

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM**

## **Vestry Meeting 2021**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Minutes**

Revd Tom Gillum took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

27 people were present.

The meeting opened with prayer.

The chair thanked the two retiring churchwardens, Tony Mitchell and Nick Turner, for the work that they had done during their time in office and for their support to the church council and people of the parish.

Apologies were received from: Bidy Walker and John Perry

### **Election of Wardens 2021/22**

There were two nominations: **LEN SIMMONDS** and **MARGARET WEIDEMANN**

Len Simmonds was proposed by Ruth Lindstrom and seconded by Marion Hind.

Margaret Weidemann was proposed by Peter Bartlett and seconded by Jean Hammonds.

**There being no other nominations both were appointed Churchwardens.**

The chair then closed the Vestry Meeting.

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Minutes**

27 people were present.

Revd Tom Gillum took the chair to deal with the business of the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the Special Meeting on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020** -These were considered to be a true record of the meeting.
2. **Matters Arising** – there were none.
3. **Electoral Roll** –\_Lorna Richardson, the Electoral Roll Officer, informed the meeting that there are now 102 people on the Roll. The chair thanked Lorna for the diligent way she always handles the annual revisions of the Roll.

#### **4. To Receive the Annual Report of the Work of the Parish and the Parochial Church Council**

Tom referred those present to the written Annual Report and said that vision and our hopes for St Mary's are an essential part of the Annual Meeting. However, the formal requirement is that we first reflect on 2020 which was '*a year like no other*' due to pandemic lockdowns. Throughout the year there were many challenges but whenever possible the church was kept open for private prayer and services.

He went on to say that in May 2021, life in a 'covid pandemic' still continues, and even with so many now vaccinated, uncertainty remains.

In many contexts, very much including St Mary's, Tom said he felt we have seen a new level of neighbourliness and '*looking out*' for people. He said this is wonderful –and was sure it will remain with us and develop, going out beyond our immediate worlds.

He went on to add that death has been brought much closer to many, and reactions have ranged from confidence we '*can dodge this bullet*' to high anxiety that someone close to us could easily die – of course, some have. Death has not quite as unmentionable as it was perhaps.

Looking forward, Tom reflected on St Mary's having a **big, wide open door** and that this should characterise the church – both for coming in and going out. As the civic church, he feels this is an **opportunity to connect widely** with the breadth of Nottingham, an opportune to open up **new partnerships** within the city and to enter more into the **creativity of our city** as well as to live closer to those on the edges.

Tom said we will continue to advance what all this looks like - as well as how **our magnificent building** can best communicate and live it out. Hopefully, soon we will see a **new porch**; a building **magnificently lit** and a new **server** which will all help. St Mary's is first a place for worship and prayer and Tom felt that we must have **worship services** which are best able to connect with young and old – and everything in between.

In conclusion Tom said that in difficult times it is **prayer** which takes us close to the heart of the God of all grace, leaving us hope filled and strengthened.

#### **5. To Receive the Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Parish**

Jean Hammonds referred those present to the Financial Statement which summed up the year as follows:

The Coronavirus pandemic had a major impact on St Mary's income and investments during 2020.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year shows a deficit of **£69,888**.

The total income for the year was **£175,673** with expenditure of **£245,561**.

This deficit compares to a surplus of £1,126 in 2019. The total of funds held by the parish at the end of 2020 was £1,165,108 (of which £998,557 was unrestricted). This represents a decrease in the total funds of £109,985 compared to 2019. Income from investments was £24,762. Voluntary income

was £91,780 and activities generated £12,994. St Mary's paid Parish Share of £50,000 to the diocese.

Unrestricted income for the year was £167,861 compared to £227,517 in 2019 and PCC unrestricted expenditure for 2020 was £240,338 compared to £223,708 in the previous year.

One major source of income for the PCC that was particularly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic was the letting of the building for various events. The net income from letting the building in 2020 was £10,292 compared to £37,562 and £42,209 in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

At the start of the year, the value of St Mary's investments stood at £1,048,518. However, due to the downturn of the stock market linked to the Coronavirus pandemic, investments fell significantly during the year but later recovered somewhat, reaching a value of £1,001,262 by the end of 2020. Income from investments also decreased during the year as shown by an investment income of £24,762 during 2020 compared with £32,337 in 2019.

Expenditure on salaries increased from £62,088 in 2019 to £103,211 in 2020. The main reason for this increase was the appointment of an Operations Director. However, the Operations Director salary expenditure for 2020 was reimbursed by the diocese.

Repair and maintenance work were undertaken during 2020.

During the year, money was raised for a number of local and overseas charitable organisations with the largest individual amount of £1,468 being donated to Emmanuel House.

As there were no questions from those present the chair thanked Jean for the dealing with the finances of the church on a day to day basis and for ensuring that the Financial Statement was prepared and signed off. Jean said that she would also like to thank Martyn and Philippa Knight for the support that they have given during the year.

**Nick Turner proposed the Statement of Accounts be adopted and this was seconded by Peter Bartlett. All were in favour.**

## **6. To Receive a Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

Tom said that Fabric Committee is a sub-group of the PCC and is responsible for maintaining the church building and church grounds.

No significant large projects were undertaken during the year but the closure of St Mary's during the first lockdown of 2020 enabled important repairs to be undertaken to the floor, mostly in the North Aisle, involving the repair and re-laying of parts of the floor. A feasibility study was undertaken to investigate and report on potential renovation of the lighting at St Mary's. This is an ongoing project.

During the year the committee tackled regular preventive maintenance managed numerous projects. Those present were provided with a list of the works completed.

Tom extended his gratitude to Duncan who used his maintenance skills on many projects thus reducing the need to bring in outside contractors.

The chair noted that during the Covid Lockdown period the bellringing team had done a great deal of renovation work in the belfry and wished the minutes to record the thanks of the parish.

In answer to a question from Eddie Channon the chair explained that work is always needed on the fabric of the church and often it is a matter of funding availability that determines when some things get done.

The chair also noted that the painting of Madonna and Child is being restored and will soon be re hung in the chancel of the church.

## **7. To Receive a Report of the Proceedings of Deanery Synod**

Due to Covid restrictions only one meeting of deanery synod was held during the year although the leadership team continued to support parishes. Tom reported that he is now a part of that leadership team.

The deanery paid 89.2% of parish share in 2020.

Thanks were extended to Kevin for fulfilling his deanery representation role during this difficult period. It was noted that there are two vacancies for parish representatives on deanery synod.

## **8. To elect representatives to the PCC** - It was reported that due to the fact there are now 102 people on the Electoral Roll it is possible to have 12 people elected as PCC representatives. The secretary reported that one - third of the members of the PCC stand down each year but is eligible for re-election. This year those members are Len Simmonds, Martyn Knight and Peter Bartlett.

There were 7 vacancies for PCC representatives. Nominations received before the meeting were:

**Martyn Knight** – proposed by Lorna Richardson and seconded by John Richardson

**Peter Bartlett** – proposed by Eddie Channon and seconded by Jean Hammonds

**Ruth Lindstrom** – proposed by Len Simmonds and seconded by Maureen Hind

**Edward Mills** – proposed by Holly Mills and seconded by Rachel Fiskin

**There being no other nominations all were duly elected as PCC representatives.**

**Other elected members of the PCC are:** Jonathan Stork; Jean Hammonds; Lorna Richardson; Rachel Fiskin and James Persico. There will also be three co-opted members appointed by the PCC.

**9. To appoint the Independent Reviewers of the Accounts**

**Jean Hammonds, Treasurer, proposed that Lemans be appointed. This was seconded by Peter Bartlett and all present were in favour.**

**12. Any Other Business –**

Tony Mitchell wished to thank Len Simmonds on behalf of the parish for the work that he has done over many years as Secretary to the PCC.

Those present also wished to record their thanks to the director of music, John Keys, members of the choir and the organists for ensuring that the musical support at services and special festivals continued right through the pandemic period - whether it be in church or through broadcasts to those at home.

**There being no other business the chair then closed the meeting.**