were as follows:

- 2021 saw incredible generosity. Overall income exceeded outgoings by almost £365,000. The outstanding Easter Centre debt has reduced to £1.06 million.
- Playbox had a small loss but indications from the start of the year shows that recovery is likely in 2022.
- Partnership Giving and Gift Aid were down versus the amazing 2020 levels but still higher than 2019. Chris noted that the Partnership Giving is an encouragement to the PCC and the vicar and allows us to commit to do things. We haven't seen the reduction in giving that is a trend across churches following the pandemic. Chris commended the Parish Giving Scheme as an easy method of giving.
- The Campus Development Manager role has been funded by external donors. Income from use of facilities is slightly up.
- General Fund expenditure was down from 2020, mainly due to the one-off cost of upgrading the curate's house in 2020. There was a flat Diocesan share and payroll (due to the timing of hiring of staff). Building running costs also similar to last year. Direct spend on Ministry and Mission activities remained low due to restrictions.
- The overall surplus in 2021 of £89,417 was as a result of the £92,610 legacy from Malcolm. Forecast giving and income from use of buildings were both lower than expected, due to coming out of lockdown later than expected.
- The PCC has budgeted for a £10,000 deficit in 2022, taking account of an expanded team and salary increases, inflation pressures and anticipating increased income of £6,000 from use of buildings and an increase in giving of £10,000. The budget is broadly split in

thirds: a third to the Diocese (including paying for the vicar and curate), a third to staff costs and a third to everything else.

- Chris briefly summarised the team involved in the finances, including the Hardship Fund team, the Finance & Stewardship Sub-Committee, and those who provide practical assistance.

The Annual Reports and Accounts are available on the St John's website and via the Church Office. Chris also confirmed that his slides would be available later.

Veronica Priestley noted a desire that from a strong financial position, St John's should look to support our mission partners at least as much as we have been doing already or more. Esther noted that this is a desire shared by the PCC.

Geoff Martin asked what the monthly mortgage bill is for the Easter Centre. Chris confirmed that this is about £11,000 a month, which is interest and capital repayments. We took two loans of £750,000 each when we built the Easter Centre, one fixed rate at around 4% (until 2035) and one variable rate. The variable interest rate loan has been repaid to a lower amount using extra cash, which means that the rise in interest rates does not impact this as much.

Esther thanked God for the reduction in Easter Centre debt.

## **10. Appointment of Auditor**

Chris Gray proposed the appointment of Menzies LLP as external auditors for the 2021 accounts. Majority voted in favour, no recorded abstentions.

*There was a three-minute comfort break.*

## **11. Deanery Synod Report**

Shamilka noted that we received a 2021 report from the Deanery Synod from Keith Malcouronne, the Deanery Synod Lay Chair. Shamilka invited the APCM to direct any questions to Keith and the Deanery Synod Lay Representatives.

The report is published on the website. Hard copies will be provided in church at a later date.

## **12. Churchwardens' Statement including:**

Sam and Phil thanked the following people:

- Esther for her navigation of the church over the pandemic and her focus on God, and Matt for supporting Esther and the family.
- The clergy team and the preaching team and particularly James for undertaking his curacy during uncertain times.
- The assistant wardens.
- Mel Cramer, for church cleaning.
- The flower arrangers.
- The choice and the music tech teams.
- The Buildings and Fabric team and those who help at working parties.
- Chris Peters and Dave Watts for looking after the Easter Centre.

- Those who are stepping down from PCC this year: Mel Cramer, Geoff Wickes, Sue Mahoney, Chris King, and Claire and Steve Jenkins. Esther commended Geoff's 30 years of service on the PCC.

Sam also thanked Phil for partnering with him and the fellow churchwardens. He encouraged people to return to church and get involved with ministries following the pandemic. Phil thanked Sam and also confirmed that he and Sam would be stepping down as assistant wardens.

#### **Election of Sidesmen and Sideswomen**

All those nominated for election as sidespersons were elected, majority in favour and unanimous in the church building.

#### **Report on the Church Fabric and Furnishing**

Phil noted that the Fabric and Furnishings report is available on the website and he can provide a copy to those who have not seen it. He highlighted that some of things noted in the Quinquennial have already been done.

### **13. Prayer in Small Groups**

Esther invited the APCM to break into small groups to pray, silent and spoken prayers were equally welcomed. Michael Callaghan highlighted these words from Lord For The Years:

“Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –  
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
Past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.”

### **14. Closing Worship**

We sang Great is Thy Faithfulness (CCLI #18723).

### **15. Closing prayer and blessing**

Esther prayed a prayer of blessing to close the meeting.