

ALL SAINTS WESTON

Minutes of Annual Meeting, 7.00 pm, Monday 10th May 2021

Present using ZOOM application: Mark Searle (Rector). Chair for this meeting: James Couchman (Vice Chair). **Churchwarden:** Paddy Gleave, Peter Ward. **Reader:** Tom Peryer. **Deanery Synod Reps:** Hylton Asplin, Clive Kennett, Pippa Page. **Elected Lay Members:** Mike Everson, Sarah Gleave, Robert Groezinger, Kevin Hurley, Joanna Lewis, Robin Lewis. **Non-elected members:** Judy Everson (PCC Secretary for PCC meetings), Rob Gray (Treasurer).
Approximately 60 people total attended.

Papers were available from: https://allsaintsweston.org.uk/Articles/606788/APCM_10_May.aspx
A. Minutes from APCM of Sun 18th Oct. 2020. B. Trustees' Report. C. Audited Accounts (Summary and/or Full Accounts).

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

James Couchman welcomed all. He prayed, quoting a verse from 1 Corinthians chapter 13: "Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres."

Election of Church Wardens. Paddy Gleave and Peter Ward (already existing Church Wardens) were elected, by 50 votes. James asked people to pray for Paddy and Peter in the year ahead.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Robin Lewis (to arrive in time for PCC meeting later in the evening), Jenny Lewis, Sarah Couchman, the family of Gary Oaten, Pippa Page (to leave early), Fran Saunders, Mandy and Paul Falkus.

2. Agreement of the Minutes of the APCM of Sunday 18th October 2020. 46 people were happy to accept the Minutes.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report – James Couchman.

James gave a summary of the Electoral Roll: In October 2020, 244 people were on the Electoral Roll. The current Electoral Roll total is 231.

Since October 2020, 16 people were removed from the Electoral Roll; some had sadly passed away, some moved away from ASW. 3 people joined. The Electoral Roll is renewed every 5 years. We are currently in the second year.

5. Receipt of the written reports:

- **Trustees Report including fabric.**

Mark Searle is grateful for those who contributed to it. This Report is shorter than previous Trustees Reports, yet it is very thorough. It is the Draft Report that is agreed by the PCC.

Kathleen Paley pointed out that her name appears on the first page of the Report as PCC Secretary. Judith Everson's name is not on the Report. Both names should appear, as Judith took over as PCC Secretary (for PCC meetings) in November 2020. Rob Gray has the final version of the Report. He will ask Burton Sweet to change it.

49 people voted to say they were happy to receive the Trustees Report for 2020.

6. Appointment of Tellers, if needed.

Mark declared that Tellers are not required to count votes.

7. Election of Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council.

The following members are stepping down from the PCC: Chris Chatfield, James Couchman and Jo Lewis (Chris and James are stepping down before their term of office which is normally 3 years).

The following nominations were made: Derek Hall, Vera Podger, Nathan Ward, Pam Wendzina.

The following people are willing to stand again: Mike Everson, Kevin Hurley.

50 people elected all 6.

Prayers were said, led by James Couchman, for those stepping up to the PCC, to give them wisdom, patience and perseverance.

8. Appointment of Auditors – Rob Gray.

Rob reported that over the last 18 months the Finance Team had done a lot of work on the accounts, and had hoped that Stewardship (Accountants) would provide a reduction in their fee. Only a minor reduction was offered by Stewardship. As a result, the Finance Committee took it to the PCC that they should be looking for an alternative. Early in 2021 the PCC appointed Burton Sweet (Accountancy Firm south of Bristol, working with churches and using Quick Books). It was agreed that this has been a very good transition; overall the bill has dropped by approximately 25% from making the transition.

Rob Gray proposed that **'the APCM formally appoints Burton Sweet as ASW's accountants'**.

Seconded by Tom Peryer. **51 people agreed.**

9. Financial Report – Rob Gray.

Rob outlined the Financial Report, supported by excellent, clear slides.

2020 has been a challenging year. £15,000 was received from the Government in furlough and £22,000 in business grants; this made a significant difference. The total income for 2020 was just over £608,000. In terms of the income, just over £516,000 came from donations, just under £68,000 from charitable activities (Church Centre and The Hub), under £18,000 from investments and £6,000 from other income.

Compared to 2019, where total **income** was just under £610,000, the difference is only £1,700 less. This is remarkable. 2020 donations were up by £47,000 on 2019, largely thanks to a £100,000 Rock donation at the end of 2020. 2020 charitable activities income was down by 45% on 2019 due to the Church Centre and The Hub being closed for much of the time. The 2021 projected income is based on our current budgets; there is uncertainty over what will happen in the remainder of 2021, because of Covid. Currently it does not include any Restricted Income.

Restricted Giving for 2020 saw a large increase up to 2018 levels, mainly due to the £100,000 gift. The projection for 2021 is approximately 4 times what has occurred so far in the first quarter of this year.

Unrestricted Giving for 2020 was remarkable, despite all the Covid difficulties, with a drop of only approximately 10%, down to about £304,000. This was a similar level to 2018. Note that in 2019 we had received a legacy of £52,000. Over those 3 years, the figure stayed quite level. A figure of £271,000 is predicted for 2021 (about 10% lower).

Expenditure. 2020 was an unusual year, with a significant amount invested in new audio-visual equipment, enabling our excellent online services to be made. Overall expenditure was down by

approximately 10%. This decrease was due largely to the Centre and Hub being closed during Lockdowns. The remainder was due to less money being spent on Capital projects.

A change has been made to the **internal savings policy**. At the end of each year, any loss / profit will be managed by being taken away from / added to the Rainy Day fund.

In 2020 almost half expenditure was on Staff Wages, Parish Share has remained at £100,000, Direct Activity expenditure has gone down, Mission Giving £30,600. There was an overall surplus at the end of 2020. A profit of £5,500 was made for the year. 2021 projection sets out a total deficit overall.

The Bank Balance has continued to grow. Now, it is just below £600,000. The PCC has agreed a budget for 2021, which is on the cautious side.

James thanked Rob for the very clear slides. Tom Peryer thanked the Finance Team (Rob Gray, Mike Everson, Lisa Vernalls) for the work they are doing, acknowledging what a strong financial position it was last year, with regular Standing Order giving increasing last year, and reduced expenditure. Tom requested that the slides be put on the church website.

Peter Ward proposed that **'the APCM accept these annual accounts'**. Seconded by Tony Haines. **47 people voted in favour.**

Prayers were said for the Finance Team.

10. Rock Report – Tom Peryer

In January 2021, ASW received Planning Permission from the Council, primarily for the external works. This followed a year of being on hold in 2020, waiting for the Bath Planners to approve the plans. That delay will cost money. We will submit during 2021, these proposals and the additional proposals for the interior of the church, to the Diocese, to obtain Planning Permission from the Diocese. Over the last 8 years, 10 people have worked faithfully, with approximately 100 Rock meetings. From now on the project has 13 small Support Groups focusing on aspects of the building, such as 'lighting', 'accessibility', traditional music and contemporary music'. Nearly 50 people from the church congregation have agreed to be on 1 or more of the groups. Nathan Ward (Project Director for Bath Abbey) has recently joined the team. £500,000 has been raised to date, which is excellent. Another £2,250,000 to £2,500,000 is needed. Tom is confident that will come.

Several questions were asked, concerning the Rock Project:

Q. Don Hewitt enquired whether there were any conditions imposed on us by the Council.

A. There are very few, eg we have to have external lighting approved, and a car park in place and submit a traffic management plan.

Q. Mike Everson asked what progress had been made on acquiring the small Guinness owned grass 'triangle' of land, to extend the car park.

A. A price has been agreed. The Council has adopted the pavement alongside the grass triangle. ASW has to get a stopping up order; this will take 3 to 4 months.

Q. James Couchman asked about the Communication Schedule for the church family from Rock, for later in the year.

A. One of the Support Groups is a Communications Group and this will work in addition to the Rock updates that appear in the newsletters.

Prayers were said for Tom Peryer and all those involved in Rock. James thanked Tom for his leadership and his ability to inspire. Tom said it was an enormous encouragement that the couple gave £100,000 and then through Gift Aid it became £125,000.

11. Rector's Report and Look Forward.

Mark thanked many people:

Hannah Pearson, who stepped down in November 2020.

Jo Lewis served for 3 years, an encourager.

Chris Chatfield, stepping down, but continuing to lead on Health and Safety, with an eye for detail.
James Couchman, stepped up recently to become Chair of PCC, done with passion and attention to detail.

Paddy Gleave and Peter Ward, excellent Church Wardens.

Rob Gray and Team, exceptional work done with Finances.

Rock Team (especially Tom Peryer). Done such a great job.

Standing Committee, over the last year especially, led a number of tasks in the background.

Very grateful to Clive Bennett for the 15 years he served at ASW.

Sarah Gleave and rest of CYC, for shaping what comes next.

Grateful that the Giving has continued.

All of the Staff Team, at the front and those in the background. Especially thanks to:

Phil Day and Wes, for their dedication and steadfast leadership, leading the young people.

Gary Oaten, for his digital skills.

Tom Peryer, Sarah and Pippa, for resourcing us over the last year and for their prayers and care.

Tali, for keeping Mark organised.

Meghan, for sitting with him on the sofa for a year, for Church Live.

And all of the Church Family.

Last year has been very tough, with grief and loss, much of this being handled in isolation or on a screen. We have had to learn how to use technology, so that small groups can meet, we have learnt to use Youtube for services and livestream. Over the last year, some have moved on from ASW and some have started at ASW.

This is a time of transition, as we come out of the pandemic and learn how to be together and worship together. Farewell has been said to valued members of the team.

Welcome to Monica and Rachael to the Staff Team.

Mark used the following 4 words:

Habit. Hebrews 10:25. "We should not give up the habit of meeting together". The way of Jesus is one that we do together, if we try and go alone we will burn out and lose our way.

Hybrid. As we move back into in-person worship we need to seek to grow in the digital space.

Hear. "Will you hear in this season, the fresh call of the Lord Jesus?" Mark 1:17. It will be challenging restarting children's work over the next few months. Will you step out of the boat into the adventure that Jesus is calling you to?

Holy (Spirit). Ezekiel 36:27. "I will put a new Spirit in you". We need more of an overflow of the Holy Spirit. This is a time of huge transition, but the vision is the same, we are to be a church on the way, following Jesus and making disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit.

12. Opportunity for questions and answers.

Many thanks were given:

Sheila Carrick thanked Mark.

Mark feels there is an interim period before we meet back in person. He is currently writing the 'hand-over' file for live streaming technology.

Pat Coley thanked the Technical Team; it has connected us all together.

Gary Oaten thanked Mark. We have adapted and changed. Mark has facilitated us with grace.

Paddy Gleave encouraged people to reach out. The Holy Spirit brings massive healing. God would like to involve us in the healing.

James Couchman prayed for Mark, Meg and family, and Sarah Gleave thanked them for all they have done.

13. Your hopes and dreams coming out of lockdown – breakout rooms – feedback.

Examples of some of the feedback included: more engagement with the community; getting more involved in serving the church; making more of the connections we have made this past year; taking time to make new friends; taking time to attend to pastoral needs; seeing a steady stream of people starting to follow Jesus.

14. Prayer.

James Couchman prayed from 1 Corinthians ch.13.

The meeting closed at 21.08.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PCC.

Derek, Vera and Pam were welcomed.

Date of next full meeting: 17th May at 7.30 pm.

The **Agenda** will be out on 11th May.

Election of officers and standing committee.

All 13 PCC members voted for Judith Everson to continue as PCC Secretary in the PCC meetings and for Tali Garan to carry out administrative support outside of the meetings.

All 13 PCC members voted for Rob Gray to continue as Treasurer.

All 13 PCC members voted for re-electing the current members of the Standing Committee: Mark Searle, Paddy Gleave, Peter Ward, Rob Gray, Tom Peryer.

Tom Peryer said a deferred item of business is to agree the new terms of reference for the Standing Committee, which also includes what the composition will be; 1 or 2 people can then be added. Mark plans to bring this back to the PCC on 17th May for continued discussion.

The meeting closed at 21.15