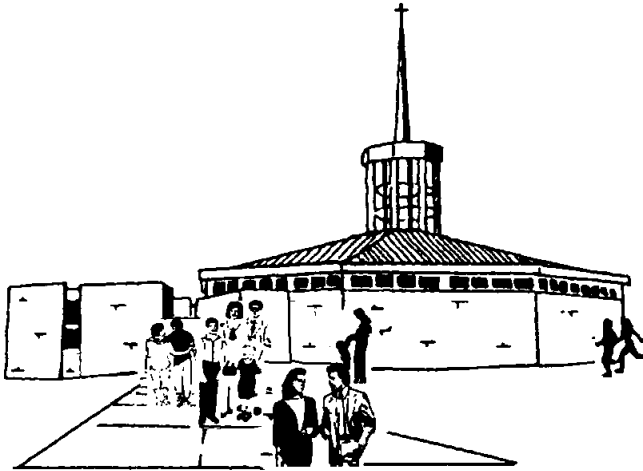


**St Mary
Hobs Moat**



**Annual Church Meetings
2021**

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ST MARY HOBS MOAT

A. AGENDAS for ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS to be held on 25 April 2021

I. CHOOSING CHURCHWARDENS - AGENDA

- 1 Minutes of previous meeting of 25th October 2020
- 2 Choosing of Churchwardens

II. PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of previous Annual Parochial Meeting of 25th October 2020
- 3 Matters arising from those minutes
- 4 Appointment of scrutineers
- 5 Assistant Priest's Report
- 6 Matters arising from reports on the Parochial Church Council 2020
- 7 Matters arising from report on Church Property, Furnishings and Ornaments 2020
- 8 Matters arising from report of Solihull Deanery Synod 2020
- 9 Presentation of Electoral Roll
- 10 Election of 2 members of PCC
- 11 Appointment of Sidespersons for one-year term
- 12 Presentation of Accounts for 2020 and Independent Examiner's remarks
- 13 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 14 Matters arising from reports of organisations - see Section D
- 15 Election results
- 16 Any other business

**B. MINUTES of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETINGS which were held on 25th October 2020**

These meetings had been postponed from 26 April 2020
because of restrictions for Covid-19.

The Revd Linda Granner took the chair and welcomed those present. She opened the meeting by leading those present in prayer.

I. Meeting to Choose Churchwardens

- 1 **Minutes of 2019 Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 7th April 2019 were agreed, proposed by Vernon Ford and seconded by Linda Granner and signed as a true record of that which took place.
- 2 **Choosing of Churchwardens:** Greg Dodd was nominated by David Smye and seconded by Gill Bicker. Marina Downing was nominated by Eileen Knight and seconded by Gill Bicker. There were no other nominations, so they were duly elected. Greg and Marina expressed their thanks for the support which they had received during the past years.

II. Parochial Church Meeting

- 1 **Present:** There were 18 members of the congregation in attendance.
- 2 **Apologies:** 8 apologies were received.
- 3 **Minutes of 2019 Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April 2019 were agreed, proposed by Linda Granner seconded by Marina Downing and signed as a true record of that which took place.
- 4 **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising.

Last Year's Meetings

5 Appointment of Scrutineers: None was required as nominations did not exceed vacancies.

6 Chairman's Report: The AGM gives us a chance to look back over the last year. This report was prepared for the planned meeting at the end of April. Obviously Covid-19 didn't allow that meeting to happen. Despite the very difficult few months we have experienced I have decided to let the report stand as it was written. Hopefully our next AGM will be in April next year and we will be able to get back to some sort of normality.

I want to thank those who regularly keep our Church open on Friday mornings, welcoming any who come in. They also work very hard in between greeting people to keep our building looking clean and tidy. Another way in which we welcome those on the outside of our congregation is through welcoming people into our Church for the 'minor offices'. Last year 3 couples worshipped with us to hear their Banns of Marriage being read; the families of 5 babies and children who were baptized also attended plus one family for the thanksgiving of the gift of a child. I would especially like to thank the regular congregation for their hospitality when welcoming people not used to being in Church. Also of course people who come to St Mary's for funerals, 3 held in Church of those who sadly died last year, and 7 cremations. All of these occasions are opportunities for us to show Christian love, care, welcome, compassion and hospitality.

On Remembrance Sunday we welcomed a very full Church including youngsters from the Beavers and Cubs who now meet in our Church Hall. The monthly service of 'Reflections' continues for our friends with learning difficulties at Parkview Day Centre. Marina and Jean also came with me to Monkspath to sing Christmas carols for those with severe physical difficulties. The Junk Food Community Café continues to run in our Church Hall on Thursdays. They hope to eventually provide full lunches when the kitchen is upgraded. They also sell goods on a Pay as you feel basis which means people short of money can volunteer their talents instead of paying by cash. The Hobs Moat Christmas Tree Lights were switched on in a short break between torrential rain but there was good community spirit in the library with hot drinks provided by Lyndon Residents Association.

Our Nine Lessons and Carols contained items sung by the St Mary's Singers.

Last Year's Meetings

There are many people to thank, all of you in fact, for the work and support which enables the continuing ministry of this Church in the local community. I would especially like to thank Greg and Marina for all their work and support during the year. Members of the PCC and especially Angela Beer as, because of ill health, she has decided to stand down from the PCC. Thank you Angela for all your service to St Mary's. I would also like to thank those who keep our Church building clean and tidy, usually the same people who are here for Open Church on Fridays; those who serve coffee after our services on a regular basis. I would like to thank Vernon for the sterling work he does to ensure our finances are kept under control. This is not an easy task especially when sudden repairs prove necessary. My thanks also to Dave Smye as he continues to deal with the financial side of the hall bookings. Also both Dave and Jean Davies are very valuable members of the Pastoral team, often providing support to others which is not necessarily seen by the rest of us. I would like to thank Juanita for the music, for making sure we always have an organist even if she is away or unable to play for any reason. Juanita decided that the time had come for her to step down as Director of Music and we had a presentation to thank her for all the work she had done over the years. I know she will continue to worship with us here. We appointed Shari-Ann as organist and she began playing for us in November. Unfortunately Shari-Ann had to leave us in March, partly due to the lockdown and her difficulty in finding appropriate accommodation. Knit and Natter continue to meet weekly often using their time to knit for various causes, most recently blankets for the homeless. Most weeks someone will produce flowers to decorate our Church building for worship and there is always a team who will turn up to help for events such as Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas.

A special thank you goes to Revd Sue Shewring who takes services at St Mary's on a regular basis. This covers me for time off or for taking the opportunity to complete things necessary for the Parish.

The monthly service at Kingsford Court continues as does the St Mary's Market during the summer months. We also hosted the Lyndon Art Festival, HBCT United Service for the week of Christian Unity and welcomed the Nursery Class from St Andrews School to visit the Church. I would also like to thank Jan for hosting a Parish Prayer Group to pray for St Mary's and the surrounding community.

Last Year's Meetings

- 7 Matters Arising from Church Property Report:** There were no matters arising from the Church Property report.
- 8 Presentation of Electoral Roll:** Bill Beech reported a total of 69 on the Electoral Roll after three removals and no additions. There were 50 resident in the parish and 19 non-resident.
- 9 Election of Three Members of Deanery Synod:** Marina Downing was proposed by Bea Kirby and seconded by Mary Rose, Jean Davies was proposed by Greg Dodd and seconded by Dave Smye, Juanita Watson was proposed by Janet Turner and seconded by Jean Davies. Both were duly elected unopposed.
- 10 Election of Two Members of PCC:** Vernon Ford was proposed by Greg Dodd and seconded by Juanita Watson. Janet Turner was proposed by Dave Smye and seconded by Tony Bicker. Both were duly elected unopposed. It was noted that Sue Shewring, being a cleric, cannot be elected to PCC by the AGM. However, being a regular worshipper, she was co-opted nem. con.
- 11 Appointment of Sidespersons for One Year:** Angela Beer, Naomi Betteridge, Jill Bicker, Tony Bicker, Channi Collins, Richard Collins, Bea Kirby, Jackie Pardoe, Geoff Osborne, Zay Osborne and Dave Smye were appointed.
- 12 Presentation of Accounts:** Vernon Ford stated that the accounts had been signed by Ian Carpenter on 27 February 2020. Vernon highlighted various aspects of the accounts, detailing and explaining points raised from the floor. Gratitude was expressed to him for his efficiency, competence and sound advice.
- 13 Appointment of Independent Examiner:** No appointment was made. (Ian Carpenter was later appointed at a PCC meeting on 18 January 2021.) Ian Carpenter was thanked by Vernon Ford, on behalf of the PCC, for acting as Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2019.
- 14 Matters Arising from Organisation Reports:** There were none.

Last Year's Meetings

- 15 Election Results:** It had not been necessary to have any voting for elections.
- 16 Any Other Business:** There was none.
- 17** There being no further business, Linda closed the meeting.

This Year's Meeting

C. PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE

I. FORMAL STATEMENTS

The members of the PCC at the end of 2020 were :-	
Clergy & Readers:	The Revd L Granner The Revd S Shewring
Churchwardens:	Mrs M Downing Mr G Dodd
Deputy Churchwardens:	Mrs C Knight vacancy
Deanery Synod to retire in 2023:	Mrs J Davies Mrs M Downing Mrs J Watson
Ordinary Members to retire in 2021:	vacancy Mrs J Watson
Ordinary Members to retire in 2022:	Mrs J Bott Mr A Knight
Ordinary Members to retire in 2023:	Ms J Turner Mr V Ford, Treasurer

The PCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Councils (Powers) Measure of 1956 to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

The PCC and the Standing committee have met several times during the year, sometimes by Zoom, with additional ad-hoc meetings being convened as and when required. Some of the work is undertaken by sub-committees which report to the PCC.

The PCC takes due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

This Year's Meeting

The worshipping community is 86 people. There is no meaningful figure for Average Sunday Attendance because of the effects of Covid-19, both by closures and by personal decisions to stay home.

Financial Review

The year 2020 was exceptional in social and financial terms, caused by Covid-19. Inevitably it had a very considerable effect on our finances, in particular Hall income fell by £16,360 (63%). Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £71,111 within which £11,521 was unrestricted voluntary donations, a further £2,726 paid by HMRC for Gift Aid and a legacy of £25,000 from the estate of the Paytons. Restricted donations of £34 were also received. Planned and plate giving decreased by £2,591 (19%).

£49,398 was spent from unrestricted funds including the contribution of £19,213 to the Diocesan Common Fund (reduced by £1,837 compared with the previous year because of a change to the method of calculation by the Diocese). After disregarding the exceptional items ie legacy, building works and grants, the net result for the year was that payments exceeded receipts by £12,360.

The balance of unrestricted funds carried forward on 31st December was £82,423.

Reserves Policy

The value of the Investment Fund may rise or fall considerably because it depends upon the prices of the shares held by CCLA. The Deposit Fund allows instant access and (currently) a small % interest. It is our policy to maintain approximately equal amounts in our two reserves accounts, the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund and the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund. Hence any major fall of Investment Fund value will only affect approximately half of our total reserves. By keeping a watch on the price of the shares in the CCLA Investment Fund we can benefit from high share prices when they occur.

This Year's Meeting

II. BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE

For obvious reasons, during the past year our buildings have not been the usual hive of activity that one would expect in normal times; however, the team from the Junk Food Project have been able to continue their service to the community. Whilst not being permitted to serve meals in the hall, they have reorganised themselves and have been distributing food parcels to their regular service users.

With the upgrades to the hall now completed, all that remains is for a thermostat to be installed to ensure the temperature remains at a comfortable setting, thus eliminating the need for constant visits to the boiler house to reset the timer.

Having been granted a faculty to install a servery in the church so that teas and coffees may be served after services, we took the opportunity of the lock-down to complete the work. We are most grateful to Jan Turner for putting the 'icing on the cake' by providing a beautiful new carpet that makes a most comfortable meeting area for when we are all able to return to something like normality.

Whilst the buildings have been dormant for much of the past year, they still required constant attention, so as ever, our thanks go to all those who continue to work to keep them in good order. To Dave for keeping the leaves from blocking the drains on the church roof, to Vernon who looks after administration and financial matters, to Dean who has learned to cope with the vagaries of the hall heating system, to Linda for looking after the hall and church diaries, to John for all he does to keep things clean and tidy and to everyone else who do all the things that go unseen.

At the time of writing, the Government are starting to permit a phased release from lock-down. So, in the light of this, we look forward to our buildings in Hobs Moat returning to the active symbol of God's presence in the community.

Greg Dodd

III. MUSIC

Although Juanita decided to stand down as Director of Music, it is comforting to know she is always here as a



This Year's Meeting

well-respected member of St Mary's, who sits on the PCC, to advise and support us as and when appropriate. We are indebted to her for her continued support in so many different ways.

IV. FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

With the obvious social restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the fundraising team have not been able to run a normal series of events during the past year. However, with the award of a number of grants available to alleviate the impact of lost income, the situation is not as bad as it might have been.

One of our major activities is our regular monthly St Mary's Market and Boot Sale, and this too has fallen foul of the necessary restrictions and not taken place at all during the past year, but with the gradual lifting of these restrictions we look forward to welcoming all our stall holders and costumers back soon.

Marina Downing - Fundraising Group.

V. PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team is concerned with the pastoral health and wellbeing of parishioners and their families and friends. Despite possibly greater need, its work has been severely hampered by Covid-19.

VI. CHURCH PROPERTY, FURNITURE & ORNAMENTS

Our report last year began with the statement 'This has been a most interesting year'. As we sit down to write this year's report, what better way to start than to repeat 'This has been a most interesting year', but for very different reasons! Our lives have been affected in so many ways, and this includes the life of St Mary's Church.

Returning to face-to-face worship after the autumn lock-down, we now sit socially distanced in our face masks as we adjust to what some refer to as the new normal.

As we emphasized in last year's report, the closure of the buildings has not interrupted our resolve to continue to serve the community of Hobs

This Year's Meeting

Moat, and we, the congregation have remained as active as ever in both prayer and service to others.

So, it is with enormous gratitude, we thank those who have taken the time to make a difference to the ministry of St Mary's Church. Linda, our Priest-in-Charge and Sue for the support she gives to Linda. Vernon, the Treasurer, who keeps exceptionally transparent accounts throughout the year, prepares the annual accounts, collates and edits this annual report booklet and undertakes various other tasks as they crop up. Phil Knight for preparing the spreadsheets to enable us to claim the tax relief on covenanted giving. Ian Carpenter, for scrutinizing the annual accounts and helping with many different tasks in and around the buildings. The Pastoral Team for all the quiet support they give to us when needed. Andy, the editor of The Moat who gives us an important platform in the local district and on-line. Dave, for looking after the hall income money. Bill for looking after the Electoral Roll. Jean for looking after and washing the church linen.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to all those who would have been mentioned above were it not for the fact that their particular responsibilities have been prevented due to ongoing Covid-19 regulations. You are not forgotten, and we look forward to the day when we return to as normal a life as possible. In the meantime, thank you for being fellow members of St Mary's Church.

Marina and Greg, Churchwardens.

D. ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS for 2020

I. SOLIHULL DEANERY SYNOD

Due to Covid there have been no Deanery Synod Meetings to report.

Linda Granner

II. HATCHFORD BROOK CHURCHES TOGETHER

Due to Covid there have been no joint events this year. However, the Church Leaders have kept in touch to share prayer requests during the year.

This Year's Meeting

III. 2nd OLTON (ST MARY) SCOUT GROUP

These past 12 months have been a very different year of Scouting for both leaders and children. On March 23rd we held our last face to face meeting before the 1st lockdown began. 4 weeks later the Beavers started meeting on Zoom and have continued to do so – we are now approaching our 30th Zoom meeting! We have tried to ensure that the sessions are exciting and different to home schooling. We have run numerous Scavenger hunts, bingo, making pizza & brownies in a mug, a Taekwon-Do session – the list is endless. Also, lots of quizzes & games that can be played stood in front of a computer.



Unfortunately, our Cub leader stood down in August, but 2 parents quickly stepped up to fill the breach. They have embraced the Zoom culture & cubs have been enjoying online meetings since October.

We have lost a small number of Beavers & Cubs, but overall 2nd Olton Scout Group is in a good position for when we are able to return to face-to-face meetings, which will hopefully be soon after Easter.

We would like to thank the church for their continued support of 2nd Olton Scout Group.

Sue Trzcinski

IV. KNIT & NATTER

Due to the understandable restrictions for Covid-19 preventing this group from meeting formally during the past year we have not had the pleasure of them using the chapel. However, with the encouraging news of the success of the vaccinations and things beginning to open up again, we very much look forward to welcoming them back soon.

V. WOMEN'S INSTITUTIE

Restrictions for Covid-19 have prevented the WI from meeting in our chapel during the past year. However, we very much look forward to welcoming them back soon.



This Year's Meeting

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