



# PARISH OF CHURCH HULME - ST LUKE

## 2021 Annual Parish Meetings

### Sunday 9th May 2021 – 11am by Zoom telecoms.

### Minutes

The Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meetings which he would chair, and which were again being held virtually under a dispensation from Bishop Mark because of the continuing COVID-19 restriction on “in person” meetings. He explained that every effort had again been made to publicise widely the existence of the meetings and how to gain access through Zoom. Participants will be asked to vote by raising their hand clearly. Everyone will be muted during the meetings but to ask a question they should raise a hand and unmute themselves when invited by Rob to do so, muting again after asking the question.

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

- 1. Attendance and Apologies** – *see appendix.*
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020:** the minutes had already been circulated and published on the Church website. No corrections were needed. Jayne Weaver proposed, and Yvonne Janvier seconded that they be adopted as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed by those present with one abstention (Susan Batters - not then 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 his 6<sup>th</sup> and final annual term and Jayne for her 5<sup>th</sup> annual term. They had been duly proposed and seconded and no other candidates are now possible. Rob thanked them and the other Church officers for their help and hard work supporting the ministry in St Luke’s. They worked well together, and he was very grateful for their support. 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 11.12am.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

- 1. Attendance and Apologies** – *see appendix*
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020:** these had already been circulated and published on the Church website. No corrections were needed or matters arising. Kevin Fryer proposed, and Tim Fryer seconded that they be adopted as a true record. This was agreed by those present with one abstention (Susan Batters - not then present). Rob will sign a copy in due course. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Report on Church Electoral Roll (ER) after the 2021 revision:** Wendy Bond, Church ER Officer, confirmed that the Roll now stands at 214 (after 29 additions and 3 deletions), reflecting encouraging growth in formal membership of St Luke's. As a result, it will now be possible to elect the maximum permitted number of 15 lay members to the Church Council. Rob informed that Wendy was standing down as ER Officer after 13 years in the post. He recorded his sincere thanks on behalf of St Luke's for her consistent diligent service over the years. These thanks were visibly endorsed by all those present.
- 4. Election of lay members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC):** Rob explained that Councillors are elected for a three-year period and our ER numbers now permit us to have 15 elected lay members with 5 normally retiring each year. This year there are five vacancies. Existing PCC members **Rachel Copley, Val Cragg, Wendy Macdonald and Alan Rickards** are retiring but are available for re-election. However, Val has decided not to seek re-election this year. Rob recorded his sincere thanks on behalf of St Luke's for her Christian ministry within the parish including extensive service in the PCC and as an Assistant Churchwarden. These thanks were again visibly endorsed by all those present.

Duly proposed and seconded nomination forms for the re-election of Rachel, Wendy and Alan had been received. Similarly, duly completed nomination forms had been received to newly elect **Janet Chettle and Paula Lavin** (our Parish Safeguarding Officer, currently co-opted to the Council). There were thus five candidates for the five vacancies for elected lay members and no other new nominations for election are now possible. Rob therefore asked for general approval by a show of hands of the election of **Rachel Copley, Janet Chettle, Paula Lavin, Wendy Macdonald and Alan Rickards**. This was provided unanimously by those present eligible to vote.

Rob explained that, following the new Church Representation Rules introduced last year, our men and women Sidesmen and other Church Officers (including the Secretary and Treasurer) are now appointed by the PCC at its first meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Our Assistant Churchwardens will also be appointed at that meeting.

## **5. Report on PCC Financial Statements for year ending 31 Dec 2020**

Copies of the summary Financial Statements for the calendar year 2020 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 the Hon. Treasurer, William Hall (HC 535497). William provided the following Report:

Our day-to-day income was adversely affected by the Covid pandemic which forced the closure of the church building for some months in 2020. The resultant loss of income from collections, funerals, weddings, and Gift Aided donations had a marked effect on our overall income which was over £20,000 lower than 2019 at £119,520. Despite this, we were still able to pay our full Parish Share amounting to £80,505 (an increase of 2.5% on 2019) and ended the year with a small deficit of £6,000, met from reserves.

The absence of services in church made it difficult for worshippers donating in cash or by envelope to give regularly. Unfortunately, the autumn resumption of services in church did not lead to a surge in donations as regulations severely restricted the numbers of worshippers permitted to attend. However, a number of worshippers were able to help us meet our outgoings by increasing their regular donations. So far in 2021 regular giving seems to be recovering.

A major appeal for £80,000 was launched on 1st October 2020 to raise funds for the installation of a refurbished organ to replace our existing instrument and to upgrade the internal church lighting system with more efficient and controllable LEDs to reduce our energy consumption. The specification and probable cost of the lighting upgrade are being clarified. At the year end, a total of £50,000 had been pledged or donated towards our appeal target. Currently, some £67,000 has been provided to the appeal including a generous grant from HC Parish Council.

At the end of September, Rob and Jean moved into the new vicarage (74A London Road) which had just been built in the grounds of the old house. The old house is being sold on behalf of the Diocese.

Once again, we are grateful for the services of Mr Jeremy Bostock, a partner with accountants, Thompson Wright in examining our 2020 accounts.

William ended by expressing his gratitude to everyone who helped maintain parish finances in good order in a difficult year. Rob thanked William for his report and his continued able management of our financial matters. He proposed a vote of thanks to William which was visibly endorsed by all those present, and then asked for questions.

Answering a question from Jan Rayner about how the amount of our Parish Share was arrived at, Rob and William explained that this is a levy on all parishes in the diocese based on the nominal cost of supporting a vicar (stipend and costs: £64K). The amount is adjusted up or down according to the perceived general means of the parish so that parishes in affluent areas pay up to 30% more and vice versa. Currently, our Share is 25% more than an average parish.

Answering a question from Steph Haigh about proceeds from the sale of the old vicarage, Rob and Churchwarden Alastair Cragg explained that the sale had only just been agreed but the parish could apply to the diocese for up to 10% of the net proceeds capped at a maximum of £20,000 to be spent on specific projects rather than to pay day-to-day parish costs.

**6. Appointment of Independent Examiner for Financial Statements** - William proposed that Mr Jeremy Bostock FCA be reappointed as Independent Examiner of the PCC Financial Statements for 2021. Alastair seconded the proposal which was approved unanimously by all those present and eligible to vote.

**7. Reports on parish activities, proceedings of the PCC 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 required to be considered at the APCM. However, they have all been included in the consolidated 2020 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 specific questions but several expressions of approval and support for the way in which Rob and the PCC had continued to manage Church affairs during the pandemic. On behalf of himself and Churchwarden Jayne Weaver, Alastair thanked Val Cragg, John Murfin and Steve Smith for their extensive service to St Luke's, as they would be stepping down this year as Assistant churchwarden, Church Hall Booking Secretary and PCC Secretary, respectively. He also wished to record our thanks to Jane Massey, Kevin Fryer and Bill Paton who were standing down as Sidesmen after many years of diligent service. Alastair then proposed a Vote of Thanks to Rob on behalf of everyone at St Luke's for his exemplary leadership and teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also added our grateful thanks to the rest of the Ministry Team: Lee Hardy, Tim Fryer and Yvonne Janvier. These sentiments were enthusiastically endorsed by all those present.

**8. Special Motion increasing the maximum number of lay members on the Parochial Church Council to fifteen**

Rob explained that although our Electoral Roll numbers are currently greater than 200 (and so entitle us to the maximum number of 15 elected lay members on the PCC), should the Roll number fall again below 200 it seems prudent to adopt a Special Motion allowing the PCC to maintain the level of elected lay membership at 15. In that way we can ensure that parish business can continue to be properly conducted.

Steve Smith, PCC Secretary, then read out the Special Motion:

It is hereby resolved that, as provided in Rule M15(9) of the Church Representation Rules 2020, the number of representatives of the laity who may be elected to the Parochial Church Council under Rule M15(1)(j) shall be fifteen notwithstanding any requirements in Rule M15(8) of the number of names on the Church Electoral Roll.

Rob invited questions but there were none. Alan Rickards proposed, and Mike Street seconded that the Special Motion be adopted. The proposal was accepted by all those present and eligible to vote.

**9. Any other business** - No other items of business had been received.

**10. Vicar's Closing remarks**

It has been a challenging year for many of us and for us as a church. Church is the English translation of the Greek New Testament word Ecclesia, which means gathering or assembly. So, if we can't gather together or assemble, it's not really church. So much of our church life and work has been compromised or frustrated.....and yet The Lord has been at work among us.

The Lord has provided, and we have kept some good momentum. So that when we finally restart fully functional Sunday morning services, we will want to build on what we have been able to develop and enjoy: at our 9am 'more traditional' Holy Communion, and at our 10.30 Morning Service with a lively mixture of classic and contemporary.

Groups like Mothers Union and Thursday Coffee Morning have been thwarted, but our Growth Groups have multiplied. We have an embryonic Youth Group, Exodus, to follow on from Genesis. We thank and praise the Lord for progress, even as we consider how best to relaunch our group work.

We have a good new vicarage, good plans for the church building, a genuine warmth in fellowship, a ready enthusiasm to sing God's praises, plus a godly desire to search the Scriptures and spread the good news of Jesus. We pray that the Lord will add to our number those whom he is saving and bring to completion the good work he is doing among us.

Rob closed the meeting at 11.46am and invited everyone to join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix - Annual Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 by Zoom**

### **Attendees for both meetings (from Zoom screen shots): 56**

Susan	Batters	Trevor	Jenkins
Geoff	Bond	John	Land
Wendy	Bond	Paula	Lavin
Julian	Bond	Christopher	Lees-Jones
Jane	Cawood	Wendy	Macdonald
Mark	Cawood	Jean	McLaren
Janet	Chettle	Rob	McLaren
Derek	Copley	Robert	Monks
Judith	Copley	Judith	Nichols
Rachel	Copley	John	Oram
Alastair	Cragg	Jean	Paton
Val	Cragg	William	Paton
Karen	Cragg	Rod	Pickles
Carole	Elliott	Katharine	Pilcher
Margaret	Eccles	Eileen	Prince
Dorothy	Fryer	Fiona	Pullé
Kevin	Fryer	James	Pullé
Tim	Fryer	Janet	Rayner
Val	Fryer	Alan	Rickards
Alison	Gabbitas	Stephen	Rickards
Richard	Gabbitas	Barbara	Smith
Stephanie	Haigh	Steve	Smith
Stephen	Haigh	Barbara	Street
Judith	Hall	Mike	Street
William	Hall	Jayne	Weaver
Margaret	Hardwick	Dorothy	Wood
Lee	Hardy		
Liz	Hardy		
Yvonne	Janvier		

### **Apologies received for both meetings: 10**

Jean Bond, Patricia Cotton, Peter Cotton, Jenny Green, Katie Haigh,  
Christine Land, Alan Lane, Anne Lane, Tricia Litchfield, Dinah Wainwright

### **Note: Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect Churchwardens (Vestry Meeting):**

*Either those named on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish of Church Hulme, or those named on the local government Register of Electors by virtue of residence in the parish, may attend and vote at the Vestry Meeting.*

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):**

*Only those named on the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish may attend and vote at the APCM.*