

ALL SAINTS WESTON, BATH

Virtual Meeting on Zoom, Sunday 18th October 2020

Present: Mark Searle (Rector), James Couchman (Chair), with c.75 people.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. **Prayer:** Mark opened the meeting at 4pm and immediately handed over to James Couchman to chair the meeting. James opening the meeting in prayer.
2. **Appointment of Churchwardens:** Ben Wynne stepped down as Churchwarden. Thanks were given to Ben Wynne for his two and half years of service and for all of his work and achievements. Paddy Gleave was re-elected as Churchwarden. There were no nominations for a new Churchwarden. James asked those present to give permission to the PCC to take forward the vacancy in liaison with the Archdeacon over the coming year. Permission was granted via a show of hands

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Apologies for absence:** there were no apologies for absence.
2. **The minutes of the APCM** 1st April 2019 were approved.
3. **Matters arising from the previous APCM:** none.
4. **Electoral Roll Officer's Report:** as new Electoral Roll Officer, James Couchman recorded his thanks and appreciation to Jeremy Tinkler, the previous Electoral Roll officer. Jeremy served for many years and did an incredible job, and in particular his handover notes were exemplary. COVID-19 has impacted the ability to keep to timescales and to post physical notices. The electoral roll was renewed by Jeremy in 2019 and this year James has revised the Electoral Roll, which means adding people onto the roll who have joined and taking people off the roll who have asked to be removed. 247 people were on the roll in 2019 and 3 people have been removed as they are now deceased, leaving 244 on the Electoral Roll as at last Sunday (11th October 2020). There have been no additions to the Electoral Roll.
5. **Receipt of the written reports:** The PCC Report, Trustees Report and Audited Accounts were available to read on the Church website prior to the meeting. James invited questions to be asked later under agenda item 13 either verbally by unmuting themselves or posting a question in the chat functionality.
6. **Appointment of Tellers:** proved unnecessary.
7. **Election of Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council:** terms of office came to an end for: Chris Chatfield, James Couchman, Robert Page. Chris and James were willing to stand again, Robert will

not stand again. Chris & James were re-elected via a show of hands. There were no new nominations for PCC members.

8. **Election of Representatives on Deanery Synod:** Clive Kennett, Pippa Page and Pete Ward were happy to stand again for Deanery Synod. Catherine Slade will step down. Clive, Pippa & Pete were re-elected via a show of hands. There were no new nominations for Deanery Synod.
9. **Appointment of Auditors:** James proposed that we use the organisation 'Stewardship' again next year. The majority of those present agreed by a show of hands.
10. **Financial Report:** Robert Gray apologised for the dry nature of the report in advance. Total income in 2019 was slightly down on 2018 which had been a record year partly due to grants received for Weston Hub. Income for 2020 will be less than projections due to COVID-19 but Robert noted that we have been blessed with a number of grants that have reduced the gap. Unrestricted giving for 2019 was the highest of the years on the graph due to a legacy received. Expenditure in 2019 was down on the previous year despite a significant increase in staff costs. This reduction was mainly due to a reduction in parish share paid. 2019 was a good year and ended with a healthy surplus and 2020 looks to finish with a surplus but both income and expenditure have been less. The bank balance has continued to improve nicely. At the end of 2019, 25% of cash was unrestricted and 75% was restricted, with the majority of restricted money being ROCK money. Much work has been done on the accounts from 2019 to bring everything in line with accounting standards. James thanked Rob and the finance team for a comprehensive report and all their hard work.
11. **ROCK Report:** Tom Peryer explained that for most of the year energies had been focused on planning permission with BANES which was submitted in August 2019, theoretically with 8 weeks to make a decision. However, a number of extensions have been made due to many queries, mainly around traffic and parking, which have now all been resolved. There are no fresh hurdles and it is thought permission will be granted. No more exploratory work will be done with the diocese until planning permission is granted and for same reason the team have held back on further appeals to the church or external bodies for finances. James thanked Tom and the ROCK team for all their efforts.
12. **Rector's Report:** Mark began by saying his report would have 3 parts – thank yous, looking back and looking forward.
 - a. **Thank yous:** Mark expressed how strange it felt to be doing the meeting on Zoom as he would normally be getting at least two people up to the front to give thanks and flowers to. Heartfelt thanks to Kathleen for her service as PCC Secretary as she now steps down. Judith Everson and Tali Garan will now split the role of PCC Secretary. Huge thanks to Ben Wynne for the two and a half years he has served as Churchwarden. A virtual round of applause was given for Kathleen and Ben. Mark asked for people to pray that the right person would come forward and step into the Churchwarden role. Thank you to Paddy Gleave who became a Churchwarden in September and was licensed by the Archdeacon. Thank you to Catherine Slade on the Deanery Synod and Seb Corripio-Dieppe on the PCC now stepping down. Thank you to Robert Page serving faithfully on the PCC now stepping down. Mark prayed for Robert & Pippa and family during this uncertain time for Robert's health. A virtual round of applause was given for all these people. Other thanks: to James Couchman for stepping into the role of Vice-Chair of the PCC, for the Finance team – Robert, Lisa, Mike and Gary – a colossal amount of work has been done over the

last 18 months to work through issues with the account. Mark expressed thanks to the wider staff team who do an extraordinary work of service and thanks to the wonderful church family.

- b. **Looking back:** 2019 feels like a long time ago and a different world. In all the reports made available on the website there is a real sense of optimism and hope, and things being shaped for the kingdom of God. The volunteers and staff who have written them show care and passion to see people grow as followers of Jesus. All Saints has a simple vision: to take the commandments of Jesus seriously and make disciples who make disciples. We can phrase that in all sorts of ways and there are three parts: following, growing, going. And there are five habits that help us. Mark hopes that this is simple enough that each of person can hold it up as a litmus test to see how they are doing.
- c. **Looking forward:** we are living in uncertain times, the pandemic has reshaped our lives, we are living in a culture fear and anxiety. As a church family we are unable to meet in ways that we are used to. Yet we have made extraordinary discoveries on the way – new ways of being together and reaching each other. As we face a second wave and none of us know what next 3 months/2 years will bring Mark wanted to highlight 6 things that are important for this season:
1. Difficulties bring innovation.
 2. God is on the move, there is a stirring and questioning of faith.
 3. A healthy reminder that church is people.
 4. Buildings are important focal points for gathering and for relationships – hold firmly to the vision for ROCK.
 5. The body of Jesus, his church, is alive and active – there is hope that when we come out of this season we will be fitter and stronger than before.
 6. We carry peace – in a world full of fear we bring his holy spirit and bring his peace.

Amen.

James brought Mark & Meg before God in prayer to encourage, protect, inspire and energise them in a tough time to be a leader of a church. James recognised the incredible job that Mark & Meg have been doing. A number of people then prayed for them.

13. **Opportunity for questions and answers:** Robert answered a couple of questions with regards to his finance report. There were no other questions.
14. **Prayer:** Mark closed the meeting in prayer at around 5pm.