

**MINUTES OF NINETY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE PARISH OF LUTON HELD IN CHURCH AND DIGITALLY
ON 25TH APRIL 2021 AT 9.30am**

INTRODUCTION – REV. MIKE JONES explained that there are really six meetings combined this year as St Matthew's Parish joins us.

NB Annual Reports not read on the day as Annual Reports, and minutes for both St Mary's and St Matthews Churches are available in paper copy and online.

ELECTION OF A CLERK FOR THE MEETING to take minutes for all the meetings
Angela Symonds was nominated and unanimously accepted as clerk for the meetings to take minutes.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS ST MATTHEW'S

Minutes of the meeting held last year agreed unanimously

Church Warden's accounts were presented in printed form and online and were accepted unanimously. We especially gave thanks for the Butler charity which enabled us to give half the cost of a boiler to a needy family in the parish, and to the Agnes Poulton Trust for continuing to pay for the church insurance.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MATTHEW'S

The Minutes of the meeting held last year were agreed unanimously.

There were no matters arising.

The Financial report was summary was produced by Joan Turner. She also gave special thanks to Revs Mike Jones and Nick Mwandia for their help.

Statutory Reports – we were pointed to the Annual report

Summary of PCC activities* Rev Mike Jones gave special thanks for a wonderful PCC

Proceedings of the Deanery Synod*

Electoral roll changes* (see below in the New Parish)

Report on the fabric, goods & ornaments of the church was produced by John Turner and read by Rev. Mike Jones

Mike gave special thanks to John and Joan Turner (lovely picture), and Judith Horsler, as well as all the people in the subgroup considering future worship.

Mike spoke of a Romanian Orthodox church which will use the church provisionally from 25th May/ April. He gave thanks to God for the Town Centre Mission and prayed for the future of mission in Hightown, thanking Rev Nick Mwandia, and Ian Rowlands (who will be continuing until the end of June). He prayed for all the people of St Matthews, for what He has done among them and how he is leading them into the future.

AOB, Questions - Nothing was raised

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS ST MARY'S formerly called the VESTRY MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held last year

Apart from the correction below, the minutes of the meetings held on SUNDAY 11th October 2020 were agreed as a true record.

'CHURCHWARDENS' CHARITY ACCOUNTS

~~As Anthony Moss was not present,~~ The Churchwardens' Charity Accounts were deferred to the next APC meeting.'

Apologies for absence: JOHN SPURGEON

Church Warden's report of the Charity accounts

Sue Carter presented the accounts which can be read in the APCM report on page 21.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LUTON PARISH CHURCH
HELD IN CHURCH AND DIGITALLY

MINUTES of the meeting held on SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

FINANCES

Andrew Rodell presented highlights from the accounts for 2020, saying that we had an operating deficit of £21,319. Because of lockdown there was no hiring income from St Mary's; another group were also unable to pay their rent. Andrew gave thanks for the fund raising that people did and said If you want to fund raise, please approach him and he will help with practicalities. He also said that the forecast deficit of £47,000 for next year.

Anne Adams thanked Andrew, everyone who gave and fund raised. She encouraged those who are regular members to become regular givers to the church, then she thanked the finance team for their hard work and especially thanked Andrew Rodell who works tirelessly on our behalf.

As a church we give 1000s of hours to the church and the town. She said that 'things don't just happen. St Mary's and St Matthew's people work very hard.'
We need to consider how we go ahead in supporting the church, in personal stewardship, in fundraising – to bring people together and to build community. She asked, 'Are you interested in helping with fund raising, and /or in mission?' If so, please get in touch.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER – See Below in New Parish

5. STATUTORY REPORTS – in the annual report

Summary of PCC activities*

The Vicar, Mike Jones, presented highlights from the PCC report, emphasizing that we all serve together, that we have an amazing staff team and volunteers. He said is humbled by the support he has received. He reminded us that as Christians 'we are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed', because 'this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us' (2 Cor.:4:8-9). As partners with God in the Gospel, we will complete the job.

Proceedings of the Deanery Synod*

The Deanery Synod report can be found on page 10 of the Annual Report

Electoral roll changes (See next meeting below).

Churchwardens' Report

Sue Carter read the report from the Annual report 2020 on page 9

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric

Anthony Moss directed the meeting to page 10 of annual report and summarized the content, highlighting the Great Flood, roof repairs, continuing quinquennial work, and that the heating system is very controllable, as well as longer term issues.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW PARISH

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS ¹

There were two nominations: Anthony Moss and Sue Carter. As there were no other nominations, Anthony and Sue were confirmed as the Churchwardens to serve in the parish for the ensuing year. Mike thanked them for their work over the past year.

APCM OF THE NEW PARISH

ELECTIONS to the PCC.

The following nominations have been received:

Yasmin Milligan, Ruth Boctor, Bethany Whiting, Thomas Connelly.

ELECTIONS to the DEANERY SYNOD

The following nominations have been received:

Clive Barratt, Cathy Nobles

As no further nominations were received, the above were appointed to serve on the PCC and Deanery Synod respectively. Details will be discussed in the next PCC meeting.

ELECTORAL ROLL CHANGES

The total number on the electoral roll this year is 184, of which 153 is St Mary's, and 31 is St Matthews. (These figures are taken into the new parish until the review next year)

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER & THANK YOU

Anne Adams thanked Miller & Co for auditing the accounts and proposed that Miller & Co be appointed as auditors for 2021. This was seconded by Andrew Rodell and agreed unanimously.

Anne thanked both Andrew for all his hard work on our behalf on the finance team.

NEW PARISH GEOGRAPHY was presented on a Powerpoint File (attached)

ST MATTHEW'S BUILDING.

The organ is being removed

The new Luton Parish will be responsible until 31st December 2021 by which time it is hoped will enable transfer to an independent trust. If not, it will then revert to the diocese.

AOB, Questions

Clive Barratt asked, 'How do you see Prayer ministry as we look ahead?' and 'Can we return to a rota system?' Mike's response was that it is one of the important issues we have yet to think through – so we are not sure yet.

The Closing Prayer focused on the future – of the Mall, of Hightown, of Power court, and how we can serve and bless our town.

Finished at 10:31am.

1 Nominations for Churchwarden must be made in writing and given to Mike Jones before the start of the meeting. Only those whose names are entered on the register of local electors plus those on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish for at least the last 6 months may be nominated & vote in these elections.

2 Candidates in these elections must have their names on the Church Electoral Roll (and unless under the age of 18 years have been on the roll for at least the last six months), be proposed and seconded by people whose names are on the Electoral Roll, be aged at least 16 (21 for churchwarden) and be a communicant.