**St Michael and All Angels, Bramhall**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS, 20 September 2020**

**(A) Annual Parish Meeting**

The meeting opened in a socially-distanced church at 2.00p.m. with a short video of the Wonderland festival in February. The Vicar spoke briefly about how this event had enabled us to share our lives together and with the wider community more effectively. He then led a short opening prayer.

**Election of Churchwardens**Two nominations for the positions of churchwarden had been received:

Mrs Louise Richardson Proposed: Bob Munn, Seconded: Shelagh Gall

Mr Dave Walker Proposed: Bob Munn, Seconded: Sue Taylor

There being no other nominations, both were declared elected. Calum expressed thanks to them both for all that they do.

**(B) Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

(held immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

**Present:**Rev Calum Piper, and 42 lay parishioners whose names were recorded on the attendance sheet, including 4 who attended via Zoom.

**Apologiesfor absence:** Apologies for absence were recorded for 15 lay parishioners. The Vicar then led the meeting into a time of quiet to remember the 8 members of the congregation who had died during the past year. **Minutes of the previous meetings**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 14 April 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

**Matters arising**There were no matters arising.

**Election of Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod**

Lay representatives to the Deanery Synod are elected for a period of 3 years. There were 4 vacancies for this election, and 4 people had been nominated and seconded. These 4 people were duly declared elected:

 *Proposed Seconded*

David Beveridge Phil Wadsworth Bryan Goodwin

Bryan Goodwin Phil Wadsworth David Beveridge Jo Oughton Cathy Hedley Susan Joyce

Phil Wadsworth David Beveridge Bryan Goodwin

**Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC**

There were twenty-one vacancies, and twenty nominations had been received prior to the meeting. All the candidates, proposers and seconders were on the electoral roll. Churchwarden Louise read out the list of those nominated.

The following twenty people were then declared elected to the PCC for a period of one year.

 *Proposed Seconded*

Hamida Adkins Rob Watson Bob Munn

Frances Beards Hamida Adkins Jill Fairhurst

Imogen Bird Joanna Yeates Margaret Bird

Glynis Brown Louise Richardson Sue Taylor

Robert Cryer Phil Wadsworth Glynis Brown

Georgina Foot Bob Munn Helen Clark

Shelagh Gall Janet Ketteringham Sue Howgego

Sally Harwood David Taylor Tricia Munn

Michael Holmes Ann Walker Phil Wadsworth

Sue Howgego Louise Richardson Dave Walker

Jill Illingworth Tricia Munn Jo Oughton

Janet Ketteringham Ann Walker Nina Hawkins

Graham Knight David Walker Ann Walker

Tricia Munn Phil Wadsworth Jane Holmes

Sheila Newbon Shelagh Gall Sue Howgego

Louise Sell Tricia Munn Louise Richardson

Sue Taylor Bob Munn Dave Walker

Stuart Villard Louise Richardson Glynis Brown

Georgia Watson Louise Richardson Dave Walker

Rob Watson Tricia Munn David Taylor

# Appointment of Independent Examiner

Graham Knight proposed the appointment of Stephen Burt as Independent Examiner, which was seconded by Bob Munn. The appointment was agreed unanimously, and thanks were expressed for Stephen’s services to the church

**Annual Report 2019**Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statement 2019 had been emailed to everyone on the Electoral Roll with an email address, and printed copies had also been available. There followed presentation of key parts of the Annual Report:

* **Electoral Roll Report**

Phil Ketteringham reported that the Electoral Roll revision commenced in preparation for the planned April Annual Meeting and made available for inspection at that time showed that membership then stood at 265 (196 resident, 69 non-resident). The Roll now stood at 260 (192 resident, 68 non-resident).

The Roll was accepted unanimously by the meeting, and thanks were expressed to Phil Ketteringham for his work as Electoral Roll Officer.

* **“We are the church”**

The Vicar presented a lively film of the life of the community of St Michael’s, commenting that during the last six months of Covid restrictions he had very much missed contact with the people of the church.

* **Fabric and Ornaments**

Churchwarden Louise expressed thanks to all who give their time to keeping the building and the grounds looking so good. She noted the work on trees which had taken place, the re-building and re-pointing of the memorial wall, the re-carpeting of the Parish Centre entrance and lounge, and the substantial drainage work. She expressed thanks to Hedley Smith for his work as Health and Safety Officer.

Churchwarden Dave looked back to the beginning of 2019, when we had the joy of seeing Calum inducted as our Vicar. He highlighted the ThankYou tea party, one of several community events which had taken place during that year. He issued a massive thank you to all the sidespeople and the salaried staff who did so much to support the life of the church.

* **Deanery Synod**

There was little to report from the Deanery Synod, which had met only twice.

**The Annual Report was then accepted unanimously by the meeting.**

**Treasurer’s Report**Graham Knight, PCC Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement and Accounts for 2019, highlighting key points from the Financial Review in the Annual Report. He stressed the need to be thankful to God for an increase in planned giving and donations, and an increase in income from hiring of the hall and church, enabling an increase in the amount to be allocated to missions and charities. This had led to an overall increase in income of £19,239.

Day-to-day expenditure had increased by £19,904, with significant amounts needed to pay for the drainage works, the memorial wall, insurance, and an increase in Parish Share of £2,222.

Graham reported that overall we had achieved a surplus of £6261 (£5,187 in the previous year).

The value of our investments held by CCLA had increased over the year by £18,974.

Calum expressed generous thanks to Graham and to all those involved in supporting him – Ann Walker as bookkeeper, Roy Phillips (now sadly deceased) and Peter Pugh, responsible for the planned giving, our independent examiner Stephen Burt, and Bob Munn as chair of the Finance and Buildings Committee.

**The Financial Statement of Accounts 2019 was presented to the meeting by the Chairman and accepted unanimously.**

# Vicar’s Closing Remarks

Revd Calum began by reminding everyone of the command from Micah to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord your God”. It would be easy for us to sit back and focus on the here and now, especially in these difficult times, yet we regularly pray for to be faithful for the future. What will St Michael’s look like in a year’s time, in two years or five?

Going on to explore the words of Micah, he highlighted the following:

* To Act Justly is to stand up for what is right even if that means speaking out things which are difficult. We need to seek to live by kingdom values in all that we do.
* To Love Mercy is to embrace forgiveness and compassion, to break down barriers, raise up real equality, and to sit alongside the suffering, so that they might be embraced b the love and grace of God.
* To Walk Humbly with God is to remember we are all created in the image of God, saved by the love of God on the cross, and loved and cherished by God.

As we think about the future of St Michael’s, he wanted to ask the church two questions:

**Do we look forwards and outwards with hope and expectation?**

or

**Do we make do with what we already have and leave it at that?**

He then began to give a potential answer to these two questions.

If we answer yes to the first question and act in more authentic and passionate ways:

* We could expect God to call us deeper in our relationship with him – in our worship, in in our fellowship, in our daily lives.
* We could expect God to call us out into places in our parish that we might not usually go – to the young people, to the lonely and marginalized, to the young families struggling to live in harmony, to the bereaved and ill.
* We could expect God to transform our church – through a deeper authenticity in worship, a greater commitment to caring for one another, and to a life shaped by the whole people of God of all ages.

If we answer yes to the second question, we might expect to see the following – the church getting smaller, finding it hard to maintain our current worship pattern, people in need of care and love being missed, the church becoming more and more irrelevant, and finances slowly draining away.

Calum suggested that we need to take actions that contain elements of risk, as God’s people have done over many centuries. Faith is about risk, but taking risks as individuals and as a church may lead to a greater blessing of God’s kingdom upon Bramhall and St Michael’s.

In conclusion, Calum said he wanted to set the PCC and the wider church community a challenge to pray and explore together what it means for us as a church to Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with our God. And how this might affect our ways of working, our use of resources, and our approach to sharing the good news that Jesus is alive, the hope of heaven is real, and that it makes a difference to life today.

**Questions**

David Taylor asked whether any progress had been made with the question of appointing an Assistant Warden. Calum replied that making this a formal appointment was not within current regulations, but that two members of the congregation had been identified who would be assisting the Wardens in their duties over the next year.

Calum concluded the meeting by explaining that in 2021 we expect to revert to the normal timetable for holding an Annual Meeting, which would probably again be just before Easter.