

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Chair welcomed all to the Annual Parochial Church ZOOM Meeting for the Parish of Cheam, 2020. **Apologies:** Carol Adams.

1. **Minutes of the previous APCM held 30 April 2019:** these were circulated. The date of the minutes of the last meeting was corrected to 17 April 2018 and a sentence in the final paragraph of minute 6 was corrected to read as follows: *'Communion before Confirmation has essentially severed completely the link between children from the church school in Year 6 coming forward for confirmation and this year there are NO confirmations planned.'* With these amendments, Barrie Kinchington proposed that the minutes be signed as a true and fair record of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Bryan Hopper and unanimously supported by the meeting.

2. **Presentation of Reports** – Reports from each of the three churches were tabled in the groups' reports booklet and taken as read.

The group' reports from the Parish churches were RECEIVED.

3. **Secretary's Report:**

This was circulated in the Parish Annual Report for 2019 which reported on the four meetings of the PCC held in 2019.

The PCC Secretary's Report was RECEIVED.

4. **Deanery Synod report**

The Deanery Synod report for the year was contained in the Parish Annual Report which was presented to the meeting.

The Deanery Synod report 2019 was RECEIVED.

5. **Presentation of Electoral Roll** – Circulated.

Due to the postponement of the APCM this year from April to October, the electoral roll figures reported in the Annual Report were updated as follows:

ST ALBAN'S	
In Parish:	29
Out of Parish:	22
TOTAL	51
ST DUNSTAN'S	
In Parish:	96
Out of Parish:	28
TOTAL	124
ST OSWALD'S	
In Parish:	41
Out of Parish:	7
TOTAL	48

The record of the Electoral Roll updated to end September 2020 was RECEIVED.

6. **Notice of appointments at ADCMs 2020**

ST ALBAN'S DCC

CAROL ADAMS – CHURCHWARDEN (to be supported by)
AUSTEN LUCAS and THOMAS SHRIMPTON
GILLIAN GRAYSTONE – DEANERY SYNOD
VACANCY – DEANERY SYNOD
IAN GRAYSTONE - PCC
AMANDA SHRIMPTON - PCC
JUNE CLIFTON – DCC
ANTHONY HOLLAND - DCC
KATHERINE LUCAS – DCC
VACANCY – DCC
VACANCY– DCC
VACANCY – DCC

ST DUNSTAN'S DCC

JANE DOURADO – CHURCHWARDEN
BARRIE KINCHINGTON – CHURCHWARDEN
DAVID DRANE – DEANERY SYNOD
LAURA DRANE – DEANERY SYNOD
VACANCY – DEANERY SYNOD
JULIA HEY – PCC
JOANNE McCANDLISH - PCC
DIAN TAYLOR – PCC
VACANCY - PCC
KAREN ADORJAN – DCC (2018 - 2021) (and Treasurer DCC)
RICHARD MILLAR – DCC (2018 - 2021)
LUCY BRICE – DCC (2019 - 2022)
DAVE REYNOLDS - DCC (2019 - 2022)
VANESSA GUEST – DCC (2020-2023)
MARION STOCKTON – DCC (2020-2023)

ST OSWALD'S DCC

BRYAN HOPPER – CHURCH WARDEN
PAUL THOMAS – CHURCH WARDEN
DIANE HADDOCK (READER)
GRAHAM ANDREW – DEANERY SYNOD
CLAIRE WINFIELD – DEANERY SYNOD
FIONA WEBSTER – PCC
VACANCY – PCC
LOUISE LOWE – DCC (2020)
PAUL LOWE – DCC (2019)
FRANCES SHOEBRIDGE – DCC (2019)
SUSAN THOMAS – DCC (2019)
VACANCY – DCC
VACANCY - DCC
JEAN PHILLIPS – TREASURER (2011)

All elected members were noted and RECEIVED

Note: Church Wardens, Readers, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC representatives are members of the PCC and DCC by virtue of office.

7. **Presentation of Accounts**

The consolidated accounts (not yet examined) for the Parish were presented with the Annual Report. The Chair thanked Karen Adorjan for managing to achieve the final accounts consolidated from the accounts presented and received by each ADCMs. Looking at each church individually; St Dunstan's showed a surplus of £10K at the end of 2019 but this was only made possible by a drastic reduction in its pledge to the PSF. At St Oswald's the net operating deficit of just over £12K was driven by the purchase of new chairs for the church which was provided for through a legacy. St Oswald's is carrying forward a balance sheet surplus of some £55K. St Alban's showed a deficit of just over £12K driven mainly by the introduction of a new lighting scheme. St Alban's is carrying forward a balance sheet surplus of nearly £170K, but £160K of that is accounted for by the value of the church hall. Karen suggested that St Alban's would be advised to have its church hall revalued in the near future.

The financial reports from each church and the consolidated Parish accounts were **RECEIVED** subject to independent examination.

8. **Election of Examiner** –Barrie Kinchington proposed that Community Action Sutton be elected as the Accounts Examiner. The proposal was seconded by Jane Dourado and unanimously **APPROVED**.

9. **Team Rector's Report**

The Team Rector presented his 2019 annual report as follows:

'This report is meant to be all about 2019. With the delay to this meeting and everything that has happened in 2020 to date, 2019 feels like a very long time ago. Nevertheless, we must still look to last year.

We could think about 2019 in Cheam Parish as a year of two halves. The first half of the year was marked on the one hand, by the continuation of a reasonably long vacancy in my post as Rector, and on the other hand, by the difficult resignation of Felicity Norris as the parish's Team Vicar following her illness. It was, without a shadow of doubt, a really challenging time for the whole parish. As I have done before, I would like to pay tribute once again to everyone in each of our churches who got stuck in to keep the parish going. Thank you to all of you. A special mention needs to go to our dedicated churchwardens, Louise in the Parish Office, all the Treasurers and Derek and Diane for their ministerial support.

The second half of the year was marked by my arrival in the parish as Rector, beginning in post at the end of July. Those first five months as Rector were essentially a time in which I formed my first impressions of St Dunstan's, St Oswald's, and St Alban's. I would like to share with you what these first impressions were.

At St Dunstan's, the church I got to know quickest, I found much good. A beautifully cared-for building, a great musical tradition, and people who are hugely committed. But I also found a church that is stuck in its past glories. It is stuck in a time when it was a significant church at the centre of a community that could rely on a constant flow of people through its doors from what were the core parts of its ministry – baptisms, weddings, funerals, and parents seeking faith places for their children at St Dunstan's school. These reliable sources of ministerial contact have gradually been fading away – only three faith places were awarded this year at the school, for example. With this, the congregation has declined by around 50% in the past decade. Things have changed around the church, but St Dunstan's itself has not changed. There is a real need for St Dunstan's to rethink its place and role in the community.

At St Oswald's, I was particularly impressed at the way in which everyone in the church simply got on with things during the vacancy and continued to do so after I arrived. There has not been a great record of ministerial leadership here in recent years, yet a small, dedicated group works very hard

indeed. At the heart of a large residential community and with a primary school immediately on its doorstep, St Oswald's is without doubt a church with great potential. But this potential has not yet been realised. The direction that good leadership gives has not been there for many years but I have the confidence that with some good ideas and energy to implement them, St Oswald's could well quietly thrive.

At St Alban's, I found a church in which many people have formed very strong friendships over the years. These friendships have been the backbone of the church's leadership and its worshipping community for a long time. Without a doubt, this has its upsides. But the downside is that in many ways St Alban's operates more as a club than as a church. It is a very inward-focused community. Many of those there describe St Alban's as 'the friendly barn'. Whilst this is true for those who are part of the long-term fabric of the church's life, this is not so true for those who are more on the outside. Out of all our churches, St Albans faces the greatest challenges.

Then, there's my first impression of the team ministry. The benefit of team ministries is that when they work well, there can be excellent examples of sharing and collaboration between the churches within them. Their purpose is to offer coherent ministry and worship across a particular area. The position of our churches and the geography of our parish provide a great foundation for such a ministry. Yet each church here thinks of its own particular needs over those as part of a wider parish. We need to move to a point where we work together much more closely.

I fully realise that this is a harsh assessment of where we are. There is much work for us to do in the years to come. I will say that there is so much good here. I will say that I believe that there is the potential for changing what we do and how we do it and that there is the will to do it. But before we look at where we might go, first we have to look in the mirror and recognise where we are falling short of where we need to be.

We should all remember the basics of what we are here to do as churches and church communities. We are here to be the body of Christ here in Cheam. We are here to embody the radical, transformative love that God shows us in and through Christ. We are here to make a difference to all those around us in and through our faith. We need to work together to find out what this means for us as individual churches and as a parish team.'

Bryan Hopper said that he felt that the Rector's assessment of St Oswald's was a fair reflection of where that church stood currently. Bryan said that he and others at St Oswald's looked forward to realising its potential. In the discussion which followed the Team Rector assured the meeting that he did feel personally supported by the Diocese since his arrival in the Parish. While not doubting the support each church had given to its parishioners during the pandemic, the meeting expressed some disappointment at the level of difference the churches in Cheam Parish had been able to make in the wider community during the lockdown and beyond, although acknowledging the problems presented by the need to be compliant with Safeguarding and privacy regulations.

Signed

dated