

**St Nicholas Church, Shepperton**  
**Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 at 11.30am in the Church**

The Rector, the Revd Chris Swift, presided. There were approximately 52 parishioners in attendance. As the APCM had immediately followed a Community Eucharist there was no opening prayer. This was the first year that the Annual Review booklet had been available online prior to the meeting and the Rector queried whether people were aware of this new initiative. Not everyone was and the PCC Secretary remarked that despite best endeavours to promote the booklet, not all avenues of publicity had been actioned. Sally Passingham suggested that an email could be sent to advertise such information particularly as the Parish Office has all our email addresses. This could certainly be explored in the future but Bill Rawcliffe said we would need to ensure no personal email addresses were visible on such an email mailing – bcc only. There was a brief discussion as to the timing of the 2018 APCM in order to encourage more families to attend. This will be considered nearer to the meeting next year.

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Hilary Dyer, Margaret Bennet, Carole and Patrick Harrison, Nicky Addy, Jane Davies, Alan and Gaynor Barber, John Howard and Terry Shore.

2. **Election of Churchwardens**

Sylvia Carter had completed her 4 year term as Churchwarden and was warmly thanked by the congregation and presented with champagne. The Rector said she had been an excellent warden and that we have always been very fortunate with our churchwardens over the years. Janice Wetherell was proposed as the new Churchwarden which was accepted by the meeting – proposed by Carole Walsh and seconded by Peter Davis. The Rector said Janice had come to mind because she represents 3 congregations – 8.00am, 11.15am and Messy Church which is a growing area of church life. As she is not usually at the 9.30am service, Nicky Searle and Carole Walsh will offer informal back-up to her role.

Sylvia Carter asked whether Janice will still be able to hold the Children's' Champion role and it was agreed that this could lead to a conflict of interests and as such we shall need to find someone else to take on this position.

3. **The Minutes of the APCM** held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were considered. With the small amendment of Terry Shore's name (item 16), the meeting accepted the minutes as a true record and they were duly signed by the Rector – proposed by Sylvia Carter and seconded by Howard Watson.

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

## **5. Summary of the activities of the PCC during 2016-2017**

There were no questions raised.

## **6. Churchwarden's Fabric Report 2016**

The report was read out by Sylvia Carter. Bill Rawcliffe mentioned that if and when the screen is moved, the choir's microphone will have to come down and be replaced with two microphones on each side which will require a bit of interesting work to site them.

The Rector wished to thank Howard Watson, without whom we probably wouldn't have a South Transept, and posthumously Geoffrey Jones. Colin Barnard has also been very instrumental with the restoration work and all that he quietly contributes. It was announced that we have finally settled the second sizeable donation from Juliet Yell's estate – some £45,000 which we will consider using for undertaking further internal restoration work - with the dais as a priority. Sandy Swift asked if this would include re-decoration? We certainly do need to redecorate but we shall have to see how the budget comes out. All such work will be subject to PCC approval and the faculty process. Having had the boiler inspected, it would seem it is good for another 10 years, so this is presently no longer a refurbishment requirement.

Ken Neville-Davies wanted to say how much better the gardens now look after our agreement to pay a retainer (£60 per month) to Richard Edgar for this maintenance. We intend that the money we were previously left for upkeep of the churchyard can now be used for some creative restoration work in the garden in the future, again overseen by the PCC - and church families with a particular concern for the condition of the south memorial garden. There were no other questions raised.

## **7. Presentation of the Accounts for 2016**

The Common Fund video which had previously been shown at a regular PCC meeting, was played to the meeting as an introduction to how the Common Fund is made up and where the money goes. Kathy Hodge then reiterated what was in her report - that the figures speak for themselves. We do have a serious financial situation despite an incredibly generous donation from Juliet Yell. What is left over won't last for long. Kathy also wanted to clarify Gift Aid – if you pay tax, you can optimise your giving through Gift Aid so that St Nicholas can claim an extra 25p for every £1 that you give. This is at no extra cost to you. It is therefore really important that you sign a Gift Aid form. Kathy also wished to thank Alan, Fiona and Nicky for their support, and to Hilary Dyer as Stewardship recorder and also to Jeremy Lee for dealing with the Gift Aid claims. She would be happy to have any financial questions emailed to her if necessary. Norman Dixon said we are lucky to have Kathy as treasurer and the Rector endorsed this as the accounts are so transparent.

## **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

We were grateful to Norman Dixon who acted as our examiner this year but there was no presumption that he would do so for 2018. We will look at this appointment nearer to the APCM next year.

**9. The Parish Centre – Chairman’s Report and overview of accounts for 2016**

Mike Wood reported that although the Parish Centre is running at a loss; it is not huge but maintenance is ongoing and we cannot dip into the reserves all the time. We are not bringing in enough money as a church to have the Centre standing empty for so much of the week. A pre-school group, which had originally said the Centre was unsuitable for their needs, have now changed their mind and so we need to explore this possibility further and urgently. Colin Barnard said that currently they are looking at mornings only but there had been some discussion about moving into the afternoons as well. Pamela Barrie said the government want to offer 30 hours a week of pre-school time so we should assume this will happen in the very near future. This would obviously increase income to the church and centre noticeably. We are fortunate in having Pamela who knows some of the issues in accommodating a children’s group. Any commercial use would have to be agreed by the PCC, with advice from the Diocese.

**10. Electoral Roll Officer’s Report**

There were no amendments to the figures quoted in the report. Doris Neville-Davies reminded the meeting that the next full renewal of the roll will be in 2019.

**11. Children and Families’ Minister’s Report**

The report was taken as read but Pamela Barrie wished to say that the one thing she would like to stress is that we have fantastic worship events at the school and they would love to see people from the congregation there. The children really do some wonderful things. She explained what is meant by ‘Bread Sharing’ in that it was an event for Reception and Key Stage 1 children whereby they sit in small groups in circles with a candle in the middle. Generally they have made the bread themselves the day before. The children come and collect the basket of bread that has been blessed and share it amongst themselves and with the adults that are there. It is a very peaceful and spiritual event for all who are present, and introduces the children very simply to aspects of Eucharistic worship. Caroline Button mentioned how wonderful it was seeing the Eucharist held at the last Messy Church – a Messy Mass. It showed children how we worship.

**12. Safeguarding Officer’s Report**

There was nothing to add to the report. However the Rector reminded us that more and more we are being asked to be mindful about safeguarding. If you are aware of people who are vulnerable and have concerns, we must know – it is not just about children but anyone who is vulnerable and open to abuse or manipulation. Please don’t keep it to yourself.

**13. Spelthorne Deanery Synod Report**

We had received the area report and there was nothing raised.

**14. Other Church Group/Committee Reports**

Maggie Hammond wished to offer thanks to Johnny Kilhams for all his amazing work over the last 6 years. He will be staying until the end of May 2017. The Rector reported that we have had a visit from a prospective Director of Music and Howard Watson said the candidate would be writing formally to us very shortly to confirm where things stand.

The Rector thanked the choir for their ministry in helping Johnny's development in his role.

**15. The Rector's Remarks for 2017**

The Rector said he was sorry we hadn't got as far with planning Lent and Easter 2017 as he had hoped to do last year. The Bishop of London's Lent Appeal "Sowing Sees for Tomorrow" video was played to the meeting. It showed just how poor and desperately needy things are in Mozambique and Angola – the condition of the national seminary was particularly broken. Bishop Manuel, who features in the video, had visited the school earlier this year and the children were in awe to see him actually dancing during the closing hymn – something they were still talking about a month later. He radiated both joy and also expressed clearly how hard it was - day after, month after month, year after year - to keep on keeping on in the way of Christ, as we are called to do.

**16. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

The following had offered to stand for election:-

Angela Enock-Shore

*Proposed by Terry Shore and seconded by Julia Jelley*

Mike Ralph

*Proposed by Susan Smith and seconded by Caroline Button*

Elizabeth Harrow

*Proposed by Janice Wetherell and seconded by Caroline Button*

**Elections to Spelthorne Deanery Synod**

The following had offered to stand for election:-

Guy Blythman

*Proposed by Jean Lane and seconded by Roy Bishop*

Jo Child

*Proposed by Howard Watson and seconded by Eric Pizzey*

**17. 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, Bill and Jean Rawcliffe, Jane Davies, Sheila Spear, Rosie Wallace, Barbara Barnard, Kathy Crawford, Carole Walsh, Roy Bishop

11.15 Alternative Worship

Liane Betchley, Janice Wetherell, Susan Smith, Mark Bunnell

**18. Any Other Business (previously notified)**

Caroline Button spoke about Christian Aid. She offered thanks to all those who had done many years of door-to-door collections but it was now very apparent that there is no real desire for this to continue. This year on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May there will be a Christian Aid event in the Village Hall – a Big Breakfast, coffee and cakes and street collections in the High Street. Manpower is now needed to make this all happen! There will still be envelopes but these will be delivered via Shepperton News. Caroline stressed that this is our chance once a year to show our mission across the world very visibly in Shepperton. The new event means we shall share the burden rather than it falling to just a few people.

‘Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you...’ Sandy Swift spoke about our commitment to Mozambique. It is 18 years since we became part of ALMA and 15 since we first visited our link community in Milange. We made a commitment to Milange and we have done very well by building the church, a small school in the bush, as well as the secondary school in Milange; but now there is a need to raise £60,000 to develop primary education in a new church school. In Milange at present 45% of children have no school place. This sort of sum cannot just be raised by the people of St. Nicholas, Shepperton, but we have to be the catalysts for doing this, going as widely as possible to find people and organisations that will help. The way forward in Mozambique is through education and Sandy hoped that this would matter to us as much as it matters to her.

The Rector asked the meeting to keep Peter Davis and Janice Wetherell in their prayers for their roles as Churchwardens and thanked Sylvia Carter again for her time.

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

Susan Smith JP  
PCC Secretary

Signed..... Dated.....  
Revd Chris Swift