

The Parish Church of St Nicholas Blundellsands
Annual meeting of the electors held on Sunday 9th May 2021

1. Meeting to elect two Churchwardens:

The meeting began with prayer and a welcome from Revd Beth Anderson.

Having completed six years as Churchwarden of St Nicholas', Derek Parkinson had stood down. Lesley Utley declared her willingness to stand again, was proposed by Stephen Green, seconded by Jennifer Levick and accepted unanimously. Warm thanks were expressed to Derek for his six years of service during an exceptionally challenging time, and also to Lesley, for her care and hard work during the last, very demanding year.

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

Present: Revd E Anderson, Revd K Thornborough, Mr S Bailey, Mr N Scarborough, Mr T Johnston, Mrs G Johnston, Prof P Batey, Mrs L Utley, Mr D Parkinson, Mrs J Parkinson, Mrs M Bird, Mrs J Levick, Mrs J Kilshaw, Mrs S Bonnett, Mr P Bonnett, Mr I Hardman, Mr B Mainey, Mrs G Mainey, Mrs L Jones, Revd C Jones, Ms G Mackenzie, Mr A Sturrock, Revd A Brooks, Mrs E Brooks, Miss J Dray, Mrs N Jeens, Mr S Green, Mr R Kenny, Mrs J O'Shaughnessy, Mr S Chantler, Mrs J Batey.

On Zoom: Mr P Levick, Mrs G Cain, Mr J Rankin, Mrs G Enstone.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2020:

The minutes of the 25th October 2020 were proposed as a true record by Mrs N Jeens, seconded by Prof P Batey and agreed unanimously.

Matters arising:

Although there were no Matters arising, Beth commented on the sense of positivity and teamwork that came through from the minutes.

Electoral Roll report:

In her capacity as Electoral Roll Officer, Mrs Lesley Utley reported that, at the start of the 2021 recruitment, the numbers on roll stood at 164. After the enrolment of 13 new members, the roll in April 2021 stood at 177. Once again, Lesley was thanked for the continuing increase in numbers during what has continued to be a challenging time.

Elections:

Two members of the **PCC** had come to the end of their three-year term and had decided not to stand for renomination, Mr Nick Scarborough and Mr Steve Bailey. Warm thanks were extended to both for the energy and commitment they had devoted to all they had both done during their terms of office.

Mrs Rachael Doyle had also come to the end of her term and had agreed to stand for renomination. Her membership was proposed by Lesley Utley, seconded by Stephen Green and agreed unanimously.

Mrs Gill Enstone, having completed a year as a co-opted member of PCC, had agreed to stand for election. Her membership was proposed by Steve Bailey, seconded by Nick Scarborough and agreed unanimously.

New nominations had been received for Mrs Jennifer O'Shaunessy, proposed by Margaret Bird and seconded by Jennifer Levick, and for Mrs Margaret Bird, proposed by Derek Parkinson and seconded by Lesley Utley. Both were agreed unanimously.

Mr Stephen Green and Prof Peter Batey confirmed their willingness to continue to serve as St Nicholas' **Deanery Synod representatives**.

In a change to the regulations, names of **Assistant Churchwardens** and **Sidespeople** would be agreed at the first meeting of the new PCC.

Mr David Roughley had confirmed his willingness to continue to act as **Independent Financial Examiner**. He was proposed by Derek Parkinson, seconded by Nick Scarborough and agreed unanimously.

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council and of the Governors of St Nicholas' School for the year ended 31st December 2020:

Copies of the accounts having been circulated by the Treasurer in advance of the meeting, the financial report was delivered in her absence by Revd Keith Thornborough. For the third year running, the accounts recorded a loss, of £1,217, with unreserved funds of £14,000 carried forward into 2021. Hall income had more than halved, from £31,000 to £15,000, although we were helped by £7,000 received through the Job Retention Scheme. The Diocese has also undertaken to rebate £200 per month from the Parish Share in 2021 and a credit of £4,300 for 2020 is also promised for 2021. As there had been no social events, including the Music Festival, we were £3,500 down on fundraising. Loose plate giving also fell from £7,000 to £2,000, although, on a more positive note, planned giving rose from £48,000 to £57,000 including Gift Aid.

The Treasurer concluded that the outlook remained uncertain: with the return of staff and the need to pay them from a diminished hall income we will face higher costs with no certain means of raising additional funds in the near future. It was therefore important that each member of the church should review their giving regularly. Finally, she extended her warm thanks to John and Angela Rankin for their wonderful work on Gift Aid and Stewardship, to Eric Molyneux and members of the counting house team, to the Finance Committee and to David Roughly. Formal approval of the accounts was proposed by Julie Dray, seconded by Tim Johnston and agreed unanimously. Thanks were also formally extended to David Roughly for agreeing to act as our Independent Examiner for a further year.

The Annual Report for the year ending December 2020:

Beth thanked Gill Enstone for producing a detailed report which had had to cover overlapping timescales. The report demonstrated clearly how seriously St Nicholas' Church takes its governance and the number of people who have been involved, particularly in fulfilling our duty to the community by maintaining a thorough regime of Covid precautions. Considerable creativity had been exercised in enabling worship to continue during lockdown and pastoral care had also remained a priority, through the attention paid to communication with the congregation, through the Covid archive and in the care shown for staff.

Now was the time to step into the future: the final stage of the restoration programme lay ahead, but, in the meantime, PCC sub committees had begun to meet to start making plans.

As part of a process of reflection and reassessment, Beth then invited members of the meeting to address the questions previously discussed by PCC (see Annual Report for the year 2021) on the nature of our gains and losses since the start of the pandemic and the implications for our future.

AOB and presentation:

There were no questions and no other business and the meeting concluded with a presentation to Derek Parkinson in recognition of his retirement from the post of Churchwarden. In response, Derek expressed his gratitude for the support of so many people throughout the whole church, especially the clergy, Lesley as his fellow Churchwarden, Peter as Lay Chair and of Beth herself during the months since her arrival.

Keith closed the meeting with prayer.