



PARISH OF CHURCH HULME - ST LUKE

2020 Annual Meetings

Sunday 25th October 2020 – 4pm by Zoom

Minutes

The Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren welcomed everyone to the Annual Meetings, the first since he and Jean had moved to the parish at the end of 2019. The meetings had necessarily been delayed from 31st May because of the COVID-19 pandemic and were being held by Zoom telecommunications because of the continuing restriction on “in person” meetings of more than six people. This was not ideal for ease of public access, but every effort had been made to publicise widely the existence of the meetings and how to gain access through Zoom. He was pleased to see so many parishioners who had been able to join¹ and would try to allow everyone the opportunity to speak. Voting would be by a show of hands. Rob then opened the meetings with the Collect for the 19th Sunday after Trinity:

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens (AMP: Vestry Meeting)

- 1. Apologies** – these had been received from Wendy Bond, Rachel Copley, Karen Cragg and James Pullé.
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting 7th April 2019 and matters arising:-** the minutes had already been circulated and published on the website in 2019. No corrections were needed. Tim Fryer proposed and Jayne Weaver seconded that they be adopted as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed unanimously by those present. Rob will sign a copy in due course. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Election of Churchwardens** - both existing Churchwardens, Alastair Cragg and Jayne Weaver, were willing to stand again – Alastair for a 5th year and Jayne for a 4th year and had been duly proposed and seconded. Rob thanked them and the other Church officers for their help and support in his new parish ministry. He asked for approval of their election which was given unanimously by those present.

There being no other business, Rob closed the Vestry Meeting at 4.06pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

¹ A list of those attending is appended to these minutes.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies – *as for the Vestry Meeting above*

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 7th April 2019 and any matters arising

The minutes had already circulated and published on the website in 2019. No corrections were needed or matters arising. Peter Cotton proposed and Val Cragg seconded that they be adopted as a true record. This was agreed unanimously by those present and eligible to vote. Rob will sign a copy in due course. There were no matters arising.

3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Rob announced that he was pleased that all three Assistant Churchwardens currently in office are standing again for reappointment until the next APCM: **Val Cragg, Stephen Haigh and Peter Cotton**. He thanked them for their help and support to him in the Churchwardens team. They had all been duly proposed and seconded. There were no further candidates and Rob asked for approval of appointment of all three candidate by a show of hands. This was provided unanimously by those present eligible to vote.

4. Election of lay representatives to the Congleton Deanery Synod

Rob explained that these appointments are for a 3-year period and confer *ex officio* membership of the PCC. St Luke's is entitled to provide four lay representatives. **Barbara Smith and William Hall** are standing again, and **Tim Fryer and Lee Hardy** are newly seeking election. They have all been duly proposed and seconded. No further candidates were proposed or are now possible. Rob asked for approval of the election of all four candidates by a show of hands. This was provided unanimously by those present eligible to vote.

5. Election of lay members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Rob explained that lay members of the PCC are elected for a 3-year period and our current Electoral Roll numbers permit us to have 12 elected lay members with 4 normally retiring each year. This year, in addition, Jane Thomson and Bill Paton have sadly resigned from the PCC for personal reasons. We have also lost the services of Anne Smith – for many years she was an *ex officio* PCC member as our former Licensed Reader (by licence from the Bishop which she has not renewed). Anne was also our Safeguarding Officer. Rob thanked them all for their considerable contributions to the parish and shall miss their input in the PCC.

This year there are thus five lay members standing for election to the PCC: **Peter Cotton, Stephen Haigh, Yvonne Janvier, Fiona Pullé and Steve Smith**. They have all have been duly proposed and seconded. No further candidates have been proposed and are now possible. Rob asked for general approval of the election of all five candidates by a show of hands. This was provided unanimously by those present eligible to vote.

The secretary added that under new Church Representation Rules for 2020, men and women Sidesmen and other PCC Officers are now to be appointed by the PCC at its first meeting after the APCM. This meeting will be on Monday 9th Nov 2020.

6. Report on PCC Financial Statements for year ending 31 Dec 2019

Copies of the summary Financial Statements for the calendar year 2019 have been circulated and published on the website before the meeting. Paper copies are still available in the church porch and copies of the full examined statements are available on request from our Treasurer, William Hall (HC 535497). William provided the following Report:

The accounts for 2019 have been circulated and approved by the PCC. They show an overall deficit of £3,478 which was less than that of 2018 and has again been covered by our reserves.

Although we did not have a vicar for much of 2019, we continued to pay our Parish Share in full amounting to £78,542, an increase of 2.5% on 2018. We were also required to find and pay retired clergy to take our regular services, weddings, and funerals, though the Diocese reimbursed us for some of this expense.

Unlike recent years we had little expenditure on the church fabric in 2019 apart from meeting the balance of the cost of the architect's report on the development potential to add extra facilities to our church building. However, the need to find and fund the cost of a replacement organ for the church became our main concern as 2019 drew to a close.

Our finances have suffered a setback in 2020 with the closure of St Luke's for services in March. Despite this we have continued to pay our full parish share which rose once again by 2.5% to just over £80,000 this year. The absence of services has made it difficult for our members to make their usual regular donations though several made extra donations to make up for our reduced income. Some members have also agreed to donate by standing order from their bank instead of using envelopes. With the resumption of services this summer a limited number of donations have been received but, unfortunately, the regular giving has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels. I am concerned that without a considerable increase in our regular giving we are likely to end the year with another sizeable deficit.

This year we were fortunate to have our accounts examined by Mr Jeremy Bostock, a partner with Accountants, Thompson Wright. He has indicated his willingness to continue to act as examiner next year.

Rob thanked William for his report and his continued diligence in managing financial matters. He proposed a vote of thanks be recorded to William which was enthusiastically supported by all those present. Rob then asked for questions, but none were forthcoming. However, Rob observed that Church members need to respond to William's concern about the level of regular financial giving if our mission in the parish is to be sustained.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for Financial Statements

William proposed that Mr Jeremy Bostock FCA be appointed as Independent Examiner of the PCC Financial Statements for 2020. Fiona Pullé seconded the proposal which was approved unanimously by all those present and eligible to vote.

8. Reports on parish activities, proceedings of the Church Council and of the Deanery Synod, and Churchwardens' report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church

Rob explained that, under the Church Representation Rules, these reports are specifically required to be considered at the APCM. However, they have all been included in the consolidated 2019 Annual Report. He thanked everyone who had contributed to its preparation and content; it has been circulated and published on the website and paper copies made available in the church porch. He therefore proposed that its content (including the reports required for the APCM) should be taken as read but was open for any questions from those present. This proposal was approved. There were no particular questions or comments but several expressions of approval and support for the way in which Rob and the PCC were managing Church affairs and helping meet the challenges during the pandemic. On behalf of all members of St Luke's, Churchwarden Alastair Cragg proposed a Vote of Thanks to Rob for the substantial input he had made since his installation as vicar in November 2019 and his "can do" attitude in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was enthusiastically endorsed by those present.

9. Report on changes to the 2019 Church Electoral Roll in 2020

In the absence of the Electoral Roll Officer (Wendy Bond), the Secretary summarised the current position which had also been stated in the 2019 Annual Report. There are now 187 people on the Church Electoral Roll after the advertised revision for the APCM - a reduction of 2 from those on the Roll newly established for last year's APCM. Effort should be made to encourage our existing Church members to join the roll so that everyone with active involvement with St Luke's is included.

10. Any other business - No other items of business had been received.

Closing remarks and Prayers

Rob thanked everyone for joining in the Annual Meetings and for the support they are giving him and Jean in their ministry at St Luke's. He looked forward to working with them in the coming year when he hoped the parish would make further progress to living our new strapline: "Come to Christ, Love to Learn, Learn to Love". He closed the meeting at 5.08pm with the collect for Trinity 16 followed by everyone joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix

the following 32 people attended the Annual Meetings on 25th Oct 2020 by Zoom:

Derek	Copley
Judith	Copley
Patrica	Cotton
Peter	Cotton
Alastair	Cragg
Val	Cragg
Dorothy	Fryer
Tim	Fryer
Stephen	Haigh
Judith	Hall
William	Hall
Yvonne	Janvier
Trevor	Jenkins
Christine	Land
John	Land
Paula	Lavin
Christopher	Lees-Jones
Wendy	Macdonald
Jean	McLaren
Rob	McLaren
Robert	Monks
Judith	Nichols
John	Oram
Rod	Pickles
Eileen	Prince
Fiona	Pullé
Alan	Rickards
Barbara	Smith
Steve	Smith
Mike	Street
Jayne	Weaver
Mark	Wilkinson