

**ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH**  
**MEETING**  
**HELD ON SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2020**

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**Present:** The Vicar, the 2 Churchwardens and 48 parishioners

**Apologies** for absence were received from 4 parishioners

**Welcome**

The Vicar welcomed people to the meeting which was held on Zoom video-conferencing and which had been delayed by six months because of the coronavirus restrictions. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**Election of Churchwardens**

Steve Carpenter (proposed by Brian Thomson, seconded by Richard Griffiths) and Maurice Lisley (proposed by Brian Thomson, seconded by Richard Griffiths) had been nominated. There were no further nominations and both were unanimously elected to serve for the year 2020/21. The meeting thanked both Steve and Maurice for their hard work over the past difficult eighteen months.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**1. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meetings**

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April, 2019 (*Prop. Karen Pryse; Sec. Jim Hughes*) from which there were no matters arising.

**2. Electoral Roll Report**

Brian Thomson, the Electoral Roll Officer, advised that there was one addition to the Roll bringing the total to 108 members. The meeting noted that Brian Thomson was willing to continue in this capacity for the next year.

**3. Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December, 2019**

The Treasurer presented the financial statements, drawing attention in particular to the increase in donations, following the campaign to ask members to donate their winter fuel allowances. This had resulted in a better outcome than expected and made it possible to transfer £8,000 into reserves. In answer to a question, the Treasurer said that the Festivos monies in the charitable donations fund had been used to pay for the new signage at the church.

The meeting formally accepted the Report and the audited Accounts for the year, which had been approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by the Chairman. (*Prop. Tony Barton; Sec. Maurice Lisley*). Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer for her hard work in sustaining the health of the church's finances and to David Warman for his support.

**4. Budget for the year ending 31 December, 2020**

The Treasurer commented that the extraordinary events of the year meant the original budget was out of date. Consequently, she had presented to the meeting figures for the actual income and receipts for the first nine months. There had been a large increase in donations which helped to offset the drop in Hall rent receipts caused by the coronavirus restrictions. She was hopeful that a small surplus would be achieved by the year end.

The Treasurer commented that the donation button on the church's website had proved successful. A small fee was deducted by the company that managed the payments. In answer to a question, she added that the calculation of the amount to be allocated between the church's 10% charities would need to be decided. Donations were not normally included in the calculation but in the light of the extraordinary increase in 2020 this could be reconsidered. It was suggested that donors should be invited to say whether they wished all of their donations to go into church funds or 10% to go to the chosen charities as part of the church's 10% scheme.

It was pointed out that, in view of the growing incidence of coronavirus cases, the prospects for future Hall rentals were uncertain. However, the pre-school was likely to continue. The U3A had made a voluntary contribution although they had not, so far, been able to resume meetings. It was suggested that the PCC should consider asking other regular users of the Hall to do the same. The meeting thanked Tony Barton for his work in preparing the Hall for its reopening after lockdown and thanked Rupert and Anne-Georgina for their efforts in dealing with the hiring out of the Hall.

#### 5. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The meeting thanked David Beak for his work on the 2019 Accounts and unanimously approved his re-appointment for the ensuing year (*Prop. Michael Hart; Sec. Margaret Cox*)

#### 6. **Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church**

The meeting received a written report from the Churchwardens. Steve Carpenter updated the meeting on developments since the beginning of 2020. The new hall boiler had been installed along with a new water heater in the church kitchen. The meeting expressed thanks to Des Sedgwick for his detailed work in overseeing these installations. Thanks were also expressed to Mark Saunders for his work maintaining the grounds and to Guy Parks for stepping forward as the new Chairman of the FGPC.

#### 7. **Deanery Synod Report**

The meeting received a written report from our three lay representatives and expressed thanks to them, especially to Jane Brading who had served as Vice Chairman of the PCC and to Rupert Barnes who had served as Treasurer for the Synod.

#### 8. **Elections to the Deanery Synod**

Three nominations were received for the three vacancies. The nominees were elected to serve until 2023.

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Tony Barton	Helen McAlpine	Jenny Bartlett
Guy Parks	Brian Thomson	Phil Brading
Richard Doughty	Jane Brading	Phil Brading

#### 9. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

Four nominations were received for the four vacancies to serve for the next three years to 2023. The meeting duly elected them as follows: -

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Richard Griffiths	Karen Foster	Christine Guy
Jonathan Cox	Michael Hart	Brian Thomson
Thomas Lisle	Michael Hart	Karen Pryse
Helen McAlpine	Jenny Bartlett	Sue Barton

Two nominations were received for two vacancies to serve for the next year to 2021, and the meeting duly elected them, as follows: -

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Anne Thomas	Jane Brading	Margaret Cox
Lynn Williamson	James Hughes	Karen Pryse

The meeting thanked Elen Cook and Val Edwards who were standing down.

#### 10. **Election of Sidespersons**

Des Sedgwick, who organises the rota, thanked the current sidespeople and especially Stephanie Lake who was standing down after many years service. The meeting elected en bloc:-

Anne-Georgina Barnes,	Lilian Baron,	Roger Baron,	Brita Blackwell,
Phil Brading, Geoff Cox,	Margaret Cox,	Mim Doughty,	Richard Doughty,
Michael Lee,	Helen McAlpine,	Magdalena Pletsch,	Karen Pryse,
Alan Restarick,	Des Sedgwick,	Janet Staerck,	Gill Thomson,
Jeanette Thomson,	David Warman,	Pauline Watson and Lynn Williamson	

(*Prop. Des Sedgwick; Sec. Lynn Williamson*)

**11. Safeguarding issues**

The meeting received a report from the church safeguarding team, Gill Thomson, Catherine Farman and Steve Clifford. Gill Thomson emphasised that, although few meetings were happening on church premises at present, the safeguarding team remained very aware of the need to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. The team keeps all DBS clearances and training up to date. Clearances can now be done online. The meeting thanked Gill, Catherine and Steve for all their work in this important area.

**12. Vicar's Remarks**

Because of the covid restrictions and the need to use video-conferencing, this year's APCM had been deliberately kept short. The Vicar thanked everyone for their support during this difficult period. Compared to other churches our financial situation is not too bad in spite of the restrictions. He echoed the meeting's thanks to those involved in preparing the hall for reopening and for managing hall bookings. The Vicar asked members to pray for the life of the church and for the enormous needs in the wider community as he had seen for himself when visiting the Alternatives project in Newham, East London. The new circumstances presented opportunities as well as problems. For example there would be opportunities for new online activities associated with Remembrance next month and with Christmas. Online services need not be passive and they presented an opportunity to reach out to those not normally attending church. The Vicar commented that it was important to support those not connected through the internet.

**13. Any Other Business**

Members thanked the Vicar for the quality of the online services, which were much appreciated, to the choir for adding recordings of hymns to the latest service and to Jane Brading for her contributions with essential administration.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the grace.