

**Annual Church Meeting of All Saints Stranton
4th October 2020**

There were 18 people in attendance at the meeting in church. Four people attended via Zoom. Apologies were received from six people.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners, 2020

1. **Prayers** Rev'd Dr Norman Shave opened the meeting with prayer.

2. **Election of Church Wardens**

Angela Craig and Peter Anderson have both been nominated and there being no other nominations, Angela and Peter were duly elected as churchwardens. The Chair thanked Peter and Angela for their help in the last year. Thanks also to Rohan Wanduragala and David House for their support.

This concluded the meeting of Parishioners which was declared closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Received from Lynda Parvin, Pam Stockton, Heather Jennett, Diana and Rohan Wanduragala and Pamela Harkness.

2. **Minutes of APCM 7th April 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2019 which had been viewed and commended by PCC were accepted as a true record.

No matters arising, no questions asked.

Amidst everything Lets keep our eyes fixed on God, those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength.

3. **Vicar's Report**

It is worth noting that 2019 included the re-organisation of the parish. We are now part of the Central Hartlepool Group. Also Andrew Craig who has been part of this parish for many years, latterly as an ordained non-stipendiary supporting minister, retired in the middle of 2019. At that point I took full responsibility for St Luke's as well. That had implications for us including the re-organisation of service times. Thank you to Andrew, Michelle and Clive for their continuing work amongst us.

Christmas was a particular busy time for us as Mother Gemma was unavailable for several weeks. The joint Carol Service was very encouraging, thank you to all involved.

There have been a number of changes and our numbers have reduced a little. Kat and Josh re-located to Germany, Patricia Vaughan stepped down from her various roles and is now worshipping at St Hilda's, another significant event was the death of Margaret Lumley.

We have experienced a lot of ups and downs but I'm really drawn to the verse *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

4. **Electoral Roll Revision**

The electoral roll which was revised in March 2020 is down from 110 to 104. Any change will be reflected in 2021.

Ken is happy to continue with Electoral Roll revision.

Thank you Ken for keeping the electoral role up to date.

5. Treasurer's Report

The full accounts and 2019 Report have been circulated by e-mail and published on the web-site. Accounts have been approved by PCC and will be published on Charity Commissioners web-site. I'm pleased to report church returned a surplus of £4,760 but St Matthew's CC contributed all of that surplus. I expected the church fund to break-even but there was some unexpected building repairs and the re-earthing of the lightning rod.

Cash reserves for the hall at the end of 2019 stood at just over £25,000 and the church cash reserves stood at £13,500. By long standing agreement, the hall is managed at arm's length and surplus' generated by the hall have been used to enhance the building. Main highlight last year was the provision of new kitchen, storeroom and accessible toilet which was supported by grants from Garfield Weston Foundation and Impetus Environmental Trust which has enabled further growth for community engagement. I recognise Barbara Butcher for her singular and massive contribution to fundraising therefore ensuring the financial viability of the hall for many years. A faculty was obtained to cover the installation of accessible toilet, hospitality kitchen and handrails in church. This work was deferred to the current year and has just been completed subject to snagging which will take place over the next few weeks.

As Norman reflected deaths, retirements and the moving away of a number of our congregation has added pressure on our financial reserves but due to the committed regular and in many cases sacrificial giving through our loyalty scheme and the PGS we met our financial targets and have a solid base of committed financial support. I thank you on behalf of this church for your loyalty, your commitment and the sacrificial support you give.

We met our committed expenditure of £30,000 Diocesan Share, we also employ staff with a budget of £35,000. Some additional costs were incurred - stonework and accessibility project architects fees. Our overseas mission costs were maintained but our mission costs with the parish fell slightly. We were left a very substantial amount of money by a long standing member of the congregation and one of the task of PCC in March was to consider how to use it in a way that would be fitting and honouring in her memory. The legacy is unreserved but given some of our financial pressures this year we will have to draw on it.

This report was written in May of this year but nothing substantial has changed since then. 2020 is perhaps the most uncertain financial year that I've come across in a report to PCC I estimated a shortfall in the region of £6,000/£7,000 but due to continued lockdown in Hartlepool it may slightly more. Because so many of our members give by standing order or through PGS I think we are still well funded and we have had some substantial gifts made by individuals.

Since lockdown we have had one funeral and most funerals have been at the crematorium so our fees income has been reduced, slightly offset by reduction in heating and lighting costs.

On behalf of the PCC and thanks to God for faithful spirit shown by members of the congregation I do want to acknowledge the individuals working largely behind the scene but nevertheless making an essential contribution of time and skills to the financial resourcing of the parish. I thank Maureen as assistant treasurer and PCC secretary, thank Ken and Sylvia as the leads for the cash team and management of the Diocesan and local fees payments, thank Barbara Butcher as honorary treasurer of St Matthew's CC, as it is now her intention to step down at the end of this year we give thanks to God for her service in this role. Also thank Trish, parish administrator, the counters of cash, vergers and sidespersons.

Also thank Clive Rathbone who has diligently and freely provided his services and expertise in reviewing the accounts.

Norman - Thank you to David for continuing to use his expertise in completing and overseeing the church accounts.

Alongside Barbara I would like to commend the work of Carol Laud in terms of keeping St Matthew's CC safe. Carol has done an amazing amount of work in terms of just ensuring the hall could re-open recently.

6. Appoint an Independent Examiner or Auditor

Clive Rathbone is happy to continue as Independent Examiner.
A thank you letter will be sent to Clive Rathbone.

7. Churchwarden's Report (Buildings and Fabric)

Written report included in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.
We encourage you to look around church at the handrails, accessible toilet and hospitality kitchen.
Not quite finished yet, nearly there.
Thank you, particularly church wardens for making this happen.

8. Burbank Community Church, Youth, Children and Families

A written report included in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council is accepted.
Last year I was ordained as a priest. Since then I've started officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals.
Last week I did a baptism service with the children at Ward Jackson C.E. Primary School. They chose the parents and godparents with everyone taking part. It has been an enjoyable year. Thank you to everyone for the support in everything that has been done.
No questions were asked. Thank you Clive.

9. Election of Members to the PCC (4 vacancies)

Four vacancies for election until 2023 (3 years). Maureen Anderson, Diane Greenwood and Cheryl Mills have been nominated. No-one else wishes to stand. There is a fourth vacancy which will remain as a vacancy. Under strict rules nominees need to be on the electoral roll for six months before being elected.
Maureen, Diane and Cheryl were duly elected.
The meeting was in favour of this. Congratulations to everyone.
One person stood down from PCC, Heather Jennett. Thank you to Heather Jennett and Pam Harkness, Heather as part of PCC for last three years and Pam has decided not to continue as Deanery Synod representative. So thank you Pam for your work.

10. Election of Members to the Deanery Synod (3 vacancies)

Three vacancies for election until 2023 (3 years). Andrew Rogers and Sylvia Shepherd have been nomination. No-one else wishes to stand. There is a third vacancy which will remain as a vacancy. Under strict rules nominees need to be on the electoral roll for six months before being elected.
Andrew Rogers and Sylvia Shepherd were duly elected.
The meeting was in favour of this. Congratulations to everyone.

11. Appointment of Sides Persons

Appointed sidespersons - Maureen Anderson, David Craig, Kate and James Lawson, Bill and Diane Greenwood, Dana Moradi, Rohan and Diana Wanduragala, Ian Walker, Pat Pritt and David House.
If anyone would like to be nominated as a sidesperson you would be very welcome. Ken and Sylvia would like to continue as sidespersons.
The meeting is happy to accept these names.
Thank you to each and every person who welcomes at the door and all the other jobs you do.
These days the sidespersons also have additional duties in terms of making sure church is wiped down when people have so thank you very much.

12. Other Reports

Please note that in the 2019 Report there is a report on Safeguarding, Health and Safety, St Matthew's CC and a number of others including Boys Brigade, Mother's Union etc.
Thank you to everyone who has compiled a report.
Please read the report, it will give you an impression of all that goes on in church.
No questions were asked, no points were raised.

The next annual meeting will be before the end of April 2021.

The meeting closed with the Grace.