

The Parish Church of St. Oswald, Croxley Green

10 April 2022

Dear Church Member,

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022.

I am pleased to send with this letter a portfolio of documents in preparation for the above meetings which will take place on **SUNDAY 24 APRIL** at 11.30 am.

We issue the documents before the meetings to give you an opportunity to think about the matters to be discussed, and I hope you will read and digest the contents. This year, now that the covid restrictions have been relaxed, we plan to meet in person in the church.

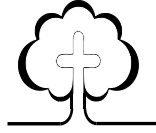
An important part of the meeting is the election of Churchwardens and members of the P.C.C. Please consider carefully whom you feel should represent the congregation in this way. Details of current members are given on document 7 attached. If your name is on the Electoral Roll and you would like to stand, or nominate someone else, please telephone the Vicar (01923 332244) or the Secretary, Brian Thomson (01923 226850) for a nomination form.

It is important that we hear from you and I very much hope that you will participate if you can.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Riley-Braleay (Revd)
Vicar

See below for AGENDA



St. Oswald's Church Croxley Green
Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held in the Church on Sunday 24 April 2022 at 11.30

AGENDA

Opening Prayers led by the Vicar
Apologies for absence
Opening remarks

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

To elect Churchwardens for the year 2022/2023

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. To approve the minutes of the APCM held on 18 April, 2021
2. To receive a report from Brian Thomson on the Electoral Roll
3. To receive and approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December, 2021
4. To note the budget for the year ending 31 December, 2022
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the year
6. To receive a Report from the Churchwardens on the Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments of the Church.
7. To receive a Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
8. To elect Members to the P.C.C.
9. To receive a report on Safeguarding issues
10. Vicar's remarks
11. Mission Action Plan goals
 - Create a welcoming culture along with a range of activities and groups to welcome people into the church community.
 - Enhance our Spotlight Service & Develop New Sunday Evening Services.
 - Maintain a varied calendar of youth activities to retain existing and recruit new young people to the church community.
 - Run environmentally themed events involving the community.
12. Any Other Business
13. Closing Prayers

**ST OSWALD'S PARISH CHURCH, CROXLEY GREEN
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 18TH APRIL 2021**

Present: The Vicar, the 2 Churchwardens and 40 parishioners

Apologies for absence were received from 7 parishioners

Welcome

The Vicar welcomed people to the meeting which was held on Zoom video-conferencing and opened the meeting with prayer.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens

Steve Carpenter (proposed by Guy Parks , seconded by Philippa Parks) and Maurice Lisley (proposed by Tom Lisley, seconded by Brian Thomson) had been nominated. There were no further nominations and both were unanimously elected to serve for the year 2021/22. The meeting thanked both Steve and Maurice for their work since the last annual meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meetings

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2020 (*Prop. Gill Thomson; Sec. Clare Hook*) from which there were no matters arising.

2. Electoral Roll Report

Brian Thomson, the Electoral Roll Officer, advised that there was no change to the Roll which remained at 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, 2020

The Treasurer presented the financial statements, drawing attention in particular to the generous donations, which offset the drastic fall in revenue from use of the hall because of covid restrictions. This had resulted in a better outcome than expected and made it possible to transfer £4,000 into reserves.

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. Jim Hughes; Sec. Tony Barton*). 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 prospects for the year ahead were very uncertain because of the ongoing pandemic and the associated restrictions on church activities and, particularly, the use of the hall. Consequently, setting a budget was even harder than usual. However, there was no doubt that generous donations would continue to be required to cover costs. The meeting noted the budget.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting thanked David Beak for his work on the 2020 Accounts and unanimously approved his re-appointment for the ensuing year (*Prop. Brian Thomson; Sec. Lynn Williamson*)

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

The meeting received a written report from the Churchwardens on developments during 2020. Steve Carpenter pointed out that the quinquennial inspection of the premises was due to take place in 2021. The meeting expressed thanks to Des Sedgwick for his work in overseeing the installation of the new hall boiler. Thanks were also expressed to Mark Saunders for his work maintaining the grounds, to Alan Restarick and those who help on the mowing rota, to Guy Parks in his capacity as Chairman of the FGPC and to the Churchwardens.

7. Deanery Synod Report

The meeting received a written report from our three lay representatives and welcomed the fact that Guy Parks had been elected as Secretary and Tony Barton as Treasurer. The focus of recent meetings had been on the Eco Church programme, of which St Oswalds is a part, and on vocations.

8. Elections to the Parochial Church Council

There were four vacancies for the next three years to 2024. The meeting thanked the four members of the PCC who had completed their terms: Jenny Bartlett, Karen Pryse, Anne Thomas and Lynn Williamson. Karen, Anne and Lynn were willing to continue and were duly nominated and elected as follows:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Karen Pryse	Clare Hook	Lynn Williamson
Anne Thomas	Karen Muskett	Christine Guy
Lynn Williamson	Brian Thomson	Gill Thomson

The Vicar encouraged members of the congregation to consider standing for the vacant position.

9. Safeguarding issues

The meeting received a report from Gill Thomson. She welcomed Alan Restarick who had joined the safeguarding team together with the existing members, Catherine Farman, Steve Clifford and herself. She emphasised that it was important for church members to be prepared for the resumption of face-to-face meetings by becoming familiar with the latest guidance and permission/consent form which had been updated by the team and approved by the PCC. In the meantime it is important to update oneself with the guidance for online activities. Anyone who has contact with the public should complete the basic safeguarding training which is available online. The team will help anyone to complete the training if they are unable to use the online route. The team will continue to ensure that everyone who has contact with young people and vulnerable adults has up-to-date DBS clearance. The meeting thanked Gill, Catherine, Steve and Alan for all their work in this important area.

10. Vicar's Remarks

Because of the covid restrictions and the need to use video-conferencing, this year's annual meeting had been deliberately kept short. The Vicar thanked everyone for their support during this difficult period. He commented that it was time for St Oswald's to review our Mission Action Plan and this would be a priority for the new PCC. He also encouraged members to take part in the Diocesan conference on 'Leading your church into growth' being held in Hoddesdon from 15 to 17 October.

11. Any Other Business

Members thanked the Vicar for the quality of the online services, which were much appreciated, and Jane Brading for her contributions with essential administration.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the grace.

B. Thomson PCC Secretary
26 April 2021

ST OSWALD'S CROXLEY GREEN - BUDGET 2022					
		2021 actual		2,022	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		£	£	£	
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>					
	Planned Giving	58,063		52,400	
	Collections & other giving	10		0	
	Income Tax Recovered	14,417	72,490	12,500	64,900
<u>Other voluntary Income</u>					
	Donations		9,465		7,500
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>					
	Fees	2,152		1,500	
	Café O	406		2,000	
	Miscellaneous	1,073		1,150	
	fund raising in lieu of project	1,850	5,481	2,500	7,150
<u>Receipts from Investments</u>					
	Bank & CBF Deposit account interest		13		15
TOTAL RECEIPTS			87,449		79,565
<u>PAYMENTS</u>					
<u>Church Activities</u>	Diocesan Parish Share (Quot	67,505		67,711	
	Missionary & charitable giving	7,262		7,249	
	Clergy expenses	1,169		1,250	
	Fees & Wages	987		950	
	Heating, Lighting, Insurance	2,147		4,100	
	Outreach	1,526		1,500	
	Laundry & cleaning	1,094		1,200	
	Minor repairs	290		500	
	Education, Books and Music	228		250	
	Other	1,061		845	
	Communications	374	83,643	400	85,955
	Admin., stationery, printing		715		760
TOTAL PAYMENTS			-84,358		-86,715
(SHORTFALL)/EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS			3,091		-7,150
<u>CHURCH HALL</u>					
<u>Receipts</u>	Lettings	22,327	22,327	25,600	25,600
<u>Payments</u>	Wages & Cleaning materials	5,372		5,700	
	Heating, lighting, insurance &	2,603		5,800	
	Repairs & maintenance	2,473		2,000	
	Rates	1,323	-11,771	1,500	-15,000
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS			10,556		10,600
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			13,647		3,450

ST OSWALD'S CROXLEY GREEN

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND GOODS OF THE CHURCH

MARCH 2022

St Oswald's has had another period of lockdown and disruption this year. Since September, our regular, organised worship and other activities have thankfully resumed, with the necessary protective measures in place which are gradually being lifted as we return to a degree of normality.

We have completed the work to re-order the church interior layout and have been steadily disposing of the pews, the short ones all going to members of the congregation.

The hall floor was treated in early August, with thanks once again to Guy Parks for arranging, but, due to poor preparation by the new contractor, it was not performed satisfactorily. We are now engaged in the process of resolving this.

We re-decorated the exterior of the church prior to our quinquennial survey in early September, with thanks for the generosity of donations from church members towards this. It also resulted in repair work to the external ledge of the clerestory window, which had deteriorated badly. The survey was positive overall and highlighted a couple of issues, most notably the need for some re-pointing to the brickwork at the back of the church. Thanks to Guy Parks for organising this.

In December, we had our fire extinguishers serviced and some were replaced due to their age, which was overdue due to the lockdowns, as a prelude to a formal fire inspection on 20th, which raised no serious concerns.

We have installed an automated thermostat system with remote control for the church and hall heating to minimise our heating bills as energy prices rise, with thanks to Des Sedgwick. We also procured a local authority grant to replace the hall lighting with LED equivalents, which generally use less electrical power, with thanks to Guy Parks and Tony Barton. The Jubilee room fire escape door has deteriorated and will be replaced shortly and the fire door in the Aidan room will also receive some attention. A memorial bird bath has been installed next to the community herb garden, thanks to Mark Saunders.

Our cleaner continues to deal with all the essential cleaning tasks of both the church and hall to a good standard. We thank Mark Saunders for his ongoing work and vigilance over our grounds, which consequently do us credit. We resumed clean-up mornings in October and March to undertake much needed maintenance to the church and grounds, with thanks to all those who helped. All ages and abilities are welcome with jobs suitable for everyone, with teas and coffees and biscuits, so please come along if you can. Thanks also to all those on the summer grass cutting rota who continue to help keep the church surroundings smart and tidy.

Steve Carpenter and Maurice Lisley

24th March, 2022

ST OSWALD'S CROXLEY GREEN

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021-22

Who and what makes up the deanery and synod?

Rickmansworth Deanery: covers nine parishes comprising 11 churches; Bovington; Chipperfield; Christ Church, Chorleywood; St Andrew's, Chorleywood; All Saints, Croxley Green; St Oswald's, Croxley Green; Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde; Rickmansworth; Sarratt

St Oswald's members: Rev Robert Riley-Brayley (clergy); Tony Barton (synod treasurer); Guy Park (synod secretary), Richard Doughty (lay member)

Rural dean: Rev Simon Cutmore

Lay chair: John Rhodes

What does the deanery synod do?

Routine duties include:

- * Keeping up to date with general developments across the deanery including upcoming vacancies and appointments of new clergy
- * Arranging deanery-wide events including the deanery's Ascension Day service and deanery social events (again no service, quiz or other events this year)
- * Sharing information on developments in parishes across the deanery and progress on the deanery mission action plan. Although progress has been slow in 2021, the deanery synod has remained a forum for parishes to hear about how church life has continued during the pandemic, including which churches have been streaming services. It has noted any significant church activities that have met covid regulations, any progress made by parishes with their mission action plans, and diocesan and national events, including a General Synod report (see below).

Sobering messages from General Synod

At last November's General Synod, the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell spoke of the relevance of Lent as a time when we are "called to reset the compass of our discipleship . . . We need to look like the communities we serve." He also hosted an interview with Bradford City Council's CEO, Kersten England, who highlighted UK covid death rates as among the world's worst despite the NHS and our wealthy status. This was, she said, a shocking and sobering moment when we need to stop and think about the disproportionate impact of the pandemic along the fracture lines of society, including deprivation, ethnicity and employment security.

Deanery speakers tell it straight

Zoom meetings continued this year. First, Rachael Brockley from the Children's Society shocked us all in **July** with some horrendous statistics about children's mental health. In SW Herts, for instance, five children in each class of 30 have mental health issues while 19% of children live in poverty. Rachael's question was what can we do to support such children? Her answers ranged far and wide, including focused efforts on listening to and mentoring children, setting up a prayer

ministry for children, and focusing on fun ways to encourage them to join our church communities. Rachael challenged us to thrash out and then cement into our mission action plans a whole church approach to children's mental health. She said the Children's Society has a really useful range of guides on its website on subjects including friendship and stressful situations, plus seven sessions on 'Exploring mental health'. She said the society wants to offer churches as much help as possible to make children's mental health a key concern.

In **November**, 'Practical evangelism: doing the stuff and creating a culture of sharing faith' was the theme of Rev Daniel Drew's address. As team leader of the diocesan 'Reaching New People' initiative, Daniel had asked us to think before his talk about sharing our own story and moment when we experienced the divine. Daniel then introduced James, a member of Daniel's old church, The Hub, for four months, who told his personal story and how he now really felt loved by Jesus and part of the community. Then, focusing on Dan's definition of evangelism, 'God chose to live among us', some of us shared and compared our own stories of coming to faith in online break-out rooms. We were encouraged to tell our stories: as Daniel said, you can't argue with a true story!

But he did not want us to stop there: "Use public spaces and hold events like a death cafe," he urged. We should try to focus on regular touch points with other people such as Christmas and Easter, and establish a culture of evangelism. We should ask God to help us find and talk to others outside the church about what Jesus has done for us - and the more we did it, the easier it would get. Daniel urged us all to be ready, pray intentionally, don't fill our week with 'church stuff' and remember that God does the evangelism, not us.

Our third gathering this **February** was the first face-to-face (and online) meeting at Christ Church, Chorleywood, since the start of covid. The speaker was David White, who talked about his new job as diocesan secretary that he'd taken up last October and his previous wide past experience including his work with young people and in hospice care. He joined the diocese after four years as chief operating officer of the Anglican Communion Office that serves and supports the Communion in more than 165 countries.

Richard Doughty

15 March 2022

ELECTIONS 2022

At the meetings this year there will be two elections (for Churchwardens and PCC members) The elections are an important part of the proceedings and it is hoped that you will consider carefully whom you wish to represent the congregation. If you would like to stand, or nominate someone else please telephone the Vicar (01923 332244) or the secretary, Brian Thomson (01923 226850) for nomination forms before the meeting. Approaches to potential candidates should be made before the meeting so that they have sufficient time to consider whether they wish to make a commitment of this nature. All those coming to the end of their term this year are eligible for re-election, should they wish to stand again.

1. CHURCHWARDENS

At the Meeting of Parishioners each year we must appoint two Churchwardens to serve for twelve months, although (if willing to stand for re-election and nominated in writing before the start of the meeting) they are eligible for re-election in subsequent years up to a maximum of six consecutive years. After six years' service, two years must pass before they become eligible to serve again; this restriction may however be waived if the Annual Meeting so decides.

The essence of the appointment of Churchwardens is that it shall be by joint consent of the Vicar and the Parishioners. If there are only two nominations, then both are thereby elected; if there are more than two nominations an election is held. Under certain exceptional circumstances it is permissible for the Vicar to appoint one and for the Parishioners to elect the other from the remaining nominees.

The current Wardens are Steve Carpenter & Maurice Lisley. Steve Carpenter retires at this meeting.

Who can vote? a) Any lay person who is on the Electoral Roll, or
b) Any residents in the Parish whose names are entered on the roll of local government electors.

Who can stand? Any person who is entitled to vote (see above), an actual communicant member of the Church of England and is 21 years old or over.

2. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The present Church Council consists of:

The Vicar : Rev'd Robert Riley-Braley (Chair)

Churchwardens : Steve Carpenter and Maurice Lisley

Deanery Synod members
(until 2023) : Tony Barton, Guy Parks and Richard Doughty

Elected P.C.C. members:

Until 2022 : Debbie Clifford, Cherith Kingsley-Smith, Lynda Marshall,
Brian Thomson

Until 2023 : Richard Griffiths, Jonathan Cox, Thomas Lisley, Helen
McAlpine

Until 2024 : Anne Thomas, Karen Pryse, Lynn Williamson

St Oswald's has twelve spaces on the PCC. Elected PCC members serve for three years, but one-third of the twelve retire each year with two thirds continuing so as to provide continuity. There are five vacancies for the three years 2022-2025. If nominations do not exceed the number of vacancies, all are declared elected.

Of the retiring PCC members Brian Thomson is willing to stand again. If there are more nominations than vacancies, an election is held (in which only members of the revised Electoral Roll may vote) and those with the highest votes are elected.

If an election is needed, each voter is entitled to the same number of votes as there are vacancies, and only one vote may be given to any one candidate.

Who can vote? Any lay person whose name is on the Electoral Roll

Who can stand? Any lay person
a) whose name is on the Electoral Roll and (unless aged under 18 years at the date of election) has been on the Electoral Roll for at least the preceding six months, and
b) who is an actual communicant member of the Anglican Church, and
c) who is aged 16 years old or over.

30 March 2022