

**SAINT MARK'S CHURCH REIGATE**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020 HELD LIVE IN**  
**CHURCH AND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK VIA ZOOM**

Fr Martin Colton, Chairman of the Parochial Church Council was in the chair.

**PRESENT:**

Twenty-eight parishioners in church with a further sixty-five participating on-line.

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from twelve parishioners.

**MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record of what had taken place.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

**PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL:**

Presented by Mr Terrence Hancock

Following Mrs Alison Stagg's indisposition Mr Hancock was asked to manage the Electoral Roll until a replacement for Mrs Stagg was found. When the Roll was re-written in 2019 there were 141 names on it. Since then a number of additions have been made, and sadly there have been a few removals too. The present roll consists of 157 names. It is usually on the table at the west end of the church for anyone to look at, but because of Covid-19 it has been removed and is presently in my safe-keeping. If anyone has any questions concerning the Roll, please do not hesitate to ask.

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY WARDENS:**

Mrs Jane Artis was re-elected for a further year. After three years of service Mrs Christine Ingram decided to stand down. Mr Timothy Warren was elected to replace her, and there were still two vacancies.

**ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:**

Mrs Patricia Bird, Mrs Sarah Cousins and Mrs Anne Cotterell all stood down following three consecutive years of service. Based upon the number on the Electoral Roll as at 2019 we are entitled to elect four representatives to the Deanery Synod. However no nominees were forthcoming. It was decided that since there would be another Annual meeting probably within the next six months it would be prudent to leave the positions un-filled until that meeting.

**ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mr Brian Rowbotham and Mrs Ruth Simmons retired by rotation and were re-placed by Mrs Patricia Bird and Mrs Melanie Crighton. The remaining vacancy for a term of just one year was unfilled.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:**

Fr Martin introduced the 2019 Annual Report and thanked everyone who had contributed to it and produced it.

**REPORT UPON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS:**

Presented by Mr Benjamin Read:

In 2019 only minor works in the church were carried out following the major works of 2018. These included a repair to the East Window and safety works in removing some blown plaster on the west wall.

The maintenance and safety of the church's electrical systems, and regular PAT testing of all electrical appliances and equipment was carried out or supervised to a professional standard during 2019 by David Simmons. This was the last year in which he has carried out these works and we are very grateful for his many years of voluntary service in this area.

The first stage has been completed of a programme for the upgrading, improvement and increased energy efficiency of the lighting system within the main church. This involved changing the control

system and as time goes on more lamps will be converted to LED. Our thanks go to Nigel Perkins for doing this work for us.

In the Hall, the last part of the Kitchen Project was completed by the installation of the new partition doors between the main hall and the committee room. As well as looking better, these doors have better sound insulation allowing different events to be held in the hall and committee room at the same time.

During the Summer of 2019 the hall floor was sanded and recoated. A measure necessary to ensure we continue to offer a floor that is of the standard our various dance clubs expect and something that helps differentiate our hall from many others locally.

In terms of the goods of the church, nothing was disposed of in 2019, but we did receive the generous gift of a new cope to match the other vestments in the church from an anonymous donor. We are most grateful for this gift and Fr Martin wore it for the first time at the 2019 Carol Service.

Finally my fellow Churchwarden, Louise, and I would like to thank all the many other volunteers, too many to mention, who do so much behind the scenes in maintenance and cleaning and providing flowers that makes the church and its grounds look to be so loved.

### **THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS:**

In the absence of Brian Rowbotham Fr Martin read a report from the Treasurer about the 2019 accounts.

The 2019 Annual Accounts were prepared in January this year, examined by the Independent Examiners in February, and adopted by the Parochial Church Council in March for the scheduled Annual meeting in April. The accounts showed a surplus of £10,000 compared with a deficit in 2018 of £81,000 due to the Tower repairs. The effect of Covid-19 was not fully evident at the time of that report since when the church and hall have been closed and only recently reopened. The constraints on the church and hall could be changed as the pandemic gets worse. The income of members of the congregation is affected by investment returns and employment. There is considerable uncertainty for the remainder of 2020 for which a small surplus is forecast but for 2021, declining income may produce a deficit.

The liquid reserves as per the 2019 account, were £61,000 which is not sufficient to meet possible exceptional expenditure of building maintenance or the continued effect of the pandemic.

### **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

It was proposed by Mr Nigel Perkins and unanimously agreed that Mr Ian Matthews of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, should continue as our Independent Examiner.

### **REPORT ON DEANERY SYNOD:**

Presented by Mrs Patricia Bird

The first meeting of 2019 was held in February, here at St Mark's.

There was a debate, resulting in a motion calling for the Diocese and the wider Church to be more proactive about knife crime. The Deanery motion was passed to the General Synod and it is hoped that it will be discussed at the General Synod meeting in July.

Father Andrew Cunnington has stepped down as Area Dean and the Reverend Anita Colpus, Vicar at St Luke's, has taken over.

At the June meeting, held at St Luke's, we formed group brainstorming sessions on the fifth and final Mark of Mission 'Treasure'. These discussions covered environmental issues in our parishes.

The Ascension Day Service on Reigate Hill again drew a large crowd, with the Tabernacle in Redhill open for the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost. There was a Prayer Walk in the Deanery when over 100 people, of different denominations, gathered in Memorial Park in Redhill.

Holiday Hunger was discussed, and parishes were asked to consider providing a free hot healthy meal to children and families or commit to praying for this project.

The motion on Knife Crime, instigated at St Mark's during the February meeting, was put on the July General Synod agenda and was passed.

St John's Church hosted the October meeting where the Bishop of Croydon was the main speaker. He spoke briefly about Southwark Vision, the Diocese mission and the words Welcoming, Walking, Growing. He said it was important not to invent anything new, but we should learn from each other in dialogue. He spoke of the successes of the Reigate Deanery which include the support for Syrian refugees, engaging with local authorities and the Carers' Conference and its follow-up. He emphasised that we are

part of a Diocese which is part of the Church of England. We should be looking outwards and the way to do this is to focus on the Five Marks of Mission. After splitting into small groups to discuss how the Church can support the community, Bishop Jonathan took questions which included our response to healing divisions over Brexit, Extinction Rebellion and how we can be more environmentally aware.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was questioned why it was not possible for hymn tunes to be played on the organ giving people an opportunity to reflect upon the words. In replying, Fr Martin explained that HM Government regulations which were endorsed by the Church of England were very clear that singing in church was not permitted (except by choirs of no more than six voices, and then they must not sing directly to a congregation and also be spaced out according to the current rules). He (Fr Martin) said that he did not want to encourage the possibility of singing if a hymn tune was being played.

A request was made that the work of the Buffers should be recognised and especially that of Miss Janet Burns and her team.

There was no other business.

---

Chairman

23 May 2021