

# **St Stephen with St Paul's**

**APCM  
2020 –2021**

**25 April 2021**



# **Minutes for St Stephen with St Paul's APCM**

**Held via Zoom on**

**Sunday 25 October 2020**

The business meeting was held as part of our morning worship.

Minutes taken by Sharon Bravo

## **Vestry Meeting**

### **Election of Church Wardens**

Albert Gill and Jean McCloughry have been nominated to stand as Church-wardens.

Both were voted unanimously in favour of standing .

Naeem thanked Pete Dixon who has stood down and Bulent who left church for their hard work over the years. Jean was thanked for stepping up and standing in as Church warden until the election when Bulent left. Pete was presented with a gift.

## **Main Church Meeting.**

Apologies: None

### **1. Approval of APCM Minutes from April 2019**

Minutes be accepted as accurate. All voted in favour, Minutes adopted.

### **2. Matters Arising: None**

### **3. Electoral Roll**

Graham explained the electoral roll. Slight decrease from last year. It has been difficult to joins this year. Roll is displayed at the back of church. The numbers have been consistent.

### **4. Reports From Booklets**

#### **4.1 Clergy**

Nothing to report

## **4.2 Curate Report**

Clive said he had learned a lot from Naeem. Naeem is moving to St Peters, Radford for a year initially. It will be an extension of his curacy. Naeem was thanked and presented with a gift. He commented how very grateful he is.

## **4.3 Fabric Report**

Nothing to add

## **4.4 Finance Report**

If you would like a complete copy of the accounts, please speak to Lesley.

It has been a good year with a small surplus.. Summary last year we had in £104,000 and spent £99,000

Lesley Proposed that CA Plus be our accountant again next year.

All voted in favour. Motion passed.

## **4.5 Children and young people.**

Carol has been the children's work coordinator for many years. She is now stepping down. She expressed how much she had enjoyed working with the children. Clive asked If you would like to be involved and to coordinate the children's work please contact him. Carol was presented with a card and gift.

## **4.6 Work with schools**

Naeem said how much he had enjoyed working with Jenny in the schools work.

It has been a difficult year to try and keep in contact with the schools

Clive said he has so much fun.

## **4.7 Messy Church**

Has not taken place during lockdown. Trying to keep in church with the families.

## **4.8 PALS**

Has not been able to take place during lockdown

#### **4.9. Safeguarding**

Nothing to add. We need to keep up with training and DBS checks.

#### **4.10. Bethany**

Will see what happens in the future.

#### **4.11. Church Flowers**

Mavis Marriott has been organising the flowers I church for many years. She has decided it is time to step down. She was thanked for all of her hard work.

#### **4.12. Deanery Synod**

Graham Lewin and Jean McCloughry have stepped down. Fola Sowunmi and Shahid Javed have agreed to stand.

Majority vote in favour. Duly elected.

### **5. Election of PCC Members**

Four people have been nominated to stand

Pete Dixon

Dee Dixon

Graham Lewin

Shahid Javed (for 2 years)

All voted in favour to accept nominations. All duly appointed.

## **6. Deputy Wardens**

Elected for this year to act as Deputy Warden:

Winifred Marshall; Alan Leonard; Farzhad Ahmadi, Dee Dixon and Trevor Spencer

Thanks to deputies and Welcomers for their work.

## **7. Appointment of Independent Auditors**

Communities Accounting Plus were appointed to continue as our auditors.

## **8. Any other questions/Comments**

A) Pete Dixon thanked the clergy for all of their help. Thanks also to all who help out in church in any way. Gave some advice for the new wardens.

### **B) Gift Day**

This year our gift day will support

BMS– Baptist Mission Overseas

Traceys Street Kitchen

General Fund.

## Clergy report

2020 was a year like no other at St Stephen's with St Paul's Church! With the Coronavirus epidemic and the shutting down of many aspects of society it has been a very challenging and difficult year for us all.

### *The Vine*

Under Rob Bird's excellent leadership and the support of the rest of the staff The Vine responded brilliantly to the pandemic by providing lunches for people that were isolated as well as baby products, hygiene products, coats and mental health support. Many of those projects are still going today and serving a large number of people who have been in need.

### *Going online*

I've wanted our services to be broadcast online for some time but being unable to meet in church has forced us to do so. I'm very grateful to Daniel Tsoi, Graham Lewin, Elsa Albert, Nick Silcock and Albert Gill who have done a brilliant job of organising and keeping our services going using Zoom. It has been a very big challenge and we've been on a steep learning curve but it has been remarkably successful. Bishop Paul came to preach at a service and said that he thought we were using the technology better than any other church he'd visited.

As a result of going online the numbers attending church have risen a little from about an average of 90 to an average of about 120.

Having got this far with using Zoom and seen the benefits of being able to take part from all over the country, indeed all over the world, I'd like to keep having a hybrid service (online and live) after the lockdown is finally over. It will take some more work to set up but it will enable many more people to be able to join in.

## *Fellowship Groups*

As well as two Farsi Fellowship groups we have Fellowship Groups run by Lesley Silcock, Alan Leonard, and Graham and Gillian Burton. They have continued meeting using Zoom and done a great job of staying in touch with the group members during the pandemic and giving them support spiritually, socially and physically. Sandra's group stopped meeting during the pandemic and the members have joined Alan's group.

## *Farsi Fellowship Group*

One of the results of the pandemic was the closure of hotels but this enabled the Home Office to place asylum seekers in those hotels. Once we had realised that this was the case this gave us the opportunity to visit those hotels and easily make contact with many asylum seekers living there. Among them were many Iranians who were either Christians or keen to explore the Christian faith. We gave them New Testaments in Farsi and formed a WhatsApp group to maintain contact with them. We offered assistance to them in the form of hygiene products and friendship. We also had takeaway meals together, keeping in line with our five year vision of 'Sharing Food—Developing Friendship—Deepening Faith', we received funding from the diocese to help us with this hospitality. Many people joined our group and the word quickly spread to other cities of what we were doing, including Leicester, Warrington, Birmingham, Coventry and eventually London with people joining online from those places. Many that were originally placed in Nottingham have moved to other parts of the country but are still part of our church.

Daniel told us of the Al Massira course which is a Christian basics video course, written specifically for people from a Muslim background. Several of us did the training course so that we could teach it and we found the course much more suitable than other courses such as Alpha. At one point we were holding three Al Massira Courses every week. We have now reduced that to one on Tuesdays and another group following the book of Matthew on Thursdays. About 30 people come on both occasions.

Mo Ashtari has done a fantastic job of leading the groups and visiting people in various parts of the country to take Bibles and small welcome gifts. Sadly last year two of our members took their own lives and we held memorial services, including one at Leicester Cathedral which Rev'd Canon Karen Rooms helped to organise for us.

More recently we have been joined by Leeling Koh, an overseas mission partner with long experience of mission amongst Persian peoples in Tajikistan and Turkey. She has been a vital support and asset to the group and really deepened our spiritual understanding and mission to people from Iran and other countries nearby. I am grateful to Leeling and Mo as well as the support of Rev'd Naeem Bahadur, Jean McCloughry, Rev'd Dr Peter Wenham and Sandra Brailsford.

### ***Curate***

Naeem has helped us in a huge variety of ways: making differences in many aspects of church life, it has been great to have a clergy colleague with whom to work. Naeem is now working at St Peter's Church in Radford and doing a great job there in difficult circumstances. Although I am formally still Naeem's training incumbent he has left us and it's great to have him working so close to us because we can easily stay in contact.

### ***Music group***

My grateful thanks go to Jonathan and Paul for their attendance at music group practices and for leading us in worship.

### ***Cultural diversity***

We are known as a very culturally diverse church and this is great but while we have many ethnic minorities attending church we now have nearly no white members under 50; this is a big challenge for us all. We need to maintain our racial diversity by attracting more white people as well as growing our ethnic minority membership.

Thank you for your part in making our church family a wonderful group of supportive, worshipping people determined to share their faith and love our community in practical ways.

Rev'd Clive Burrows



## Electoral Roll Report

The number on the revised Electoral Roll for 2021 has increased to 118. There were 7 additions to last year's roll with 3 being removed. Those who have been removed are known to have moved away or have died during the past year.

The statistics of the roll have not changed significantly and are very similar to the previous three years.

The larger ethnic groupings represented on the roll include:

39 White British

33 Iranian, of whom 20 are Farsi speaking and 13 Sorani speaking

26 Pakistani

11 Black, of whom 6 are Caribbean and 5 African.

9 others from different ethnic groupings.

Year	Number	+	-	Parish	White	EM	Male	Female
2011	166			45%	59%	41%	38%	62%
2012	157	16	25	45%	57%	43%	40%	60%
		New Roll						
2013	125			40%	58%	42%	40%	60%
2014	135	11	1	38%	54%	46%	41%	59%
2015	147	20	8	33%	48%	52%	45%	55%
2016	163	26	10	32%	46%	54%	46%	54%
2017	177	18	4	30%	42%	58%	49%	51%
2018	198	43	22	25%	34%	66%	54%	46%
		New Roll						
2019	121			26%	36%	64%	55%	45%
2020	114	5	12	26%	35%	65%	54%	46%
2021	118	7	3	25%	33%	67%	55%	45%

Graham Lewin

## **Church Fabric Report**

There is little to add to the Fabric Report presented at the last APCM in October 2020. The only progress that has been made is work on creating a much needed storeroom in the space that was previously occupied by the pipework of the old organ. The last remnants of the organ, including some asbestos panels, were removed a few years ago. After an initial phase of removing the items that had been stored temporarily in that space, along with a large amount of rubbish that had accumulated, the work was able to start in March. At the present time the wooden stud walls and the ceiling of the storeroom are in place and the large cupboards are nearing completion. The racking that will provide dedicated storage for some specific large items is also virtually finished. This will enable us to store the new scaffolding tower and the movable display boards that have suffered over the years for the lack of a suitable place to store them. It only remains to fit the lighting and the room will be ready for use. Our thanks needs to go to Arash, one of our church members who also works in the Vine, who has helped very significantly with this project. He has taken on the role of translating the detailed specifications for the work into Farsi for the benefit of those doing the work.

Graham Lewin

# Financial Report

Thank you to all of you who continued to give faithfully to the work of the church in 2020. What a different year that was, staying in, zooming, church buildings closed, opened a bit and closed again. All this had an impact on our finances, along with everything else!

Last year the regular church income was £94,581, compared to £103,000 in 2019. This includes a £6,000 legacy. In addition, the church was given a £40,000 donation. The PCC is thinking hard about what to do with this. We have given away 10% already as is our policy.

The regular expense total was £83,800 compared to £96,800. This does not include the £4,000 given as above. If we take off the £11,000 spent on the roof last year our expenses were about £2,000 less

At the end of 2020 there was £257,438 total in our bank accounts of which £120,000 has been designated for major building work, £1046 (mostly from 2012) is restricted for a sound desk and £36,000 from donation as mentioned

Our two biggest expenses are:

1. Parish Share - £39,624 the money we give to the diocese to help fund, amongst other things, the clergy.

2. Giving -£18,000 some of this was to Refugee Roots, some to mission overseas and some to individuals and families in need in our community including £2900 to our food bank. Our church policy is to give 10% regular income to mission. This total also includes giving from Gift Day.

Gift Day raised £8035. £2158 was given to Tracy's kitchen, a local charity feeding those in need and £1558 to Baptist Mission for the coronavirus effort in poor countries.

Considering the constraints of the year we have given away a lot.

Our income comes only from ourselves, members past and present, and we receive **no outside funding**. We have been kept going by legacy money for the last few years.

If you regard yourself as a regular member here please consider giving to the work that goes on. See me for envelopes or standing order forms as a way of giving regularly. Please consider the church in your will.

A special thank you to Michael Harrison for sorting out the recovery of income tax and Graham Lewin for his help and support at too many points to mention.

Thank you to those of you who moved from envelope giving to standing order because of the pandemic.

Lesley Silcock

## **Children and Young People's Sunday Morning Groups**

As the children and young people's groups have been unable to meet in church in the usual manner for the past year we have tried to include them more in the Zoom services, we have regular children's talks, and the older group now meet in a Breakout group twice a month.

We also had a Summer Programme supporting Water Aid last summer, but with a difference, and encouraged everyone to join in. Over £230 was raised. Nearly all of the youngsters were involved in a Community Worship service on Zoom last May about David and Goliath and were fantastic!

We have also given out "religious goody bags" containing a book and other items suitable for their age to encourage them in their Christian faith and to show them they are important to the church fellowship of St. Stephen's.

Carol Phillips

## Work with Schools

As was stated in the previous report, work with and in schools came to an abrupt halt in 2020.

All face to face contact has been impossible. Schools assemblies, Experience Easter, Christmas nativities and our wonderful Christingle Service could not take place.

We have nevertheless kept contact with the staff and continue to pray for them, especially through these difficult months.

When we realised that we would miss yet another Experience Easter, Clive Karen and I made 5 short videos based on the stations of Experience Easter. We were joined by another important member of the church - a big blue puppet called Big Bluey! Karen produced an activity booklet to accompany the sessions. Berridge School were thrilled with these and used them in their RE lessons.

It has been important to maintain these links and let us hope that we can return to school in the not too distant future.

Jenny Lewin

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the centre of all our church activities. Safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting and a safeguarding action plan is agreed by the PCC several times each year. This process ensures all appropriate policies are in place and up to date.

All members of our church family, who volunteer to work alongside children, young people and vulnerable adults, have been screened using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The church requires that new volunteers are screened prior to starting this sort of role.

All volunteers, in whatever role, are required to undergo 'safeguarding' training. Training sessions are being held regularly throughout the year and are also available online.

The **whole** church family has responsibility for taking care of and promoting the welfare of our vulnerable members.

We all should aim to:

- Treat all children and young people with dignity and respect
- Wherever possible avoid situations where one adult is alone with a group of children and never allow one adult to be alone with one child or distressed adult.
- Always challenge unacceptable behaviour by other adults or peer group activity such as bullying or humiliation.
- Be prepared to **listen** and **act** if a child, young person or adult talks to us about problems they are experiencing.

Dr Nick Silcock is the named person for Safeguarding. Please speak with him if you have any concern about safeguarding issues or if you volunteer in church and have not recently completed safeguarding training.

## **The Bethany Group**

The Bethany Group has not been able to meet during the past year but we have kept in touch and shared Christmas presents and cards.

Carol Phillips

### **Christmas card distribution**

As a way of reaching out to the people in our parish, letting them know that we exist and that we care about them, we designed our own, Covid-related Christmas card and had 4,600 cards printed. This card also acted as an invitation to our Christmas services on Zoom. (Thank you Clive for the lovely design.)

With the help of those of our hotel-based asylum seekers who live in Nottingham, we managed to deliver a card to nearly every home in the parish. Some members of the church who were shielding and unable to take part in the card distribution, agreed to pray for the teams during the distribution.

### **Prayer card initiative**

Together with the Christmas card we included a prayer card. On this card we offered to pray for people every day until 31 January 2021, if they returned the card letting us know their prayer requests.

We received back 8 prayer cards with 10 prayer requests and we have been praying for these people as promised. Everyone included their name and address so we are currently re-contacting them to see how they are and to offer to continue to pray for them until 31 March 2021.

## Farsi Fellowship and Kurds

The Farsi Bible study meeting on Zoom on Thursday evenings comprises people from our long-standing Farsi Bible study group together with hotel-based asylum seekers who have completed our Al Massira intensive Bible study course (covering 25 hours on Zoom). The Farsi speakers are mostly from Iran and Afghanistan.

After sharing news, reading a psalm together in Farsi and singing worship songs in Farsi, we divide into 3 breakout rooms for the Bible study. Two rooms are for Farsi speakers and one is for our Sorani speakers who are all Kurds, mostly from Iraq.

The groups are well attended and the members seem to be enthusiastic about attending.

The leaders are Clive Burrows, Mo, Leeling and Jean, and also Sandra who joins us on Zoom and prays for the group during the evening.

### **Food bank**

At the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020, the church started a confidential food bank for those of our asylum seekers who had no income at all due to lockdown. This was run from Jean's home by Mo and Jean. Food and other essentials were purchased and delivered to the homes of these asylum seekers once a fortnight.

It was funded by generous money donations from members of the church rather than by donations of food. This enabled the ethnic food purchased to be suitable for the people receiving it. Many thanks are due to all who helped in this initiative.

Jean McCloughry



## **Prayer Chain**

We have lived under various and changing restrictions this year but one way that we have not been restricted is in praying. It has been another busy year for St Stephens Prayer Chain, a group of around 30 past and present church members who receive prayer requests by email or telephone and then commit to pray.

Prayer requests are sent to [ask4prayer.ss@gmail.com](mailto:ask4prayer.ss@gmail.com). The request is then circulated by the prayer chain administrator as soon as is practical. If you request prayer for someone else, please ask for their permission.

Only requests for prayer should be sent, or updates on a situation for further prayer, and/or thanksgiving for answered prayer.

As much as it is possible in a group this size, the aim would be to keep requests confidential to within the group.

If you are unable to send an email please telephone your request to either Jean Entwistle on 0115 9117241 or to Phyllis Richardson on 0115 9703593. 180 prayer requests were circulated in 2020

Please email your address to the ask for prayer email if you would like to join the group.

# The Vine Community Centre

2020 started off as a what looked to be another successful year. We had a strong staff team and bookings were up.

Personal circumstances meant Jo left us in January and we welcomed Charmaine to the team in March. However, as we all know, the pandemic took over and the centre closed its doors on the 18th March. Working quickly, the team were able to gather funding and volunteers to be able to support local people, church members and others across the city when they needed it most.

We recruited Martha and Jaz to the team to support our efforts.

From March to August we supported 707 older and vulnerable people and 129 families in the following ways:

- Delivered over 2500 hot meals to vulnerable older people
- Provided 500 activity packs to families to help keep young people engaged.
- Completed 300 shopping trips
- Delivered 150 food parcels
- And made over 1850 wellbeing checks and supported 3 families through the loss of a loved one.

During the recurring 2 lock downs we launched new projects to support our community.

**Mental health support** was on top of our agenda along with supporting people to remain engaged with the community. From this our Freeing Minds project was launched in January of 2021.

In September of 2020, we formed a partnership with The Family Mentor Service to launch **Around Again**, supporting families with under 4's to access much needed clothing and equipment.

We have also continued with over 95 hours of wellbeing checks, a monthly magazine and meals to vulnerable people to ensure their needs are met and they remain connected.

We enter 2021 with financial uncertainty but with a positive attitude and enthusiasm as we watch our new project grow.

Rob Bird

Centre Manager

## Nottingham South Deanery 2020 Annual Report

This year we have said goodbye to Revd Jonathan Smithurst (Attenborough), Revd Claire Goode (Nottingham St Andrew's) and Revd Dr Michele Hampson (Lenton). We have welcomed curates Revd Jo Lees-Robinson (Trinity Church), Revd Francis Finn (St. Nic's) and Revd Grant Walton (St Mary's in the Lace Market) to our Deanery. We were also pleased to congratulate Revd Hannah Hall and her husband Will on the birth of their daughter, Katelyn, in August.

The Deanery Leadership Team has continued to meet during the year to plan Synod and to discuss ways to support parishes in the Deanery. Revd Tom Gillum from St Mary's in the Lace Market has also joined the Team.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances of 2020, we only held one Deanery Synod. We met together at St Barnabas, Lenton Abbey on 12th February to thank those who had served over the past three years and to reflect on all God had done in and around our Deanery. In particular people shared about City Prayer, Trinity Church, the Beeston Workplace Chaplaincy, Nottingham Citizens and we were challenged to become involved with the Green Festival in the autumn.

The Deanery has again paid a large percentage of its giving for ministry allocation (89.2% in 2020, compared to 96.9% in 2019). Every parish is to be thanked for their faithfulness in paying for the ministry received in this deanery, particularly in these difficult times.

We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to have the opportunity to meet again in person.

Kirsty Cowley

