

Parish of Widcombe
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting followed by the APCM
On Zoom on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.30pm

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Present: in attendance via Zoom

Rev'd Tim Buckley, Jill Oldham, Tony & Fiona Coverdale, Anne Lawson, Angela Frith, Liz Holden White, Andrew & Mary Udale-Smith, Mark & Debbie Nish, Wayne and Tamsin McMaster, Sue Wiggin, Sarah Sanderson, Revd Judith Harries, Bill James, Carol Tottle, Gillian Smout, Carol... Alison Furber, Jonathan Potter, Lindsaye Dunn

1 Election of Churchwardens

The following are nominated to stand as churchwardens of St Thomas à Becket Church – Sue Wiggin and Elizabeth Holden-White

The following were nominated to stand as chapel wardens of St Matthew's Church – Andrew Udale-Smith and Bill James

The prospective Church/Chapel wardens were proposed and seconded as follows:-

Sue Wiggin	proposed by Lyndsaye Dunn	seconded by Elizabeth Holden White
Elizabeth Holden-White	proposed by Martin Geake	seconded by Angie Frith
Andrew Udale-Smith	proposed by Victoria Jones	seconded by Liz Holden White
Bill James	proposed by Mark Nish	seconded by Jill Oldham

No other nominations were received, so the above names were unanimously voted in and stand as elected

2 Election of Assistant Churchwardens

The following people were reappointed by a show of hands en bloc

Jan Stokes	Tony Coverdale
Nigel Stokes	Fiona Coverdale
Charles Oldham	
Jill Oldham	
Steven Ayers	
Annette Whateley	
Angie Frith	
Jonathan Potter	

The Annual Vestry Meeting closed at 7.43pm and was followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
On Zoom on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.30pm

1. Opening Prayers & Apologies for absence

Martin Geake, Peter & Victoria Jones, Sian Lewis, Rev'd Jenny Buckler

2. Agreement of Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

Proposed by Peter Jones Seconded by Jonathan Potter

3. Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising.

4. Elections to Widcombe Parochial Church Council

The following members are standing down from the PCC:

Louis Sturgess – our thanks and a gift was sent to her – and thoughts for all involved in the NHS

Six elected members remain – Mark Nish (Treasurer), Lindsaye Dunn, Jonathan Potter (electoral Roll officer), and Anne Lawson, Carol Tottle and Martin Geake

Anne & Carol are to continue as a Deanery Synod Representative.

Jonathan Potter continues in his role as Electoral Roll Officer

Rev'd Judith Harries – co-opted

The now non PCC Secretary roll continues to be fulfilled by Sam Forrester in her role as administrator for the Parish – our thanks and thoughts were offered to her and her family during this her maternity leave.

Thanks were given to all who serve on the PCC and in these complicated days of COVID no changes to the current PCC were suggested. It is hoped that next years APCM will allow fresh opportunity to vote at least one new St Matts member to the PCC.

a) Sidespeople

The following sidespeople for St Thomas were elected en bloc to carry out the role for the coming year:-

08.00am/10.30am service

Charles Baines	Angela Hathaway	Anne Lawson	Mary Fooks
Rachel Levenson	Pat Robson	Annette Whateley	Rosemary Bulford
David Quine	Elizabeth Easaw	Fiona Coverdale	Graham Brown
Lindsaye Dunn	Jonathan Potter	Sue Wiggin	
Joshi Easaw	Alison Quine	Tony Coverdale	

Thanks was mentioned to Sheila Read who served for years as a salesperson but has now moved away and to Alistair Durie who continues to attend when possible and has been such a friend to the parish.

Particular thanks was also given to Anne Lawson for her invaluable support and facilitation of our 8 am services

5. Appointment of Auditor

Peter Barton of ART accountants was thanked for his work on the accounts and it was proposed that they remain as Auditors.

Proposed by Mark Nish Seconded by Andrew Udale-Smith

Unanimously voted by the meeting and declared so appointed.

6. Financial Report MN presentation.

Mark Nish

Using the following slides:

		
Finance Report 2019		
Income (£)		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Giving (incl. gift aid & legacies)	154,461	121,631
Lettings & fundraising	8,341	9,125
Parochial fees	2,644	2,270
Investment income	629	403
Other	12	13,742
Total	166,087	147,171
1		
Income (£)		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Unrestricted funds	122,137	105,961
Restricted funds	43,950	41,210
Total	166,087	147,171
2		
Expenditure (£)		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
St Thomas' expenses	5,386	4,056
St Matthew's expenses	56,016	79,490
Parish share	57,184	49,725
Parish administration	21,823	20,276
Church services & clergy exp.	8,943	5,093
Parish sundries	6,385	159
Parochial fees	1,779	1,539
Mission & evangelism	16,869	15,410
Total	174,385	175,748
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Income v. Expenditure (£)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Income	166,087	147,171
Expenditure	174,385	175,748
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,298)	(28,577)

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Balance sheet (£)

Current assets	78,165
Current liabilities	2,212
Net current assets	<u>75,953</u>
<i>Represented by funds:</i>	
Unrestricted funds	47,019
Restricted funds	28,934
Total funds	<u>75,953</u>

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Restricted funds (£)

Position as at 31 December 2019 (2018):

St Thomas' Restoration Fund	19,621	(19,203)
Organ Fund	2,520	(2,520)
Widcombe United Charities Fund	2,926	(2,926)
St Matt's Regeneration Fund	3,867	(-)
Missionary Fund	-	(-)
Total	<u>28,934</u>	<u>(24,649)</u>

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Budget 2020 (£) - expenditure

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019 actual</u>
Church expenses (utilities, insurance, repairs etc.)	26,240	27,737
Parish share	65,762	57,184
Parish administration	23,500	21,823
Church services & clergy exp.	7,500	8,943
Parish sundries	-	6,385
Parochial fees	1,500	1,779
Mission & evangelism	13,000	10,869
Total	<u>137,502</u>	<u>134,720</u>

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Budget 2020 (£) – income

	<u>2020 reqd.</u>	<u>2019 actual</u>
Planned giving	86,252	76,921
Other giving	15,000	13,281
Tax recovered	24,000	20,457
Investment income (interest)	250	481
Legacies	-	-
Fundraising	500	126
Lettings	10,000	8,215
Parochial fees	1,500	2,644
Other	-	12
Total	<u>137,502</u>	<u>122,137</u>

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Actual to end Sept.2020 (£) v. Budget

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual (75%)</u>
Income	137,502	98,479 (72%)
Shortfall of £13K – Gift Aid (£5K) and Lettings (£8K)		
Expenditure	137,502	92,086 (67%)
Behind on Mission Giving by £5K		
Other expenditure so far in 2020: £30K – The Keep £23K; Architect £7K		

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Financial Review

Overview

Mark began by thanking members of our church family who so generously supported the ministry and mission of our parish and it's churches during 2019 and through this year

MN also thanked Aurelia Hilsden who is enormously helpful throughout the year with monthly and year end statements in preparation for our external auditor. Also thanks to Tony Coverdale for his invaluable help with Gift Aid submissions done each year.

In 2019, the PCC's total income and expenditure from normal activities was:

Income	£122,137
Expenditure	£134,720

As a consequence, the PCC incurred a deficit of (£12,583) in the year.

The PCC can meet its legal liabilities when they are due; the PCC's aim is to maintain a reserve of Unrestricted Funds of approximately £30,000 to cover emergency situations, equivalent to approximately three month's normal operating costs at current levels.

Unrestricted Funds

At the end of 2019, the PCC's balance of unrestricted funds was £47,019.

Unrestricted Income

The PCC has four principal sources of income: Voluntary Giving; Gift Aid; Lettings and Fundraising.

Voluntary Giving – the PCC received £90,202 in voluntary donations, of which £76,921 was Planned Giving.

Gift Aid – the PCC received an additional £20,457 in tax recovered in the form of Gift Aid.

Lettings – the PCC received £8,215 in rent from lettings of St Matthew's Church and Church Hall, the principal users being: Bath Operatic and Drama Society, Swords and Beats Dance.

Fundraising – a collection from the Widcombe Mummers on New Year's Day raised £126.

Interest on Investments

The PCC has three interest-bearing investments: the Church Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) fund, Nat West Deposit Account and Current Account interest. Together these investments delivered £481.

Payments

The major payments from Unrestricted Funds fall into five categories: Administration and Office Costs; St Thomas à Becket's Operating Costs; St Matthew's Operating Costs; Charitable Donations; and Parish Share. Operating Costs fall into four sub-categories: Utilities (gas, electricity and water); Insurance; Maintenance and Repair; and Cleaning.

Administration came to £21,823 including payment to our part-time administrators and costs associated with running the Church office.

St Thomas à Becket Operating Costs – in 2019 were £2,476 – all from Unrestricted Funds.

St Matthew's Operating Costs – in 2019 were £25,261 – all from Unrestricted Funds.

Charitable Donations – the PCC donated from Unrestricted Funds £10,869 to various charitable organisations and other causes, including: the Bath Soup Run, our mission partners and the Haven Home in Sri Lanka, and the Genesis Trust.

Parish Share – the 2019 Parish Share of £57,184 was paid in full and has now been paid in full for eight consecutive years.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are those donations that are given to the PCC with a restriction imposed upon the purpose for which the funds can be used.

At the start of 2019, the PCC held five Restricted Funds:

St Thomas à Becket Restoration Fund - £19,621. This Fund started the year at £19,203. It is PCC policy, agreed in 2007, to maintain a reserve of approximately £20,000 for restoration work on St Thomas' church in a restricted fund. During the year, the PCC agreed to spend £2,910 on replacing the carpeting at St Thomas' and this was entirely funded by a generous donation of £3,000 made to the St Thomas à Becket Restoration Fund.

Organ Fund - £2,520. This Fund is comprised of £1,841 for the sole purpose of the maintenance and repair to the organ at St Matthew's and £679 representing the surplus after the purchase of the new organ at St Thomas' in 2017.

Widcombe United Charities - £2,926. The Vicar and Churchwardens of St Thomas à Becket Church and the Chapelwardens of St Matthew's Church are trustees of a separate charity, the Widcombe United Charities, which is a consolidation of a number of historic endowment charities dating back to the 19th Century for the relief of poverty of the elderly of the parish. It is the PCC's intention to approach the Charities Commission for permission to bring this Fund into the PCC's general accounts to be spent on local mission giving.

Missionary Fund - £0. This Fund covers any anonymous gifts made to the PCC with instructions to make payments towards specific individuals or causes. The Fund received gifts totalling £6,000 in 2019 and payments of £6,000 were made to our mission partners and the Haven Home in Sri Lanka.

St Matthew's Church Regeneration Fund - £3,867. This Fund is restricted to expenditure for the regeneration of the St Matthew's church roof and to the future re-ordering of the church building. At the start of the year, the Fund was fully exhausted following expenditure in 2018. During 2019, the Fund benefited from the proceeds of a Gospel Choir concert held at St Matthew's Church, but the significant majority of the £34,622 of receipts represented generous gifts made by a small number of individuals. Of this, some £30,755 was spent on a combination of professional fees in relation to the re-ordering project, together with expenditure on the North Wing to be completed in 2020.

Plans for the Future

The main focus for 2020 was the completion of the North Wing project, a room above the church office, now known as The Keep, and which is now a warm and welcoming facility.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the restrictions imposed on gatherings has caused us to temporarily pause further consideration of the development plans for St Matthew's, at least until the outlook is clearer. However, we intend to carry out further works to the roof of the north wing to ensure that St Matthew's is protected from the ingress of water. This project will shortly go out to tender with an estimated cost of approximately £77,000. We have already received grants and gifts totalling £15,000 and grant pledges of a further £18,000 payable once the work is completed. Consequently, we shall be seeking a further £44,000 to complete the work.

We are excited to see how God continues to bless, encourage and resource the wider Widcombe Parish through our two remarkable buildings and our church family.

- A time of questions was allowed by MN and AF asked if people could be actively encouraged to set up direct debits because of the lack of collections plate from our non-

church attendance.

- It was suggested by MN that people should perhaps be written to to inform them about gift aid and its benefits for us as a parish and also to encourage people to consider new ways of giving.

Thanks was given by TB to Mark, Aurelia and Tony for all they do in the finance department of our parish.

7. The remainder of the APCM report is contained within the booklet – APCM Ministry Reports – attached to these minutes.

But Tim shared his written piece by way of introduction to the booklet:

This year inevitably, will be a year forever remembered for the ongoing challenge of the Corona Virus. So many lives have been affected in so many ways, from debilitating illness, anxiety, financial loss and isolation through to the loss of dearly loved ones. It has also however been a time to rediscover the simple joys of true community, thankfulness for those who serve as keyworkers and the vital centrality of our faith, expressed perhaps in new ways, yet with eternal truths and the comfort of an ever-present God.

In the light of this global pandemic, APCM's in the Anglican Church were postponed for some 6 months and hence, rather than our normal April date, we now find ourselves in October finally able to reflect and give thanks for all that God continues to do amongst us.

I personally am again incredibly grateful for the energy, service and sacrifice of so many volunteers and leaders across our two church communities who have worked tirelessly, particularly as we moved online, to partner in our Lord's service over these last months. So it is right that this year at our APCM that I again take my opportunity to thank all of you for your partnership in the gospel and your grace and understanding as we have together tried to navigate these complicated times.

There is, amongst the inevitable continuing challenges, many reasons to give thanks - to celebrate and remember the good things that we have seen and experienced over many months. This APCM report booklet is again a small part of that, offering us a 'bird's eye view' of a few of the responsibilities, activities and ministries that have taken place across our parish - it really is both humbling and immensely encouraging to see how God has worked through so many people, in so many ways.

I hope as we all step forward into an increasingly uncertain landscape, may we together continue to be expectant of God's faithfulness and goodness towards - one church - prayerfully yielding our hearts and lives to Him in simple trust.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.
(*Lamentations 3.22 & 23 ESV*)

Attention was particularly drawn to several reports including wardens reports and the safeguarding report as each of our churches makes the protection of children and vulnerable adults a key priority with thanks was given to Jill Oldham our Parish safeguarding officer.

We were reminded by TB that though our buildings may be closed, the “true” church – the Ecclesia, the people of God, are still vibrant and engaged in “church life” throughout our community as we maintain a mixture of worship live when possible and on-line resources through YouTube and Zoom.

Mary Udale-Smith was welcomed as our fully licensed Parish Reader and Sarah Sanderson, our new Pioneer Ordinand working across the Benefice.

Finally, TB shared thoughts on the future uncertainty surrounding future services especially as we approach Advent and Christmas and was keen to reassure that whatever challenges may come, the faithful “church” in Widcombe would remain a vibrant source of light and hope within and to the community.

8. A final piece of reflective worship was played as a meditative prayer to close– Turn your eyes upon Jesus

9. AOB

- AL offered thanks for TB and JB’s ministry and care
- CT asked about soup Run and Food Bank. TC shared that as Soup Run had been put on hold due to COVID risks and Genesis and Julian House had temporarily taken over this work. Widcombe Parish with Bathwick Parish has continued to give financially to support this work in place of our cost accrued in making sandwiches until Soup Run recommences.
- TB also shared that though foodbank had altered its working patterns, several of us were working particularly with Mercy In Action – to distribute food to needy families across the city
- LHW shared a letter from some residents suggesting bollards along Church street – it was felt that access would be severely hindered if this option was taken up and the church should perhaps be vocal in declining this idea.
- JO also thanked Jules for the help and support he has given to us in the parish, recording when needed and live when possible. TB echoed and affirmed the great thanks he feels for Jules fantastic ongoing ministry.

10. TB shared a closing prayer & the Grace was said by all.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.