

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS  
ALL SAINTS GRAYSWOOD – 25 APRIL 2021

I ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev Fi Gwynn welcomed 23 people to the meeting in person and on zoom and opened with prayer.

(i) Election of Clerk for the Meeting

Tracy Garland was proposed by Jackie, seconded by Anthony and elected.

(ii) Election of Churchwardens

Jackie Holmes was proposed by Daphne Bleach, seconded by Matt Cave and elected.

Anthony Ramsden was proposed by Greg Bleach Bleach, seconded by Matt Cave and elected

(iii) Any Other Business There was none.

II ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(i) Apologies: Rev Chris Bessant, Trish Bell, Angela Wheeler, Darren White.

(ii) Minutes of the 2020 annual meetings. These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

(iii) Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

On Val Digby's (Electoral Role Officer) behalf Fi reported that the new Electoral Roll for 2020 had 105 members of which 61 reside in the parish.

iv) Annual Report of the Council.

Our PCC had six full meetings in 2020 which all began with a reading and prayer and one short meeting where we adopt and sign the accounts. Three meetings were held via zoom due to Covid restrictions.

We include in our agendas, at most meetings, a main item of particular interest or challenge in addition to covering routine matters.

In January our main item was deciding our focus for the year, which we agreed would be 'embedding Christ in the community'. Our aim was to increase links with the school and have a greater connection with the village. Following her installation as Associate Priest in February, Revd. Fi Gwynn spoke about her vision for the future at our March meeting. This included increased numbers in Sunday school and more families being involved, increased numbers in study groups and prayer triplets, a thriving pastoral team with social events through the year. In September a steering group was launched to look creatively at Sunday services and our connection with the village.

In December the licencing took place of Revd. Elaine Collins as Assistant Priest of Haslemere and Grayswood, led by the Venerable Paul Davies, Archdeacon of Surrey.

Safeguarding is a standing item on our agenda. An annual self audit and action plan is completed with Jane, our safeguarding officer, and sent to the Diocese. All PCC members have undertaken Safeguarding training approved by the Diocese.

Anthony and Allen, our deanery representatives keep us informed of any deanery matters we need to consider. Last year, due to Covid, there were no Deanery meetings.

During the year we support Grayswood School, Grayswood Nursery and our regular Missions. These missions are CMS, Skillway and Through Faith Missions and in our last meeting of the year we choose a charity we would like to support for the first quarter of the next year. It was decided to support Crossways counselling, it was agreed this was an appropriate choice given the difficulties faced by some in the past year.

During 2020 Covid brought many challenges, we missed communal worship and regular meetings. Many plans and aims set out early in the year were put on hold. However, a positive outcome has been the sense of the church presence in the village, examples of which include the support for the food bank and the success of the advent windows.

On a personal note I would like to thank Judy Culhane for the time she spent smoothing the transition of secretary especially at a time when she was busy preparing to relocate to Devon.

*Tracy Garland – PCC Secretary*

(v) Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish

Presented by Jackie in Darren's absence.

'The foresight and planning of your PCC means that we finished 2020 in a healthy financial position, having experienced one of the most challenging periods in recent times.

As you will see from the financial statements, our income totalled £72,181 and our expenditure amounted to £61,889. This resulted in net income on unrestricted funds of £10,952 for the year (which includes a gain on our investment of £660)

Our total unrestricted fund totalled £60,358 of which £13,928 has been allocated for specific purposes.

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and there was £6,250 in this fund at the end of the year.

We aim to maintain a minimum of 3 months' expenditure within this fund, but at the year end the balance remained in our current bank account. I am pleased to report that reserves overall have increased by the net surplus in the year of £9,658 to £86,814.

Our monthly expenditure continues to average around £6,000 per month. To break this down further this equates to roughly £1384 per week, £197 per day or £8 per hour.

All of this was only made possible by the incredible generosity of our congregation and as your treasurer and on behalf of the PCC we thank you so very much. I would also like to add my thanks to James and Lewis at Knox Cropper for their assistance and support during 2020 and in the preparation of our final accounts.

Nicola Miller will now be taking over as Treasurer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone and in particular Judy Culhane for their help and support during my time as Treasurer. It has been both an honour and privilege to serve as your Treasurer.'

Darren is at the end of his term as PCC member and standing down from his role as PCC Treasurer. Jackie gave thanks for all Darren's hard work and his contribution to the Standing Committee over more than 10 years.

*Darren White - Treasurer*

(vi) Approval of the Accounts

Anthony proposed the approval of the accounts, seconded by Di Cook and all were in favour. Our thanks were expressed to Darren for producing the accounts.

(vii) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper is willing to continue as our independent examiner. Jackie proposed, Matt Cave seconded and all were in favour. Tracy will write to them and thank them. TG

(viii) Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

There are no issues with the church fabric generally and nothing has been changed during 2020 other than the installation of the handrail outside the choir vestry at the start of the year.

We have continued to monitor the cracks in the arches below the angel in the North Transept and no further movement has been detected during the year.

Although we have not been able to spend as much time as usual in church during 2020, it is good to know that the fabric remains in good order. As usual, a special mention of thanks should be made to the buildings and grounds team, the church cleaning team and all the other volunteers who do such a great job both inside and outside the church to maintain the fabric and keep our church looking so good.

*Jackie Holmes - on behalf of the Churchwardens*

(ix) Deanery Report

There are 12 Deanery Synods in the Diocese. We are in the Godalming Deanery. There are some 14 or so parishes in the Godalming Deanery.

It is customary at this time of year to deliver a report on the Godalming Deanery's activities last year with a summary of meetings. There is little to be gained by such a route because the Synod did not hold any meetings during the year. In 2019 the new Area Dean the Revd Simon Taylor started by producing papers which explained how the Synod was based in the Diocese. In 2020 there were no meetings. In 2021 there was one meeting held by Zoom which in a sense does not form part of this report. However, in January 2021 a major part of the debate was what a parish might expect of the Synod. At the meeting in March 2021 this

parish of Grayswood put forward Sunday School, youth and children's ministry, networking groups and use of social media for those under 18 as worthy subjects. The Synod has not yet met to debate these ideas or others which were put forward.

The Synod will really get going in the summer. There should be more in next year's report.

*Anthony Ramsden - on behalf of our Deanery representatives*

(x) Election of members to the PCC

On our PCC we have ex officio members – Fi and Elaine, our two wardens Jackie and Anthony and our deanery representatives Angela and Anthony, and 9 elected members. These currently are Sasi Cave, Richard Everett, Sarah Hatherall-Good, Tracy Garland, Pippa Hollins McLean, John McLean, Nicola Miller, Darren White and we have one space (Judy Culhane who moved away). They are elected for a term of three years and may stand for election again for further terms of three years. Sasi has come to the end of her 3 year term and we thank her warmly for all her support and input. Sarah has served one 3 year term and would like to stand again, (proposed by Dian Mordin, seconded by Di Cook). We have nominations for Ailsa Guidi (proposed by Richard, seconded by Tracy), Jane White (proposed by Tracy, seconded by Pippa ). All were elected.

(xi) Sidespeople and Chalice Assistants

Previously sidespeople were elected at our APCM but under new Church Representation Rules, they are now to be elected by the PCC. Those who are regular sidespeople or on the list of reserves are:

Trish Bell, Matt Cave, Allen Chubb, Di Cook, Louise Cooper, Valerie Digby, Penny Glaser, Paul Heugh, Jackie Holmes, Mary Holthouse, Elisabeth Holthouse, Brian Walker, Jane White and reserves, Daphne Bleach, Greg Bleach, Pauline Lamb, and Dian Mordin. We are most grateful to them all.

Our Chalice Assistants are appointed by the priest in charge with the agreement of the PCC and are under the Bishop's authority. They are Daphne Bleach, Matt Cave, Allen Chubb, Richard Everett, Chris Hinton, Jackie Holmes, Phil Miller, Dian Mordin, Vera Prangle and Jane White.

(xii) Safeguarding Report

Once again we are very blessed to have a thriving church and community here where it seems as if we are in a very quiet Miss Marple mystery but without the body....

Our safeguarding policy is up to date and is also outside on the noticeboard. Our PCC members are required to undertake training and also where relevant be DBS checked. Training this year has been slightly different and sometimes solitary but the training I have undertaken online meant I could see the other people who were also there so we were almost all together.

The job descriptions that were talked about at the last PCC meeting are still in the process of being looked into but these will be done and held in the office.

Once again, could I ask you that if you have a concern about anyone, it doesn't have to be about a child, please come and talk to me. My email address is also outside if you feel that due to regulations you cannot talk to me. Your anonymity is guaranteed and a little piece of information may be the last piece of a puzzle for someone else.

*Jane White - Parish Safeguarding Officer*

(xiii) Report from Revd Fiona Gwynn

Yesterday would have been the great evangelist John Stott's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had a long and distinguished career and wrote many books that had a profound affect upon people. He wanted to change the world for God but focussed very much on bible reading and prayer. Despite having such a distinguished career he was a very humble man who believed that 'The hope of Christ's church lies not in its leaders but in Christ himself.' So it is with that in mind I am giving you this report, because whilst Elaine and I are here to guide and support you, this is your church and what we do here and how we respond to God's call is the responsibility of us all.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a year that no-one will forget, but despite the challenges there were still plenty of positives.

I was licensed to the parish in February for a start and had 5 weeks before we went into the first lockdown. And that was when my steepest learning curve in technology took place. After all, there were very few people who had heard of Zoom or Teams at that point.

It is always very difficult when doing things like this to single out any one or two people as we are a team and every single person plays a part in making All Saints the very special place that it is. But I would like to make an exception here and say a very public thank you to Andy Gutteridge and Nicola Wiebkin, who sadly haven't been able to stay for the meeting. Having only moved to the village in December 2019 I really don't think we would have been able to have our hybrid services set up so quickly without them. Their expertise and generosity of their time has made a huge difference in enabling us to run online services for those who are happier staying at home for now, or who have moved and haven't yet found a new church. We even managed to welcome new members online who may never have felt confident enough to walk through the doors of the church. Hybrid services are very much part of our future.

I would also like to add my thanks to Darren for the 11 years he has given as Treasurer of All Saints Church. I doubt very much when he agreed to take on the role that he would be doing it for so long! Darren has done a wonderful job of keeping us on track and presenting us with clear and concise reports at meetings as well as contributing valuable thoughts and ideas. The PCC has arranged a token of our appreciation that I will drop round later as Darren was not able to be here today.

The other person that needs to be mentioned is Sarah Bennett, our Church Administrator. Whilst Sarah has had to work from home for much of 2020 it hasn't meant any less work for her. In fact, she has been incredibly busy ensuring that our website is looking fabulous and up to date and setting up Church Suite which will enable us to keep all the rota information and occasional office information (baptisms, weddings, funerals) in one place. It has already been put to good use with the booking system for church services. Having had to pick up much of the physical stuff that Sarah has been unable to do has given me a fresh appreciation of the enormity of her job description. Thank you Sarah.

Without our Spring Fayre and Christmas Fayre our finances have been challenged but Di and her team came up with a cunning cake sale plan and along with many of you setting up or increasing standing orders we were still able to put the wheels in motion to proceed with the lighting project, which is currently being installed. This will give us the options of zoning lighting and having special effects which will come into their own at Christmas and when we have concerts in the church. This is also taking the first steps towards being carbon neutral for 2030 as the LED lights are much more environmentally friendly.

We still had 5 weddings in 2020 – including Anthony and Karen's and whilst the number of people attending was limited each one was beautiful in its scaled back simplicity. We also had one baptism which was attended by only 2 guest (plus the parents and child) and was zoomed by phone to family and friends scattered far and wide.

And then we rounded off the year by welcoming Elaine who again only just got her licensing service in church before restrictions meant we were back to zooming!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the support that you have given me so far. Whilst 2020 was a challenge for us all we continue to be very blessed by living in this village (and its surrounds) and to enjoy such great fellowship here at All Saints. I believe that God has exciting plans for us all and I look forward to sharing this next year with you all and watching as they unfold.

(xiv) Any other business

Fi thanked everyone and closed with the Grace – 11.45 am.

Signed .....

Date .....