

**ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

**21 October 2020 at 1830
St Paul's Parish Hall**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the APM held on 7 April 2019

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

4. Electoral Roll
5. Presentation of the Accounts
6. Report on the Fabric of the Church
7. Report on the dealings of the Deanery Synod
8. Warden's Report
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Discussion of matters of general interest
11. Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives
12. Election of the Church Council
13. Election of Sidespeople
14. Appointment of Independent Examiner

John Gedge
PCC Secretary

ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
7 April 2019
St Paul's Church at 10:45

Present: 42 parishioners

1. No apologies were received.
2. Minutes from the meetings held on 9 April 2018 were approved as a correct record.

THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

3. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations had been received for the two vacancies, so Phillip Simpson and Jayne Weatherill were appointed unanimously. John Gedge thanked them for the additional duties they have been undertaking during the interregnum. Linda Currin has agreed to be the assistant churchwarden for the Hala Centre.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

4. Electoral Roll

John Gedge reported that we have had to prepare a new Electoral Roll this year under the 6 year rule. The new Electoral Roll stands at 137 [less than half last year's figure]. A reminder will be placed in the parish magazine.

5. Presentation of the Accounts

Brian Threlfall presented the annual accounts which had been presented to the PCC, independently examined, and found to be correct. The increase is due to donations to the roof fund. The Parish Hall is producing a net income which is supporting the parish accounts. Our payments to the Diocese do not change even when the Diocese is not paying a Vicar. The interregnum has increased some areas of expenditure because the parish has to meet the cost of heating the empty vicarage [normally the Vicar pays to heat the vicarage] and we have to pay visiting clergy to take services such as funerals which would be performed at no additional cost by our own Vicar. Jayne Weatherill thanked Brian for his work as Treasurer.

6. Report on the Fabric of the Church

Phillip Simpson reported that the Terrier and Church Log / Inventory are up to date [both were available for inspection at the meeting]. New LED lighting has been installed in church. Bill and Jean Harrison were thanked for work they had done on the church. A new boiler has been installed at Hala. Jayne Weatherill obtained a grant which is funding the work currently underway on the Parish Hall roof. We are looking at the best way to replace the Parish Hall's boiler and at the possibility of replacing the radiators at Hala.

7. Report on the dealings of the Deanery Synod

Phillip Simpson reported that the synod had discussed homelessness, parish nurses, Vision 2026, homelessness, and how to resource the church in the future if numbers continue to decline. If anyone wants to raise an issue at synod, they should contact one of our representatives who are Margaret Ives, Grace Illidge, Arton Medd and Phillip Simpson.

8. Wardens' Report [in place of the Vicar's Report]

Jayne Weatherill reported that the farewell event for the Gisbournes, and the trip to Ripon Cathedral for Rev Michael's installation had been well attended. The interregnum started with a frustrating delay in getting the vacancy advertised, however this week the Diocese notified us that Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner will be instituted on 3 September at 7.30pm by the Bishop of Blackburn. Jayne thanked the clergy [retired and visiting], Readers, and occasional worship leaders whose help had allowed us to keep our normal pattern of worship going during the interregnum and will continue to do so until September. Chris Walker has maintained our weekly link with Scotforth School. The change from running Junior Church activities in the Parish Hall, to having activities for the children in church during the 0945 service, has gone well and means the parish family now worships together. Our average Sunday attendance [all ages] is 140. The house groups continue to meet, and we still hold "Care and Share" lunches. We have collection boxes for the Olive Branch. The parish participated in the house to house collections for Christian Aid and the Children's Society. The Youth Group supported the night shelter at Christ Church in addition to the parish's support for the Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service. The open air service was a public act of witness. We continue to hold joint services as members of both South Lancaster Churches Together and Churches Together in Lancaster. A small fall of ceiling plaster meant we had to hold our services in the Parish Hall for two weeks. A visual check of the ceiling is performed each week before our services and we have stopped taking regular bookings for the Parish Hall on Sundays in case we need to use it ourselves. Although looking after the buildings takes up a lot of time, the church really is its people and we expect to push forward with Vision 2026 following the arrival of our new Vicar in September.

9. Safeguarding / Health and Safety / Data Protection

Jayne Weatherill reported that the PCC has adopted the national model policies which we received via the Diocese of Blackburn. Our Safeguarding audit is up to date. All volunteers leading activities have the correct clearances. However new requirements have been introduced meaning we will have to issue ID badges to all volunteers, follow the new "safer recruitment" process, and ensure all volunteers have a higher level of safeguarding training. One element of the training can be done on-line [those without internet access can arrange to use the computer in the Parish Office], Jayne can deliver another element and the diocese will arrange local courses to deliver the rest of the training. Jayne attended a meeting at which concerns were expressed that the new requirements might deter people from volunteering, but the diocese made it clear that there is no choice about this and suggested that safeguarding duties should be undertaken by a part time paid official. The parish safeguarding officer must have a dedicated, and published, mobile contact number provided by the parish. All parish activities must have a documented risk assessment [this ranges from sweeping the path to clearing the gutters]. Group leaders should have additional training. We should have first aiders for all church groups / events which the H&S assess as required and what level of first aid training. There is a cost implication to this. Our records comply with the rules set by the new General Data Protection Regulations. Jayne noted that "health and safety" was part of her previous job so at the moment she is qualified to complete fire risk assessments – if we had to pay someone to visit us to complete these, it would cost about £1000 a year (this is just for the Parish Hall because it is a public building). Jayne noted that she has been our Safeguarding Officer for 15 years and wishes to relinquish this role and that of Health and Safety and Data Protection officer, so she will do these for one more year during which she is willing to train her successors – anyone willing to take on one of these roles should contact her.

10. Discussion of matters of general interest

Nothing was raised.

11. Election of the Church Council

There were only two nominations for the six vacancies on PCC. Sue Croft was reelected and Simon Hilton was elected.

12. Election of Sides people

Those on the lists completed at the Hala Centre and St Paul's were appointed for the next year.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mervyn Bonnett was reappointed as independent examiner. Jayne Weatherill thanked Mervyn for his work as independent examiner.

The meeting ended at 11:25.