

St Nicholas Church, Shepperton
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 15th April 2018 in the Parish Centre

The Rector, the Revd Chris Swift presided. There were approximately 45 members of the congregation in attendance. As the APCM had immediately followed a Community Eucharist there was no opening prayer.

It was agreed that only certain reports would be read out but any questions would be answered by the report writer as necessary.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Carole and Patrick Harrison, Audrey Collier, Roger and Joan Lizars.

2. **The Minutes of the APCM** held on Sunday 2nd April 2017 were accepted as a true record and were duly signed by the Rector – proposed by Sandy Swift and seconded by Peter Davis.

3. **There were no matters arising** which would not be dealt with further into the meeting.

4. **Summary of the activities of the PCC during 2017-2018**

There were no specific questions raised.

However Bill Rawcliffe wished to ask about the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which is coming into force on 25th May 2018 and our preparation for this. He explained it will mean a lot of changes to the forms we use and also the necessity to seek permission about using private email addresses. The Rector confirmed that this is in hand and has been thought about for the last few months. It will be necessary to purge out-of-date information and only keep items for a limited period. It was also noted that any data concerning any accidents or injuries would need to be kept for at least 3 years and for children up until they are 21 years old. Doris Neville Davies wanted to know how the Electoral Roll would fit into all this as she holds the information at home. The Administrator, Linda Lane will seek advice from the Diocese and indeed the Diocese is sending out information regarding this whole new area.

5. **Churchwarden's Fabric Report 2017**

Peter Davis explained that the moving of the rood screen had been an ongoing plan for a few years and the Annual Review booklet showed a computer image of what the front of the church would look like if it is moved. It would move onto the east wall of the south transept and thus remain a focus but in a different manner. Some people may remember that there was once an altar on that wall in what was designed as a war memorial chapel. The screen would become a place framing art, icons and photography concerning conflict, and in this way a focus for our prayers for peace.

Doris asked the Rector to explain what is involved in getting a faculty for any such work? The Rector responded that in the first instance it is best to get an informal view with the Archdeacon and a visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, to show them exactly what you are thinking about. They in turn ask questions and make suggestions. The architect would then draw up a formal scheme which goes to the DAC, who can then give or withhold approval, the final permission being given by the chancellor of the Diocese.

There needs to be a “statement of need” – regarding how this would work to enhance worship, enrich the aesthetics of the church building and affect its community. The DAC on their visit said that moving the screen is a good idea, opening up the church. The Jacobean builders had made a really excellent job of building the crossing - a very strong architectural statement, finely done although the church is small - which is presently obscured by the presence of the screen. We can’t and won’t throw the screen away. The intention is still to use it as a focus for prayers, for the world and its peace, with different, changing presentations of artwork. People could assist with various sorts of media, thus making the screen a living area (not just somewhere to hang pictures). Any and all permanent changes need to be included in the faculty. The faculty system means churches stand outside planning law; so, if the DAC recommended that the work go ahead we would be required to put up a public advertisement, giving notice of the intention and allowing anyone who lives in the parish, any parishioner, to object. If it happened that there were many objections to moving the screen, it would need to be considered carefully. The screen has been part of the life here for over a century and we must respect that.

Bill Rawcliffe commented on the cabling logistics if the screen is moved and has written a helpful report on these aspects which will be extremely useful if the work goes ahead.

The Rector also said that the architect had suggested moving the pulpit to the other (south) side of the dais as it would free up more space on the dais itself. In fact in 1905 that is where the pulpit was.

On a wider note, Bill also suggested might it be worth changing the clock to a radio-controlled one much like the village hall since it wouldn’t need so much maintenance? However the cost could be in the region of £1-3,000.

6. Presentation of the accounts for 2017

Kathy reiterated what was in her Treasurer’s Report – it may look as though we have a large amount of money but that is due to significant legacies. Salaries are paid for out of that money and it won’t take long for the money to be depleted. We really do have to think well in advance. Kathy offered to answer any specific questions on email should people wish to contact her after the meeting.

Peter Davis asked what the situation was with the ‘zero’ amounts in both the Children’s Minister’s fund and the Mozambique Parish Link fund? Was it the intention to keep these funds open or close them? Kathy explained that there are still small amounts paid each month into the Children’s Minister fund, with the rest of the salary coming out of the Mission and Ministry fund. The Mozambique fund will be kept open should there be any further donations. Maggie Hammond asked what would be happening with the Children and Families’ Minister’s role once Pamela leaves in the summer? This will need to be discussed by the PCC.

The Accounts were received by the meeting – proposed by Howard Watson and seconded by John Child. Kathy wished to add her thanks to Norman Dixon for his role in independently examining them. The Rector also added that Norman had raised a significant point with him regarding the Lottery Fund and that we need to keep across our commitments concerning the impact of their donation within the wider community. He also wished to acknowledge how lucky we had been in having Pamela Barrie as our Children and Families’ Minister, this being a very difficult position to fill - mainly because it

doesn't pay very much. We may very well have to cover the role internally in the future. We are living in a sense beyond our means, a very Anglican way of doing things in that for many years the Church of England lived off historic funds, well into the twentieth century. We are presently dependent on moments of large generosity in bequests and one-off gifts. The Rector would strongly recommend the retention of the Administrator's post; it is simply not possible for the clergy to run everything these days. Churches really do need strong admin support, and working with volunteers is a very different matter to having someone contracted to the work.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Norman Dixon confirmed he would be happy to stand again for 2019 if no-one else is willing. The meeting offered grateful thanks but would look to see if anyone else could take on this task.

8. Parish Centre Chairman's Report

Mike Wood confirmed his report that the Centre had had a very different year to last. The arrival of the playgroup, Roseacre, had gone well and seemed to be running quite successfully – it had been a good transition and meant the Centre accounts were now back in the black. The Centre is an expensive place to keep running especially at this high standard. He offered his thanks to Terry who is now standing down from the committee and to all those who help. He would be delighted to welcome anyone new on board.

Colin Barnard commented that Roseacre were in danger of closing down altogether so were delighted to be here and that it was lovely to see them using the church for a nativity and for other projects.

9. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The roll was as submitted with few changes. It was noted that in 2019 the whole roll needs to be renewed and that time should be allowed for this.

10. Children and Families' Minister's Report

Pamela confirmed that she will be stepping down at the end of July and wished to thank everyone – it had been a lovely atmosphere to work in. Margaret Bennet added that we appreciated having Pamela enormously.

11. Safeguarding Officer's Report

Sandy is standing down in the autumn and so we will need someone else to take this role on – it is not optional it is a requirement to have someone in this position. Sandy said she is very much prepared to support whoever takes over for as long as it takes. There is training provided, so please have a think about it and talk to her or the Rector. Hilary asked what the role involves? Sandy said it is about any vulnerable/threatened people having someone to go to in the first instance. Issues are then taken to the Rector (or if they concern the clergy) to the Churchwardens, and they will in turn take things further, with the assistance of the Diocese. Safeguarding is concerned for all the people with whom we in the church have contact, but not for the parish as a whole. The role of the Children's Champion was raised in the same context. It was explained that children should have a designated person in the church community they can come to and that the champion makes sure we are providing things that are appropriate for children. It is also about the champion putting forward children's points of view – a voice. This will become more pressing once Pamela leaves as she has kept us up to the mark with the Children's

Charter. It was suggested that the Children champion's role should be made more prominent.

12. Spelthorne Deanery Synod Report

Taken as read and no questions raised.

13. Church Group/Committee Reports

Taken as read but the Rector wished to particularly comment on the Music Report. Although Quintin had left after a relatively short period of time, he had been very impressed with the church choir in such a modest parish as ours. He said they were very willing to work on new music and that we really had something special here. It is generally difficult to find a replacement Director of Music but we will certainly not give up trying as music is an important part of our worshipping life at St. Nicholas. Doris wished to add how much the choir had valued Quintin and that he had taken them to a new level – but that we just had to remember that now!

14. The Rector's Remarks

Taken as read but the Rector simply wished to remind us that to be a church you have to have a commitment to making church happen, and that this is not just about ourselves - we are part of a much bigger picture.

15. Elections to the PCC

The following had offered to stand for election:

Pam Powell

Proposed by Hilary Dyer and seconded by Carole Walsh

Sharon Fish

Proposed by Sandy Swift and seconded by Colin Barnard

Peter Carpenter also wished to stand but hadn't been on the Electoral Roll before the closing date of the roll's renewal.

The Rector noted there was one other place available on the PCC and that it was very important that the fullness of the church community be represented at PCC since there will be much to discuss in the coming year.

An ex-officio position on the PCC for the Parish Centre Manager to attend as necessary was suggested and will be raised at the first meeting of the newly formed PCC in May.

It was noted that new members of the PCC should be aware of the Rules concerning disqualification from being on the PCC. To be discussed privately as needs be.

Elections to Spelthorne Deanery Synod

The following had offered to stand for election:

Guy Blythman

Proposed by Rosie Wallace and seconded by Sheila Spear

Jo Child

Proposed by Sylvia Carter and seconded by Carole Walsh

16. Election of Sidespersons

The following were elected en bloc:

8.00am Quiet Service

Norma Kent, Norman Dixon, Steve Pratt, Val Starr

9.30am Community Eucharist

Jimmy Harrow, Peter Davis, Mark Steptoe, Jane Davies, Sheila Spear, Rosie Wallace, Barbara Barnard, Kathy Crawford, Carole Walsh, Roy Bishop, Natasha Green

11.15 Alternative Worship

Liane Betchley, Janice Wetherell, Susan Smith, Mark Bunnell

18. Any Other Business

Kathy Hodge wished to offer a big thank you to the counting team – Hilary, Nicky, Fiona and Joan for all their support each week – a tremendous and very necessary help.

Guy Blythman thanked those who have attended Faith & Film but was disappointed that no-one came to see 'Timbuktu'. He said it is not a case of us trying to be overtly politically correct and thinks we have got the balance right. Do come to see a film that is a little bit different.

Sandy Swift spoke briefly about the fundraising for Mozambique. The overall figure of £60,000 is daunting but we would like to raise enough to at least build the four classrooms (some £24,000). We do need your enthusiasm and your money! Please engage with us. The Rector and Sandy will be going to Milange in October, hopefully with at least two other church members.

The Rector wished to thank the out-going PCC Secretary - who had been absolutely platinum in the job - and presented her with a bottle of champagne. He also welcomed Sylvia Carter to the role, which will need to be confirmed by the new PCC.

There being no other business, the APCM closed with The Grace at 12.45pm.

Susan Smith
PCC Secretary

Signed..... Dated.....
Rev'd Chris Swift

