

St Mary's Church, Selly Oak

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings held on Sunday 2th April 2019 at 11:30am.

Apologies: Sheila Bowden, David Bowden, Kate Cheyney, Prue Huddleston, Richard Huddleston, John Surtees, Carol Surtees, Pat Westwood and Alan Westwood.

Present: George Harrison (Lay Chair and Church Warden), Rev'd Jayne Adams, Rev'd David Parker, Martin Sorby (Churchwarden) and 27 parishioners.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING 2019

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 7th April 2019.

The minutes of the 2018 Vestry meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

Nomination and election of Church Wardens

George Harrison agreed to continue serving as Churchwarden. He was nominated by Julie Sutton and seconded by Richard Edmonds.

Martin Sorby agreed to continue serving as Churchwarden. He was nominated by Julie Sutton and seconded by Carol Surtees.

The meeting agreed unanimously.

Stephen Constable had already indicated his willingness to continue being Deputy Church Warden for the coming year.

Mike Basford stepped down from his role as Deputy Church Warden a few months ago and it has not been felt necessary to seek a replacement. Grateful thanks were extended to Mike for his service.

7th April 2019

Signed by George Harrison:
Church Warden and Lay Chair of PCC

Date:

Annual Church Hall Meeting 2019

Minutes of the Annual Church Hall meeting held on Sunday 7th April 2019

Present: George Harrison (Lay Chair and Church Warden), Rev'd Jayne Adams, Rev'd David Parker, Martin Sorby (Churchwarden) and 27 parishioners.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Church Hall Meeting

The Minutes of the 2018 Annual Church Hall meeting held on Sunday 29th April 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Report of the Hall Management Committee

The Hall report was presented to the meeting. There were no comments.

Election of the Hall Management Committee

The following members of the Hall Committee had expressed their willingness to continue in office namely: Alan Westwood (Chairman), Gerald Fage (Hall Manager), Pat Finney, George Harrison, Donald Knight, Wendy Parkes and Mike Charlwood.

Simon Charlwood proposed acceptance of the above named members. This was seconded by Stephen Constable and agreed unanimously.

7th April 2019

Signed by George Harrison:
Church Warden and Lay Chair of PCC

Date:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 7th April 2019 at 11:45am.

Present: George Harrison (Lay Chair and Church Warden), Rev'd Jayne Adams, Rev'd David Parker, Martin Sorby (Churchwarden) and 27 parishioners.

1. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting held on Sunday 29th April 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising: None.

3. Presentation of Annual Reports

Copies of the reports from the following groups had been available in church before and during the meeting. There were two minor misspellings in the Bereavement and Bellringers reports and the meeting agreed that Julie would make the amendments on the hard copy.

Altar Servers	Baptisms	Bellringers
Bereavement Chaplaincy	Book Group	Charitable Donations
Choir/Organ Report	Church Flowers	Church Hall
Coffee Mornings	Communications	Deanery Synod
Electoral Roll	Fabric Report	Health & Safety
Interregnum Status	Issues Group	Junior Church
Kids Club & Pre-School	Men's Group	Open Church
PCC Secretary Report	Safeguarding	Social Committee
Stewardship	Theological Book Group	Treasurer's Report
Way Group	Women's Group	Youth Club

George made the following comments:

- In the photograph, the bellringers are Jayne Davis, Roger Haynes, Roger Lawson and the remaining members are the Haslam family.
- In the Fabric report the pathway to the church hall has been cancelled simply because it is not necessary as wheelchair access is available using the paved path past the west door and through the gate (keys for the gate will be kept in church).

Update on Interregnum Status

- Firstly Martin extended his thanks to Jayne David and Mary but also to everyone else that does their part in keeping things going at St Mary's. It is testament to all this hard work that it is very much 'business as usual'.

- A draft advert was received last week and this was sent back with a few suggested amendments which Martin received confirmation last night are acceptable. Martin read out the advert to the meeting and advised that this will appear in the Church Times next week.
- The new Archdeacon is Jenny Tomlinson and her collation service is on the 12th May and she will now get in touch with Martin and Laura, our church representatives, to fix some suitable interview dates for candidates.
- The vicarage is currently being rented out for a six month period but when this comes to an end it will be offered on a two month recurring notice.

Comments on the Reports were invited: none received.

George extended his grateful thanks to everyone who had produced reports.

4. Presentation of the PCC Accounts for 2018

The Treasurer, John Surtees, had already presented his accounts prior to the meeting and as there were no questions **George proposed that the meeting accept the Accounts. This was seconded by Simon Charlwood and unanimously agreed.**

The meeting wished it to be noted their grateful thanks to John Surtees for agreeing to stay as our Treasurer, for his continuing support and for all his excellent work throughout the year.

5. The Independent Examiner's Report of the Accounts

Our accounts have been audited by David Loveday and he has indicated that he would be willing to continue this role for 2019-2020. **It was therefore proposed by George Harrison and seconded by Ben Reeves that David Loveday continue to be our Independent Examiner and this was agreed unanimously.**

Julie indicated that she had already sent a thank you note with a gift voucher as a small token of our appreciation.

6. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

This year there was a requirement to produce a new Electoral Roll rather than merely updating the existing one. Suzanne Johnston (Electoral Roll Officer) presented our new Electoral Roll for 2019 which stands at 103 (an overall reduction of 5.5%). Approximately 49% of the congregation live in Selly Oak, Selly Park and Weoley Castle, 3% live in Bourneville and 31% in Northfield or Bourneville. The remainder live in other parts of Birmingham and this time outside of Birmingham. The furthest parishioners live in Bromsgrove and Sutton Coldfield but there are also ones in Stoke on Trent and Bristol.

George extended his thanks to Suzanne for all the work which has been necessary in compiling our new Electoral Roll.

7. Appointment of Returning Office. This was not found to be necessary.

8. Proposal to elect Mary Cutler, licensed reader at St Mary's to the Parochial Church Council subject to the Church Representation Rules paragraph 14(1)(e)

At present as a licensed reader, Mary is a co-opted member of the PCC but she can be elected as a full voting member. **George proposed that Mary Cutler be elected to the PCC. This was seconded by Martin Sorby and agreed unanimously.**

9. Elections to Deanery Synod

As our Electoral Roll is over 100 we can have four members. Laura Hart and Simon Charlwood were willing to continue as Deanery Synod Representatives and Simon Charlwood was willing to continue as Diocesan Representative.

George Harrison had agreed to stand for a further three years and Richard Edmonds had agreed to become our fourth Deanery Representative.

	Proposer	Second
George Harrison	Julie Sutton	Richard Edmonds
Richard Edmonds	George Harrison	Julie Sutton

The above elections were agree unanimously.

10. Election to the Parochial Church Council

Angela Lidgbird has served three years and has agreed to serve a further three years. Both Lorraine Basford and Richard Edmonds have completed 6 years service and must therefore stand down and with the sad demise of Sue Sharpe we are three members down. As our electoral roll is over 100 we can have up to 12 elected members to PCC in total.

Five nomination forms have been received for election to the PCC:

	Proposer	Second
Angela Lidgbird	Martin Sorby	Julie Sutton
Irene Quinn	George Harrison	Julie Sutton
Kirsty Simms	George Harrison	Angela Lidgbird
Gerald Fage	George Harrison	Julie Sutton
Julie Sutton	Rev'd David Parker	George Harrison

The election of the above to PCC for a term of three years was unanimously agreed.

Simon Charlwood asked for clarification of how many PCC members this means we would have. It was confirmed that apart from Jayne, David, Mary, George and Martin there would be 10 members plus John Surtees as Treasurer, the PCC secretary and Ben Reeves and Suzanne Johnston as co-opted members.

George mentioned that all PCC meetings are 'open' and can be attended by any member of the congregation.

11. St Mary's Report

George explained that this year is a little different from previous years as we have no incumbent and are currently in interregnum. Therefore as lay-vice-chairman of the PCC he had taken the chair for the meeting and would present St Mary's Report.

"I wish, as last year, to commend our Annual Reports as they serve to highlight the broad range of work, interests and activities that we can sustain as a 'normal parish church' and particularly to mark the quality of our choir, our bell-ringing and our well-maintained building.

Staff

It is a time for thanking people for the phenomenal work that goes on in the church so much of which we are unaware of and just take for granted and without which the church would simply not function.

I wish to thank Jayne and David, who has now completed his curacy and has been licensed as an Assistant Priest, and Mary for their continued support during the last year.

Due to our wider Ministry Team, St Mary's continues to be able to act as a 'resourcing church', providing cover at St Michael's, St Gabriel's and St George's. These churches have expressed their thanks to us and I wish to extend my grateful thanks to Jayne, David and Mary for their ministry in this sphere.

Partners

We continue to maintain and strengthen links with Methodist Church under Vincent Jambawo. Joint Lent Groups took place and Vincent has been to preach at St Mary's a couple of times. Links with the URC are now re-established with the appointment of Rev'd Leonora Jagessar-Visser 't Hooft, and we hope to meet her in the coming months.

Past Year

We have continued our association with St Mary's School, and have started to build links with Watermills School. We have also continued our association with the BBC, Organist Association, and Acorns Hospice.

We continue to raise money for Christian Aid with coffee mornings, The Children's Society through home boxes, Acorns, from the collection at baptisms, and St Mary's Hospice, as well as our normal charities.

In the last year we have started the Wednesday Open Church, which is held after the morning communion service. As a result we have seen an increase in the number of communicants, and several people come in for coffee and a chat. This is something that we wish to continue with.

There has been the usual round of festivals and calendar events and the Service of Memory was once again well attended. There has been a pilgrimage to Walsingham, and consideration is being given to repeating this in another year. The Church Hall extension has now been completed and is proving to be very useful in providing extra toilets, a facility for Birmingham Forward Steps group, a council run venture to assist families with developing parenting skills, and help they need from pregnancy until the child starts school. A further important piece of work was the repairs to the church roof, with interior decoration, and the removal of the front row of pews, which I am sure all will agree had opened up the space at the front of the nave.

Farewells

We have already said farewell to the Coxes. Also, Dorothy Holland who is no longer up to the drive between here and Sutton Coldfield and Christina Ebrey and Anita Kalakonda. RIPs: Barbara Lawson, Sue Sharpe and Brenda Adamson.

Electoral Roll

Although there have been several deaths in the parish, the electoral roll has been maintained with above a hundred members. As you will be aware this year has required a completely new electoral

roll, and I am most grateful to all the hard work put into sorting this out by Suzanne Johnston, the Electoral Roll Officer, and thank her for dealing with this so effectively.

What of the Future?

In previous years, Jim has always started this section by saying, 'As ever things look precarious'. I do not think we should be so pessimistic. Certainly, there has been an overall reduction in the amount of giving through the various stewardship schemes, although we have had a significant donation from the estate of Pat Burcham, which has enabled us to get repairs done to the organ, and we are looking at other things which need to be done which can be for the memory of Pat and Bill. Also, the church hall is now being rented out at a good rate and should be self-sufficient.

In the last year we have had to deal with various issues imposed upon us, such as dealing with GDPR and the changes to the Data Protection Act, as well as continually updating the various policies we have had to produce in relation to safeguarding. All of these policies may be found on the website, and I would like to thank Ben for keeping the website up to date and coping with all the changes I have asked him to do as a result of the interregnum.

Last year there was a lot of concern over the production of the *People and Places* document, and there was a lot of concern that many parishes would be left without a priest. However, we have been fortunate enough, subsequent to the demission of Jim to have been allowed to find a replacement for him, and the process is ongoing.

We have been blessed with the attendance of lot of young families and we are thinking of new ways of engaging them. We are grateful to the work put into the running of Junior Church by so many of the congregation, although this year several embers have decided that they would like to take a break from this activity at the present time and I would like to thank Netta Ford, Suzanne Johnston and Kelly McCall and to Adrienne Oliver who has agreed to take on running the Junior Church with the help of Sarah and Richard Marshall, Liz Sheriff and Sophie Richmond.

Thanks

I would like particularly to thank Martin for his support as my churchwarden colleague, and am glad that he is going to remain in post for a further year. In particular he is to be thanked for producing the parish statement to help in getting a new incumbent, and also for his work as the Parish Safeguarding Officer, particularly in sorting out the various safeguarding policies I have referred to previously. I also want to thank Mike Basford for his continuing support in helping to maintain the grounds, and to thank him for his work as deputy churchwarden, from which he has resigned, and Stephen Constable who is the other deputy churchwarden, as well as doing much work in his role as chair of the Fabric Committee. I am also grateful to the help of Gerald Fage and his son who have managed to keep the boiler working through most of the winter.

I wish to thank Jayne, David and Mary for ensuring that, even without an incumbent, that all the services have been covered, with support on occasions from Sharon Jones, the Anglican Chaplain at the University, with the extra help in covering evensong of the Deacons, Richard Edmonds and Simon Charlwood. It is with sadness that I note that Simon and Julie have requested to come off the various rotas, as they have provided a great deal of support to the liturgy of the church in many different ways, and thank them for their continuing support to the life of the Parish.

I thank John Surtees for ensuring that the accounts have been well managed and that we have been able to manage to maintain our support to the Diocese whilst still ensuring that we are able to keep our own church running well. I thank John Stormont and the choir for providing the music to assist in our worship and also Chris Stormont for playing at choral evensong.

I do not want to leave out the bell ringers, who have continued to announce the Sunday communion nearly every week, even though numbers have been greatly reduced and to thank particularly Alan Westwood for his support in the past although he is no longer able to ring at present, and Jo Goodall who has taken over the job of running the tower. I also want to thank June Sutton and the team of

flower ladies for making the church look so welcoming, and to everyone else who has contributed to the running and maintenance of the church and I apologise for not naming all of you.

I want to thank the members of the PCC who have worked hard this year to ensure the smooth running of the administration of the church, and all those who are on the various sub-committees of the PCC for the work done in many different aspects of managing the church and its worship. I would like to thank those coming off PCC, Richard Edmonds and Lorraine Basford, for the work that they have done in supporting the church over the last six years, and those staying on, for having agreed to continue with this important work.

Julie Sutton, after several years serving as PCC Secretary, has decided to step down and I want to extend my thanks to her as she has been particularly helpful to me during the past few months. I am pleased to announce that Lorraine Basford has agreed to take on this role and I look forward to working with her.”

12. Any Other Business

- Mary Cutler extended grateful thanks to Richard Edmonds for all he does in connection with producing various rotas.
- Rev'd Jayne Adams expressed her grateful thanks to George and Martin for all their work and in particular the last few months which have been most hectic. Without them underpinning everything the work of the church could not have carried on.
- Martin said George had thanked everyone but he would like to thank George for all that he has done and for keeping him 'on his toes'.
- Miriam Constable asked if the vicar's position would be offered as 'freehold' or as 'priest in charge'. It was confirmed it would be as 'priest in charge'.

The meeting finished with the Grace at 12:27pm.

Agreed by:

Date:

George Harrison:

Church Warden and Lay Chair of PCC