

**Annual Parish Church 2021 Meeting**  
**12noon, Sunday 23rd May 2021 in person at St Peter's and by zoom**

**Annual vestry meeting**

**1. Welcome, introduction & apologies**

Johnny welcomed everyone to the meeting whether in person at STPH or via zoom. Apologies had been received from Pam Howard, Jane Roberts

**2. Minutes of 2020**

There were no questions as a result of the Minutes. The Minutes being accepted as a true and accurate record was proposed by Pauline Pearson and seconded by Anne Philpott.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were none.

**4. Parish Charities**

Questions were invited but none were forthcoming.

**5. Election of Church Wardens**

John and Sue are appreciated Church Wardens and have offered to continue to stand for another year.

Sue Haward: proposed by Karen Ledger, seconded Angela Chapman.

John Wigginton: proposed by Paul Wiggins and seconded by Kevin Wren.

This was unanimous by those that were present.

Johnny prayed for them.

**6. Close of Annual Vestry Meeting**

The Annual Vestry Meeting closed at 12.09

**APCM**

**1. Minutes of 2020 meeting**

These were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Anne Philpot and seconded by Andy Birmingham. Accepted unanimously by those present.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were none.

**3. PCC Elections**

Johnny wanted to go on record with his thanks to Jane England and Mike Connold for their service as PCC members; Mike for 6 years and Jane for three.

Kevin Swift, Sally Minnet and James French have been nominated.

James French: proposed by Ian Carpenter and seconded by Maria French.

Kevin Swift: proposed by Sue Haward, seconded David Pearson.

Sally Minnet: proposed by David Pearson, seconded Paul Wiggins.

These positions were unopposed and were therefore duly elected.

#### **4. Annual Report on the proceedings and activities of the PCC**

David had circulated his report as PCC Secretary prior to the meeting. There were no questions for him. Johnny wanted to record his thanks for David and all that he does as PCC Secretary especially as his knowledge and expertise is shared with others outside of the church.

**5. Electoral Roll Officer report** on changes in membership from October 2020 our last PCC. David Pearson reported on the changes to the electoral role since it was last revised in October 2020. There are currently 171 on the electoral roll which is up 1 from last year. 5 people had joined the electoral roll, 2 moved away and 2 had sadly died. Just over half of the electoral roll live in the ecclesiastical parish of Hextable and Swanley Village.

#### **6. Finance Report**

Chris Redmond gave a finance report. Reports had been published in draft prior to this meeting as at 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. £49k surplus from 2020; £30k transferred to the building fund. Emma-Jane had been on furlough for some of last year and then left in the summer; a payment holiday had been taken from the diocese and the annual amount to the Diocese reduced to £45k. Adam had joined the staff on a part time basis. There was therefore some surplus for staffing needs.

Chris invited questions about gift aid inviting anyone earning over £12,700 to gift aid their giving to the church.

Questions were invited either in person at the meeting or to Chris off line. Appreciation for all that Chris does as Treasurer was shown.

#### **7. Annual fabric, goods and ornaments of the church report by the Church Wardens**

John Wigginton gave the report on behalf of the Church Wardens. He reported that we have all of the things we should have. CCTV is now installed at STPH with thanks to John Turnbull and wi-fi anticipated at SPSV. One of the new office rooms at STPH is now occupied by an osteopath.

There were no questions.

#### **8. Vicar's report APCM 2021**

Johnny talked about the butterfly, mystery and Bob. One of the privileges of listening, loving and serving as a neighbour is that people will tell their story. On the one year anniversary S wanted to buy some gifts to bless another family because their own grandson had died. This gift included the book 'The little caterpillar'. One of Johnny's posters in his study says: 'The end of the world for a caterpillar is a butterfly' which enables people to talk.

The only word Johnny had on Thursday was 'caterpillar' and later that day Liz Wren wrote an email 'As I was praying this morning about church and our life together, a picture came to me of a caterpillar busy in activity feeding on leaves. This reminded me of church life before covid... as a family busy learning and growing together.

Then I had a picture of the pupa, the caterpillar hidden from sight as God changes it for what it's to become. This reminded me of the unseen work of God miraculously transforming us into a new body during this restricted year or so.

Then I had a picture of a butterfly. God reminded me of His amazing transformative work in us as a church as we come out of lockdown. God impressed the thought of not looking back to what was but only to look forward, to have vision and expectation beyond our human grasp to new ways of living and serving him... that as we transform from a pupating caterpillar God was wanting us to be beautiful butterflies flying by the wind of His spirit.' Johnny believes that God is calling us all to be changed.

Mystery – is this the hardest time to be alive? Whilst it's not persecution there has been hardship. He talked of linking 31 volunteers in the community on behalf of SDC, Excessive Death Management Group, work with SDC and the MP which highlights that we must be the church for the sake of the world – this is the main thing we are called to do and be. Whilst we ache for prodigals and those on the edge – we hold onto Jesus because He is faithful, kind and eternal. What should we do and what should we not do? What should change and what must not change going forward as we re-set church? Johnny had had lots of feedback from Life Group leaders following the question last week 'what is in your hand?'. Johnny thanked the church family for their prayers and care for him in what had been a hard year.

Bob: Johnny considers his life to be immeasurably privileged. He told the story of Bob who is currently in the Elinor Hospice. Johnny commented on being a priest to the place not just a pastor to congregation. Bob looks like the man from 'Up' having spent his life caring for others in the NHS – care is written on his face. In visiting him on Thursday evening Johnny was mistaken as his son by one of the nursing staff. Johnny corrected her and said that he was Bob's vicar. Bob said thank you for helping me renew my childhood faith – will Jesus still want me this late in life? Bob came to STPH at Xmas 2019 and said 'keep the ragged carpet approach; don't make it neat for the view'. There are times when you sense you are on holy ground like this morning's worship. Johnny wanted to encourage us to think about what is God asking us to do at this point in life and who is your Bob? Johnny said that we are all collecting and serving Bobs as we seek to 'Love God, grow family and Increase in hope' for the sake of the world.

Johnny prayed for us as church.

## **9. Appointment of independent examiners**

No change is recommended.

## **10. AOB**

Johnny updated about the Annex. PCC agreed to appoint a contractor last night at 6pm, a Kent based firm. 5 of the 6 contractors who originally bid were Kent companies. Subject to DAC permissions the contract will be signed and the work will start at the end of June/beginning of July working on a 20 week build with soft launch of the Café in January.

One of the trusts applied to received 3,700 applications and we were one of the top ten and they gave money to three. The Chief Exec commented afterwards that our project was 'a little too Christian'.

There are 10 large grant applications in at present – please pray for these with a number of outstanding applications to be completed. The goal is to reduce the amount of money that is needed as a loan.

Johnny gave a story about a local builder who gave him some free wood and they had a conversation and he has subsequently gifted £5k – we see the goodness of God in extraordinary ways in the ordinary business of collecting wood and sharing coffee.

Johnny invited questions and/or comments.

A question was asked about light fittings.

A question was asked about the match funding money - £67,095 received with the deadline of 4pm tomorrow to reach the £70k that will be match funded. 113 patrons at present. Johnny reported a delay in getting NDH website but once it is up and running there will be a clear log of who has given.

Johnny asked David to pray for the church family.

The meeting closed in prayer at 12.47pm.

## **11. Closing Prayer**