



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Minutes of a Meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020 at 11.25am
At St Nicholas Church, Bedhampton

IN ATTEDANCE:

Revd. Max Cross and 38 parishoners [4 through Zoom]

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Geoff and Anne Nelthorpe; Peter and Rosalind Hall; Roy Payne; Sally Tritton;
Fleur Bragaglia; Kim Day; Peter Hirsch; Barbara Vosper; Pam Facer

2. Minutes of Meeting Held on 28 April 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2019 as circulated were
unanimously APPROVED

**3. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2019**

Copies of the Finance Report, Independent Examiner's Report and accompanying
financial statements were circulated to the meeting.

General Account

In providing an overview of the accounts Mike highlighted that 2019 had proved
a good year financially with a marked improvement over the 2018 accounts and a
surplus of £3,500 as opposed to the previous deficit of £5,403. Income to this
account stood at £114,524. The main reason for this upturn was the increase in
Donations and Grants of £6,599, St Nicholas Lettings, £1,554, Church Fees
£1,280 and a net contribution from fund raising of £1,863. Total income at
£114,524 showed a 12% increase on the previous year.

Total expenditure amounted to £107,624 which was an increase of 2.3% over
2018; this included a payment of £57,085 for the Parish Share for clergy stipends,
housing etc which represents 62% of total expenditure.

Designated Fund for Major Expenditure

This stands at £63,053 [an upward amendment on the figure shown in the Finance
Report of £61,548]. Two legacies were received from the Estates of Jean
Farrington of £8,500 and Anthony Whittle of £18,795, totalling £27,295.

Expenditure from this account totalled £1,994 being £53 : Parish Office refurb;
£354 :Cleaning equipment; £670 : repairs to St Thomas' roof and £432 an
asbestos check at St Thomas.

Restricted Funds

These stood at £22,216. The main movements were £3,060 from the World Mission Fund and donations of £2,610 for the proposed St Nicholas Toilets upgrade.

Investments

Funds not required for immediate use are deposited as follows:
Church of England Deposit Fund £40,383 available at short notice
The Hampshire Trust Bank, £47,100 available on a 90-day notice basis.
Currently, the interest rate on both holdings has shown a decrease : Church of England now pays 0.4% and Hampshire Bank 0.9%.

After providing a detailed analysis of the accounts, Mike went on to highlight the current difficulties being faced as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. This led to him producing a revised budget earlier in 2020 due to the loss of income and uncertainty for the remainder of the year. He currently estimates that there will be an overall loss of £16,750 due to lack of funds from donations and grants, collections, charitable activities and St Nicholas hirings; additionally church fees are down due to the number of weddings which could not be held.

There has, however, been a saving on expenditure during this period : furloughed staff salaries, cleaning and energy.
The net loss, notwithstanding unforeseen issues, will be approximately £5,550. Additionally, there has also been a donation from a member of the congregation of £1,000 but this has not yet been included in the figures for the current year.

Mike went on to share the news that it is hoped a volunteer from the congregation will assist with the day to day finance work but stressed that the main benefit to the finance team would be for those members of the parish who currently pay into the church account to switch to the Parish Giving Scheme. This not only saves work for the Treasurer but also allows for monies to be made available at a quicker rate as gift aid is paid back to the parish each month as opposed to three monthly. He again reiterated that it is a simple scheme to join but would be happy to assist with any enquiries.

To close, Mike offered his sincere thanks to the Cash Team, Christine and Tony Mayes for their support and hard work over the past year, without which it would be very difficult to function so efficiently.

4 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mike acknowledged the work which Peter Nicholls did completely free of charge and how much this saved the Parish. On behalf of the meeting he expressed his thanks to Mr Nicholls for his kindness and continued support.
It was proposed that Peter Nicholls be reappointed to the post of Independent Examiner

Proposed: Linda Worley

Seconded: Marie Payne

Unanimously APPROVED

5. **ELECTIONS**

• ***Parochial Church Council [PCC]***

Max expressed his thanks to those members of the PCC who were stepping down. There were four nominations for the five vacancies to be filled as follows;

Tracey Smith

Proposed: Elaine Pearce

Seconded: Nicky Quick

Catherine Langhorn

Proposed: Geoff Nelthorpe

Seconded; Anne Nelthorpe

Nichola Quick

Proposed: Sally Tritton

Seconded: Ann Partridge

Linda Brown

Proposed: Nicky Quick

Seconded: Christine Hirsch

All unanimously APPROVED

• ***Deanery Synod***

Colin Hawkes

Proposed: Nicky Quick

Seconded: Elaine Pearce

Sandra Matthews

Proposed: Nicky Quick

Seconded: Elaine Pearce

Unanimously APPROVED

• ***Stewards***

Linda Brown

Kim Day

Pam Hasted

Alyson Johnstone

Bridget Main

Denise Milligan

Roy Payne

Sue Tate

Alan Thompson

Paddy Williams

Mike Case

Karen Fairley

Christine Hirsch

Sheila Jones

Sandra Matthews

Ann Partridge

Elaine Pearce

Tracey Smith

Sue Thompson

Suzy Cross

Margaret Harckham

Peter Hirsch

Marion Machell

Christine Mayes

Margaret Payne

Nicky Quic

Vick Spencer

Vanessa Wallis

NOTED

6. **PARISH REPORTS**

The Parish Reports as circulated were received and NOTED. The number standing on the Electoral Roll at year end was 118.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

[i] St Nicholas Refurbishment

Roger Matthews provided an overview on the proposal to refurbish the toilet facilities at St Nicholas. It had become increasingly evident that the existing facilities are not fit for purpose and do not fulfil the commitment to our VIP: 'to serve the community of Bedhampton'. There are currently no disabled facilities; no male baby change room and the WC's are not acceptable. Additionally, the facilities for the cleaner are inadequate to enable them to do their job properly.

During the past few months an additional major issue which has given rise to concern is the flat roof of the Gwatkin, which is now leaking in several places including the area above the proposed refurbished toilet block. After investigation it was acknowledged that a local repair to each area might not be adequate and could be a waste of money. In requesting tenders for the toilet refurbishment, therefore, each company was also asked to show costings for the work required to be done on the roof as a separate item.

Following a recent PCC meeting, it was agreed that the architect should negotiate with the company who had submitted the lowest tender to request a simplified design and to seek further advice on savings; give a price for repairing the roof but also include a price for a full replacement and bring the modified design and renegotiated cost to the November meeting of the PCC.

Roger highlighted the fact that there is not currently enough money in the Parish reserves to pay for the whole project but conversely, if the work is not undertaken, we will not be fulfilling our legal requirements and could face ramifications. It is evident, therefore, that fund raising from our parish community and external sources is required and as soon as there is clarity on the overall costings and how this will be project managed, publicity material will be printed and fundraising commenced.

In closing, Roger highlighted to the meeting the fantastic work which Alec Matthews had undertaken to repair and improve the central heating system at St Nicholas which now made it much more comfortable. He noted that Alec is one of those people who are always working behind the scenes to improve the quality of our two church buildings and offered his sincere thanks on behalf of everyone for all that Alec had done.

8. RECTOR'S CLOSING COMMENTS

- Foundational

Max reflected on the past year and the difficult circumstances around the pandemic and lockdown of 2020 and he thanked everyone for all that had been done during this period to share God's love and friendship throughout the Parish. 2018 had been the foundation year to launch our VIP and the past eighteen months have evidenced the Christ-like response of people to each other.

- 2019 Clarification of Vision and Purpose

2019 was the year where, with God's guidance and grace we built upon our Vision and Purpose to 'serve the community of Bedhampton by sharing God's love and friendship' and he stressed how strange it is to reflect that this was really begun only just over a year ago. Notwithstanding the usual celebrations in the Christian calendar, the summer saw the congregation looking into Disney films and pulling out the parallels in God's Kingdom. During this time several people progressed further their own journeys with Jesus and we began to look in greater detail at the Gospel of Matthew. 2019 clarified our Vision and Purpose helping us to establish the Jesus community at the heart of Bedhampton and the work to be done through the Holy Spirit to enable the continuation and growth of that community; tackling whatever was needed to enable God's church to grow.

- 2020 A Year of Challenge

Currently, there is much uncertainty in the way ahead and planning is very difficult so it is necessary for us to be flexible in our approach. Max shared with the meeting the financial difficulties currently being experienced by the deanery and the diocese with a £2million deficit. With this in mind, although it is not yet clear how our own finances will fare, the decision was taken to ensure that the full parish share should be paid to the diocese to enable their work to continue albeit with a serious reduction in running costs both centrally and within the deaneries and parishes.

Our deanery has taken a very proactive stance in investigating how a church which is fit for purpose in 2021 and beyond can be established and Max has been asked to sit on the group who is taking this forward. He asked the meeting for their prayers and any ideas how this work could be taken forward to ensure the continuation of the work which will enable God's church to grow.

- 2020/2021 – The Light is Not Overcome

While it is right that our hopes in Jesus are expressed in a positive way, we must not forget that Jesus lived and shared in our brokenness and we must, therefore, engage with those in our community who are experiencing pain and brokenness. Max reflected on the four areas which it seemed are on God's agenda for the coming year particularly focussing on our Identity.

- Prayer

We now need to look at how we underpin all that we do by prayer and it is Max's firm hope that God will raise up a leader to partner him in the leadership team to help lead us in prayer. He extended an invitation to join him on Wednesday morning in our weekly prayer meeting and for people to consider joining small home groups to enable us to grow in discipleship and faith whilst giving and receiving support, love and practical help.

- Children

He also stressed the need to value children and families in Bedhampton; the need to invest in schools and families on the estates in the Parish and he hoped that God would raise up a leader to take forward that work in Bedhampton and help us over-invest in time and money to bring fruition to this part of our mission.

- Invitational

Max stressed that even in the current pandemic we must do all in our power to be an invitational Church to help people to know they are all loved by Jesus and He will be there to help them throughout their lives. Over the coming year he stressed we will be a church whose identity is wrapped up in the fact that we are people who pray, who journey in small communities, who value children and families and are invitational. God will be with us always despite what can seem dark days ahead and, in closing , he thanked people for attending the meeting and invited them to pray with him to bring about these hopes for the future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayers at 12.25pm

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