

Attendance

116 people joined the meeting by Zoom

1. Welcome and Prayer

Geoff Lanham (GL) welcomed everyone to the re-scheduled – and to date unique – annual meetings held by Zoom.

Annual meeting of Parishioners

2. Appointment of Churchwardens

GL explained that, with Bill Wilson having decided not to stand again, there was only one nomination – Matt Baggott. GL advised that the Standing Committee of PCC had concluded that in order to avoid having to find new candidate in a rush, there could be a single churchwarden for the 6 months until the next APM in April 2021. GL therefore declared Matt Baggott to be elected for that period. He thanked both Bill and Matt for their service.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Sharing thanksgivings for the life of the church

GL expressed thanks for the high level of lay participation in the church. He thanked the PCC and the ministry and staff team; also those who lead and serve at so many services, activities and events.

He thanked especially those who had developed new ways of serving and operating since the Covid restrictions arose, including YouTube services, the development of live-streaming, secure operation of Cobbles for August and September and the restart of Stepping Stones Pre-school. Successful recruitment and re-organisation had developed capacity in the Parish Office, with one post remaining to be filled. He also gave thanks for the levels of service and care through homegroups, the pastoral care team and individuals – all motivated by serving Jesus.

4. Worship

GL led worship with liturgy and response, a recorded praise song, prayer and thanksgiving.

5. Election of 11 PCC members

GL thanked the 6 PCC members who had served and were not standing for re-election. He noted the information presented on the 11 candidates nominated for the 11 vacancies and declared the following to be elected:

Roy Carr, Nick Brown, Nick Humby, Carol Kay, Julian Phillips and David Pickering to PCC and to the Yardley and Solihull Deanery Synod until the APCM in 2023;

Nick Houghton, Benjamin Neudorfer and Anne Smith to PCC until the APCM in 2023;

Sarah Chapman and Rod Street to PCC until the APCM in 2021.

6. Annual Report and Accounts for 2019

The Treasurer, Steve Mort (SM), referred to the Annual Report, which had been approved by PCC and signed in March. In his finance presentation, he highlighted the progress in 2019 from a budget deficit at the time of the 2019 APCM to a surplus at the year-end. He also referred to a relatively encouraging prospect for 2020 given the difficulties of Covid restrictions, noting with thanksgiving the continuing faithfulness of church members in their giving.

SM confirmed that the existing auditors, Baldwins, had been re-appointed for 2 years at the previous APCM and asked the meeting to note that they had changed their name to Azets in September 2020.

7. Minutes and other reports

The minutes of the meetings held on 27th March 2019 were accepted.
The Fabric/buildings, Electoral Roll and Deanery Synod reports were noted.

8. Vicar's keynote talk

GL spoke of our strange current situation with restriction of contact with one another and a sense of disconnection.

He identified an urgent priority to invest in capacity and innovation with younger adults, families, youth and children'.

He believes God is leading us into a season of reflection as a preparation for future growth.

He then outlined six specific pointers for change.

His conclusion was that we are being called to be a "House of Light" and that our goal is to all be pulling in the same direction under a united, common vision.

9. Churchwardens' remarks

Bill Wilson reflected positively on his experience of being churchwarden for 4½ years, which had incorporated a range of challenges including a vicar's sabbatical and the vacancy. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Matt Baggott expressed thanks for the arrival of Geoff and Mary Lanham at Knowle and the blessing of their ministry. He particularly thanked Derek Sheldon at the end of his 18 years on PCC and service in many areas including fabric and music. He also expressed gratitude for new staff team members.

10. Opportunity for questions

Comments were made giving thanks for work by the office, the enthusiasm around Penny's youth café, support in bereavement situations, MU ministry and our support for the foodbank. The desirability of restarting children's groups when possible was expressed.

11. Prayer in breakout groups for 20 minutes

This was facilitated by Zoom.

12. Close of meeting

GL concluded the meeting with a blessing.

RC 21/10/2020

Minute of the Extraordinary Meeting of Knowle Parishioners on Sunday 7th February 2021

– held by Zoom with 107 parishioners present.

Appointment of Churchwardens

GL advised that Liz Welton had been nominated for the vacant Churchwarden position. Her appointment was agreed unanimously.

RC 8/02/2021