

Minutes of St. Andrew's Annual Parish Church Meeting 2021
Sunday 16th May in Church, following the morning service

Rev Janice Hill, Team Rector and Chairman, welcomed everyone.

40 members of St Andrew's were in attendance, having first attended the morning service.

Apologies - Due to Coronavirus many people who might have attended the meeting were not present.

The Agenda consisted of two meetings – the first for the election of Churchwardens, the second the Annual Church Meeting, for those on the Electoral Roll.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens (AMP)

Wardens' Report for 2020, by Keith Wilkinson, was printed and circulated rather than read out:

Once again I have consulted with my fellow warden, Mrs. Gill Grace and this is therefore our joint report.

We have continued to maintain some of the services provided by the Church family to the people of Maghull and to keep the church building in good working order.

As far as delivering a programme of services, it can only be described as stop/start. We have moved from a complete lockdown to a phased re-opening within the rules of Covid and our Risk Assessment. The way we work has changed, the introduction of the Sunday Service has created additional work for all staff as we try to keep members of the congregation safe. The introduction of the Track and Trace system at Parish Office is a requirement but an extra burden. St Andrew's acts as a booking hub for our team of four churches. We acknowledge the input by Sue, our Parish Secretary and thank her for her commitment.

We are blessed with a number of volunteers who work every week as Service Marshalls, ensuring social distancing is kept and face coverings are worn. The volunteers go beyond these duties ensuring that the church is kept Covid safe, especially as we still hold services for baptisms, weddings and funerals, and as church members, we owe to them our gratitude and thanks for their dedication.

Music and hymns have been introduced to our Sunday Services but the restriction of not being allowed to sing has frustrated us all. Thanks to Gareth, our organist who has played occasionally at funerals and is patiently waiting for the choir to be reinstated.

Those who are volunteers also have specialist 'occasional office' events.

Members of the PCC perform a pivotal role in decision making and guiding our direction. We thank them all and make special mention of the Secretary and Treasurer. With their support from the finance, fabric and social sub committees they keep the PCC informed.

As our building is a public building, normal checks have had to continue and, where we can, make improvements in line with our long term plan. We also rely on volunteers to weekly clean the church and hall, wind the clock, arrange flowers, maintain church grounds and manage the hall. We are also opening up the Ancient Chapel which again involves inspection, cleaning etc. as we hope to hold a very small service of Thanks, Prayer and Praise as soon as we can.

Small repairs and improvements are ongoing throughout our property and are carried out when needed. Without these people we could not continue.

Communication continues to play a major part in the delivery of our service. Our thanks go to Louise for managing the website and the clergy, readers and volunteers who contribute to our 'Church2You' on You Tube.

It has been a difficult time for all members of the congregation, many of whom have been loyal to the church for many years. Some have held, and continue to hold, positions in organisation. They continue to support Gill and I and their advice, support and experience is very much appreciated.

We are blessed that we do have a clergy team, including our readers, who are dedicated, approachable and comfortable to work with.

As our church family receive some protection from their vaccinations we can detect a more confident atmosphere and thoughts and plans can now turn towards growing our church.

Unfortunately we will be losing a member of the Team Clergy. Those remaining will need all the support we can give them. We acknowledge the effort and direction that Janice has given during her time with us and wish her a healthy, happy and peaceful retirement.

Gill Grace Keith Wilkinson Church Wardens

Election of Wardens

Two nominations had been received for the position of Church Warden –

Keith Wilkinson	Proposed: John Barnett	Seconded: Graham Gordon
Gillian Grace	Proposed: Graham Gordon	Seconded: Geoff Walker

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In the absence of any other nominations, Keith and Gill were duly re-elected as Church Wardens for St Andrew's.

Janice thanked Keith and Gill for continuing in this important role. Keith will not stand for re election as Church Warden at the next APCM in 2022, so Janice asked the meeting to start to pray now that the right person may be called to come forward for the role at that time.

Janice especially thanked the wardens and their team of marshalls for working so hard to ensure that church remained a safe and secure place during these times of pandemic.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the APCM held on October 15th 2020 had been available to view at the back of church and on the church website.

The Minutes were accepted as a true record by all present.

Proposed: Geoff Walker

Seconded: Bruce Hubbard

All in favour

Presentation of Electoral Roll

Report by Geoff Walker, Electoral Roll Officer:

Following the Revision of the Electoral Roll presented to the 2020 APCM on the 15th October 2020 there were 133 Electors. Since then, and including the 2021 Revision, the following changes were applied for the reasons stated:

Additions 6

Removal by request 0

Known Bereavement 1

Net Increase 5

Based on the known information available at the present time, I therefore commend to this Annual Parish Church Meeting the revised number of electors is 138.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to Geoff for the work he has done in maintaining and updating the Electoral Roll, especially given the short period of time that has elapsed since the delayed 2020 meeting last October, when it was last revised.

Presentation of Reports for 2020

Annual Church Report

The Report, which had been approved by the PCC, been on public display in Church and on the Church website, was accepted by the meeting and will now be submitted to the Charity Commission with the Accounts.

The Annual Report was accepted by those present.

Proposed: Tricia Hugo

Seconded: Helen Fawcett

All in favour

Final Accounts

The Final Accounts for 2020, which had been approved by the PCC, audited and been on public display in Church and on the Church website, were accepted by the meeting and will now be submitted to the Charity Commission.

The Accounts were accepted by those present.

Proposed: Tricia Hugo

Seconded: Helen Fawcett

All in favour

Janice thanked the Finance Committee for the extremely good job they are doing in difficult times. In a brief summary of St Andrew's financial situation, Janice told the meeting that church income has decreased significantly and we continue to spend more than we receive, a situation made worse by the Coronavirus pandemic, but we are blessed with the legacies we have received and, notably, by the previous hard work done by Geoff Walker in encouraging many church members to give by Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. This has meant that St Andrew's has fared 'not as badly as we might have done'. This message was reinforced by Tricia Hugo, Treasurer, who added her own thanks to the Finance Committee for their diligent, safe and secure hard work.

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Geoff told the meeting that the Parish Giving Scheme can be joined online, by phone or by post.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

A report by the Gift Aid and Planned Giving Secretary, Geoff Walker, had been available to view in Church and on the Church website.

Deanery Synod and Church Organisations

A booklet had been available to view in Church and on the Church website, giving Reports on: Online Services, Team Prayers, African Pastors Fellowship, Children's Society, Christian Aid, Church Mission Society, Ladies' Fellowship, Open Doors, Sefton North Deanery Synod, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1st & 2nd Maghull (St Andrew's) Rainbows, 8th Maghull (St Andrew's) Brownies, 1st Maghull (St Andrew's) Guide Unit.

Elections

PCC Representatives:

No nominations had been received for the nine PCC vacancies.

Janice reminded the meeting that these vacancies will remain open and could be filled at any time.

Appointment

Independent Examiner:

The meeting was in agreement that **Sefton CVS should continue to act as Independent Examiner for St Andrew's church.**

Proposed: Tricia Hugo

Seconded: Alison Crawford

All in favour

Rector's Report

The Rector's Report for 2020 was printed and circulated rather than read out:

2020 was a strange year... it began fairly normally and by March we were in Lockdown and the rest as they say is history. During Lockdown, as you know we were required to close our Churches and stop our services and then we could open with restrictions and then close ...but throughout this year people have worked tirelessly and I want to thank so many people for all they have done to keep our mission and ministry going.

To name but a few

Helen for checking the building during closure and cleaning....

Keith and Gill for their work, getting Church ready to open with the risk assessment and all the changes in Church to comply with COVID regulations

St Andrews for managing the Booking System on behalf of all of the Churches

The Ministry Team Simon, Dave, Pat, Claire, Dave, Martin and Gordon for their workmeeting weekly to look at ways we could offer alternative ways of worship, prayer and support.

Pat as Outreach pastoral worker for all she has done.

Community Craft and Chat team and St Peters Knitters who have knitted made various times which have brought comfort to people in our Parish and much further afield.

Those who have been making chains and networks of people to keep in touch.

I could go on and on ...if there is one thing I could say about the response of the Church of England in Maghull and Melling during this Global Pandemic iswe have tried

We have tried to follow our two bible passages which have been the focus of our purpose The Great Commission from Matthews Gospel

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and the Greatest Commandment

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Our verse for the year 2020 was from Isaiah 43:19 Watch for the new thing that I am going to do ..

Well that wasn't quite what I expected but we have done lots of new things ...things I could have never expected when I chose that verse.

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*When I arrived in 2017 we retained our Vision In God, One Team, St Andrew, St James, St Peters St Thomas One Vision Maghull and Melling a place of love, peace, faith, hope" and we began a journey taking our purpose from Jesus words **One Purpose** To fulfil the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission. This journey began with prayer in my first month , then a journey of reflection through PCCs and then a journey of discovery on our PCC away day which resulted in our direction of travel the 80 which has been the focus of all we have done over the past few years and this past year.*

I want to say a few words about the futuremy role on the journey with the Church of England in Maghull and Melling is coming to an end but the journey continues and your New Team Rector will join you on this journey.

COVID has and will continue to have an impact on our Church and we have and we will continue to see the implications of this ..this year and I think for a long time to come. I think the future will be very different due to COVID.

As you know I will be retiring this summer, Dave will be finishing at the end of October. We are unsure about the Outreach pastoral worker post - the contract ends at the end of October.

Gordon our Curate is with us for three years so that time will end in 2023.

Simon's post is Team Vicar for Children and Families and so his job role is fixed and his role will be critical in our recovery ...growing the Church with a younger age profile.

I am not sure people know the whole picture of what I do, I think people see bits of what I do but maybe not the whole. So I think I need to be clear about what I do ...I will work on producing an outline of this. At times I have struggled to keep on top of the volumeso I think we will need to look a rationalising some aspects of what I do and I had already started to try to do this.

I am hoping we will be able to recruit for my post but I am not sure if we will be able to recruit for Dave's Post or for the Outreach Pastoral Worker.

I feel I should also mention we are struggling to find lay people are active and able to contribute to the life of the Church plus we are struggling to fill PCC. As a result some people are taking on multiple roles to cover what we need to do.

There are lots of things we need to address post COVID and to be honest I don't have all the questions never mind the answer but I do know we need to act to survive.

I want to end on a more optimistic note and I can only think to finish with words from

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Revd Janice Hill Team Rector of Maghull and Melling May 2021

As it seems likely that restrictions may mean limited numbers in churches, Janice will not have one big final service to mark her retirement, but will have a 'Farewell Tour', with a service at each of the Team churches, finishing with her final service at St Andrew's on Sunday 11th July.

A decision by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee is expected on Monday 17th May 2021, on whether approval has been given to reappoint both a Team Rector and a Team Vicar following the retirement of Janice in July and Rev Dave Hamlett at the end of October.

Janice explained that her retirement is coming earlier than expected. The future has changed and now looks different. Janice asked the meeting to pray for our new Team Rector, as yet unknown, who will take the Team forward over the coming years.

Any Other Business

Geoff Walker, on behalf of the church congregation, thanked the clergy and readers for their work on our behalf.

Janice added her thanks to the Ministry Team who have been meeting weekly to maintain mission and ministry in Maghull and Melling.

Rev Janice Hill closed the APCM with the Grace at 10.40 am