

# The Parish of St Laurence, Northfield

St Laurence Church is a Registered Charity 1132975

## Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings

7pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 in church and by zoom (use Sunday service link)

### Agenda

#### The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to include Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual meetings held on Sunday 18th October 2020.
3. Consideration of the new Electoral Roll
4. Appointment of Scrutineers
5. Election of Churchwardens. *Nominations of Roy Pouncett and Sandra Reynolds have been received*
6. Elections of Members to the Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod (2 vacancies / 2 year term)
7. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (4 vacancies /3 year term) *Nominations of Stuart Andrew and Rowena Nicholls have been received*
8. Annual Report of the proceedings of the Council
9. Annual report of the financial affairs of the Parish
  - a) Examined accounts of the council for year ending 31 December 2020
  - b) Examined statement of the funds and Property of the Council
  - c) Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2021
10. Presentation of the Terrier and report of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
11. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Annual reports for Parish Organisations (see below re how to access full reports )
13. Rector's statement to the meeting
14. Any other business

The full set of 2020 Annual Reports are on the church web-site under 'Contact/PC.'

Several sets are also available in church to take away, read and then return please.

The reports can also be ordered from the Parish Office: e-mail [stlaurence@btconnect.com](mailto:stlaurence@btconnect.com) 0121 475 1518

Below are papers needed for the actual meeting

1. Summary of Minutes of Annual Meetings 2020
2. Church wardens' report
3. Update on the goals set by the PCC for 2020/21
4. Report on finances for the year 1.1.2020 - 31.12.2020

#### 1. **Summary of Minutes of Annual Meetings held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

28 people were present in church, 34 on zoom and no apologies were received

Minutes of the 2019 meetings were accepted

**Consideration of the Electoral Roll** (2019 was the year when a new roll was compiled.)

Ruth Clarke (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that last year there were 119 names on the electoral roll but now increased to 126.

**Elections of Church Wardens (at Vestry Meeting):** Roy Pouncett and Sandra Reynolds were elected.

**Election of members to the Deanery Synod.** There were 4 Vacancies for a 3 year terms. Janice Wones and Robert Mayne were elected.

**Election of members to the Parochial Church Council.** There were 6 Vacancies. Jeffrey Carr and Sarah Vernon were elected

A very full booklet of **Annual Reports** from the Church Wardens, PCC and parish activities was presented.

### **Annual Report of the financial affairs of the Parish for 2019.**

In 2019 we had a surplus of c£13K due to being economic with utilities and on maintenance. We also under paid common fund (with agreement from diocese) as the assessment method had changed and we were facing a very high increase. We plan to 'close the gap' over the next few years.

The overall position looked very good at the end of 2019 but by the time of the meeting the effect of Covid-19 was taking its toll.

**Appointment of Independent Examiners 2020** Polkadot & Ellis Accountants were re-appointed

### **Terrier and Report of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

Roy has made this available for people to look at either at social distance or with gloves. There have been no changes.

**Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod** We have been working towards a larger Deanery which has now happened and is Moseley, Kings Norton and Shirley Deanery. The new Area Dean is in the process of being appointed.

### **Annual reports of Proceedings of the PCC and Parish Organisations**

The full set of reports was available on the church web-site and by request prior to the meeting. Circulated to all ER prior to the meeting was the Church Wardens' Report in which Roy Pouncett and Debbie Keeves highlighted the success of Rise and Shine and other connections with the local community. They also thanked those who help with the running of services, pastoral activities, the maintenance of our buildings and the churchyard. Debbie is stepping down this year after six years of being Church Warden, she thanked everyone for their support over this time.

### **Goals for the end of 2019:**

- a) Continuing with the Porch: This has been delayed by Covid-19 but we are hoping to move forward with it soon.
- b) To register as an Eco church and achieve bronze accreditation: completed April 2020
- c) Complete the 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood' process and increase community use of the church: we completed the former in September 2019 and we are now beginning to review parishes and boundaries and the KYCKYN process has been helpful with this.

### **Rector's statement to the meeting**

Canon Janet spoke about how some of the things we set in place last year have served us well in 2020. The renewal of the electoral roll gave an opportunity to gather additional information (GDPR compliant) so we have been able to send the packs to everyone and share information appropriately. The introduction of the lookout groups has also been a great help with keeping in touch with people. This year has been very challenging and Canon Janet thanked those stepping down from their posts, especially Debbie Keeves as church warden having served an extended 6 years due to Covid-19 and those continuing. Also to the ministry team especially for their work since the outbreak of Covid-19.

### **Any other business**

Revd Theresa was ordained on 19<sup>th</sup> September: we are planning a watch-from-home viewing of the ordination together at 4pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October and to raise a glass to her and her ministry. Jennie King expressed thanks to Canon Janet and the ministry team for their continued hard work, keeping people connected and able to worship in some form throughout the pandemic.

## 2. Church Wardens' Report for 2020

We have received great support from the PCC, Elaine our treasurer, Lorraine our parish administrator and of course our great ministers led by Canon Janet. This has been a difficult year for everyone because of Covid-19. We did have some great news at last: our long-awaited porch was to be erected (hooray!), but obviously this was held up because of Covid-19.

We were able to worship in church for a short time only, mainly due to Canon Janet's perseverance to ensure our safety, enabling us to receive the bread whilst observing all the Covid-19 rules. Although our church building is out of action, behind the scenes we have had lots of problems to sort out; grateful thanks to Fr David for all his help and assistance. I (Roy) go into church regularly to check all is well and it is a privilege to do so. It was great to welcome Sandra to be our second warden. I'm looking forward to working with her; two heads are better than one! We would like to extend special thanks to Rowena and Elaine for continuing to operate the Sunday School for our young families, which entails a lot of hard work and organisation. A huge thank you to all those who do so much behind the scenes here in our church; without them and their loyalty we'd be in a poorer place. On a sad note, this year we lost a longstanding member of our church, Clare Blackshaw, a very accomplished and hard-working lady: choir member, Sunday School leader, prolific knitter for teddies to go to poorer countries and much more.

It would seem that with the rollout of the vaccine for everyone, God willing, we may all look forward to the future, when as a congregation we once again worship together fully and safely in this our ancient church of St Laurence (also hopefully admiring our new porch).

*Roy Pouncett and Sandra Reynolds*

## 3. The goals set by the new PCC of October 2020 for 2020/21: -

- To work towards an Eco-Church Silver Award, including continuing with the porch and improving heating and lighting.
- To get St Laurence Safe Spaces underway: an after-school club and safe space for children of secondary school age vulnerable to knife crime. (*now underway thanks to a lot of hard work especially by Fr David Pycock*)
- To improve our ability to broadcast worship to enable more people in the community to connect with church.

## 4. 2020 Finances

The Statement of Financial Activities for 2020 is on the next page. The full set of accounts should be available in the week preceding the meeting. Unsurprisingly, our finances have been adversely affected by Covid-19. We have lost income from collections at services, fundraising, fees from weddings and from community bookings in the Pastoral Centre. However, planned giving and other donations from church people have held up well and we've some unexpected donations by e-giving. Our last Congregational Planned Giving review was in 2017 and we had been due to hold one in 2020 but the midst of a pandemic did not seem to be a good time.

We furloughed our caretaker/sexton for some of the time and have benefitted by £6,676.12 from the government scheme. Due to the closure of the church building, church running costs are down by about 60%. In respect of Common Fund (which covers the cost of clergy, training and some Diocesan costs) in early 2020 the PCC committed to 'narrowing the gap' between what we are paying and the ask from CofE Birmingham. In 2020 ask was £68,019 (less 2% discount for paying on time) and in total we paid £60,040.

Overall, the deficit on our 'Ordinary' Funds has been £19,381. We have drawn down monies from restricted funds to cover some of this. This has had the added advantage of enabling further tidying up of the accounts as the Emergency Fund and the McMurray Fabric & Churchyard fund are now closed. The full accounts include details of all our restricted funds so we are clear how we use them in the future.

In 2021 we received a legacy of £60k which the PCC has tentatively earmarked for the proposed new lighting system.

Our investments increased in value during the year. The market value on 31 December 2020 was £265,061 (£241,035 the previous year.)

We give thanks that overall, we are blessed with sound finances and a congregation with generous hearts. We recognise that we need to use our wealth appropriately for the maintenance and renovation of our buildings and be generous in our funding of the mission of God's church.

Canon Janet

## Statement of Financial Activities 2020

Note due to rounding some of the totals are £1 out

Income	2020	2020	2020	2019	2018
	Ordinary	Designated, Restr'd or agency	Total	Total	Total
Planned Giving	36,491		36,491	37,969	37,638
Collections	2,772		2,772	12,849	13,060
Donations	5,371		5,371	11,012	23,604
Income Tax recoverable in GASDS	7,867		7,867	12,052	3,509
Grants		48,650	48,650	1,110	3,900
Legacies		60,000	60,000	1,000	0
Appeals		95	95		
Long term Rent	13,358		13,358	11,879	13,140
Community Income from PC	20,156		20,156	30,525	23,151
Weddings & Funerals	8,044	16,139	24,183	24,496	25,675
Fundraising	1,172		1,172	6,628	9,508
Interest	64	6	70	137	189
Dividends	4,573		4,573	4,263	4,139
Tea & Coffee	195		195	587	702
Candles, cards, books	196		196	603	471
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			225,148	155,110	158,686
<b>'Ordinary' Income</b> i.e. excluding grants, legacies Including net wedding & funerals	100,258				
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2020</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Grants		15,890	15,890		2,865
Diocesan Common Fund	60,040		60,040	51,720	49,498
Ministers' exps, travel & Training	230		230	810	516
Church heat & light	2,165	1,020	3,185	7,222	8,450
Church insurance	7,904		7,904	7,091	6,916
Church Maintenance & Repairs	848	3,547	4,395	1,984	7,542
Upkeep of churchyard	0	12,920	12,920	2,787	2,129
Services inc Organist fees	1,672	401	2,072	4,844	6,067
Flowers *	0	79	79	423	637
Legal & Professional fees	0		0	1,898	1,062
Children's ministry	229		229	384	590
PC & Barn Heat, light, water	8,720	369	9,089	8,672	6,241
PC Cleaning & refuse	1,125		1,125	3,255	2,919
PC Insurance	759		759	716	686
PC Maintenance & Repairs	5,767	2,987	8,755	7,688	10,296
Depreciation	278		278	371	105
Employment costs	22,547	3,383	25,930	29,944	29,868
Printing, Post, stationery, Phone	5,223		5,223	8,207	8,771
Charitable activities	0		0	285	2,299

Other	2,131		2,131	3,498	3,464
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			158,940	141,799	150,921
'Ordinary' expenditure i.e. excluding that drawn from restricted funds	119,639				
<b>Net surplus/deficit on 'Ordinary' funds</b>	<b>-19,381</b>			<b>+13,311</b>	<b>+7,765</b>