

St. Laurence Church

**in the parish of
Pittington**



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 18th April 2021

10:30am

The Parish of St. Laurence, Pittington
Annual Meeting
Sunday 18th April 2021

AGENDA

Opening Prayers

A. Vestry Meeting to elect churchwardens

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Election of Churchwardens**
3. **A.O.B.**

Close of Vestry Meeting

B. Annual parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 18th October 2020**
2. **Matters arising not covered in other agenda items**
3. **Annual Parochial reports**

Statutory Reports:

- Changes to the Electoral Roll (Electoral Roll Officer)
- PCC business for the period 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021
- Presentation and approval of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020
- Churchwardens report on the fabric of the Church
- Proceedings of the Deanery Synod
- Data Protection
- Safeguarding

Further Reports

- Small Pilgrim Places
- Grapevine
- St. Laurence Draw
- GFS

4. Elections and Appointments

- Election of PCC members
- Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- Election of Sidespersons
- Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts

5. Any other business

6. Report from the Priest in Charge

7. Closing Prayers

There will be a very short meeting of the new PCC immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect:

1. Lay Chair
2. Hon. Secretary
3. Date of next meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 18th October 2020

A: Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens

1. Election of Churchwardens:

Mr D Arnott: Proposed/Seconded: Prof R Dominy, Mrs J Gartland

Prof R Dominy: Proposed/Seconded: Mr D Arnott, Mrs J Gartland

2. AOB: None

B: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 28th April 2019

Approved. Proposed/Seconded: Mr D Arnott, Prof R Dominy

2. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered by other agenda items:

None

3. Annual Parochial Report (received and filed as an attachment to these minutes)

Statutory Reports:

a. Electoral Roll Report

b. PCC business reported for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

c. Presentation and approval of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019

d. Churchwarden's Report

e. Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

f. Data Protection

Policy re-adopted.

g. Safeguarding

Policy re-adopted

Acceptance of the statutory reports: Proposed/Seconded: Mr D Arnott, Mrs J Gartland

Further Reports:

h. GFS

i. Small Pilgrim Places

j. Grapevine

k. St. Laurence Draw

Acceptance of the further reports: Proposed/Seconded: Prof R Dominy, Mr D Arnott

Thanks were expressed to all officers and volunteers for their contribution to the life and work of the church.

4. Elections and Appointments

PCC membership:

Continuing members

Mr P Brown (re-elected 2018 for 3 years to 2021).
Mr G Riddle (elected 2018 for 3 years to 2021)
Mrs K Fall (re-elected 2019 for 3 years to 2022)
Mrs J Gartland (re-elected 2019 for 3 years to 2022)

Elected at this meeting:

None

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mr D Arnott, Mr P Brown

Ex-officio PCC members

Prof R Dominy (Church Warden)
Mr D Arnott (Church Warden; Deanery Synod Representative)
Mr P Brown (Hon. Treasurer, Deanery Synod representative)
Mrs J Gartland (Hon. Secretary)

Hon. Electoral Roll Officer:

Mrs K Fall

Data Controller

Mr D Arnott

Safeguarding Officer

Mr D Arnott

Sidespersons:

Mrs N Brown, Mr P Brown, Mrs K Fall, Mrs D Dick

Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts:

To be confirmed

Appointments: Proposed/Seconded: Prof R Dominy, Mr D Arnott

5. A.O.B.

None

6. Report of the Priest in Charge

While at times I feel I have only been here a short time, I look back sometimes to think where has (almost) two and a half years gone?

For the purposes of this report and this meeting which should have taken place in the Spring but delayed for obvious reasons, I will concentrate mostly on the period of the 2019 APCM and the end of March 2020.

During the year it has been a joy to be your priest. One of the things which has continued to amaze me is the way you share your hospitality with strangers and the strength you have in caring for one another.

It is wonderful to witness that although there are not many of you, you all contribute immensely to the day to day life and worship of the church. Sometimes people's ministries are quite visible whilst for others they just quietly get on with things and can be unseen, but these don't mean anything less. All are valued. I am conscious of the limited 'human'

resource we have here at St Laurence's, but I never cease to be amazed by the wonderful things you do and the dedicated people you are. I really do appreciate how hard you work and how tiring it can be for you.

Worship and prayer are and should be central to who we are called to be. At St Laurence's we are richly blessed through the support of Leslie Morley and it has been wonderful to share ministry with him. We have been additionally blessed with Readers Patrick and Stephen who preach regularly across the benefice and by ordinands on placement. While we do not have our own regular organist here, we are well supported by Rob in preparing music for Sunday worship and we have had the joy of Gerald playing now and again alongside the benefice choir and for occasional services. I will say more in the 2021 report about the current situation brought about through the Covid pandemic and how we have addressed worship. However, it is clear that creative and different approaches will need to be developed and adopted as we move forward in whatever way the future re-shapes us.

Meanwhile, it was a joy when George approached me to ask whether we could consider the prayer life of the parish and this was timely as we began to explore our parish priorities. Having surveyed the congregation we gathered a reasonable amount of data which now just needs to be acted upon. Sadly, the pandemic hit, and we came to halt. Maybe as we become more settled into some routine, we will be able to pick up on it again. However, it was a delight to begin to develop George's idea of a prayer group. It was becoming an established part of the life of the church when the church was closed. Maybe it is time to pick that up again? We could consider re-establishing this (socially distanced in church) or we might explore what it would mean to have an on-line prayer group – something to think about?

In July 2019 it was an absolute delight to welcome Rev'd Liz Hollis as curate of the Benefice. Liz is an excellent colleague, and it is a privilege to be her training incumbent. She is an inspiration, and as she learns from me, it is without doubt that I am learning from her too. Liz brings with her many gifts and has been fully immersed in the life of the parishes. She is clearly well-loved. This coming year Liz will take on more responsibility and self-directed ministry and I look forward to sharing the journey with her.

Mission and ministry are close to my heart and they are to Liz also. Together, I envisage alongside you, we can develop a vision for the church which can be owned by us all, so together, we can discover who and what God is calling us to be and do 'in this generation'. I don't want to put great expectation upon you but rather seek to see what little things can be done together to enable us all to flourish as the People of God in this community.

I know you will all agree we have a super building here in St Laurence's. A building which shall be here for the proclamation of the Gospel and for the benefit of the community and the mission of the church for many years to come. Already we do amazing work through things such as cream teas, wedding ministry and the ministry of hospitality through Small Pilgrim Places and the various visiting groups who come to see and use the building. This will happen again! It is where I see great strength and opportunity on which we can build.

Throughout the year both Liz & I have been involved in the life of Pittington School but once again the pandemic restricted this contact. However, we are working with the school to see how we move forward differently. Next year's report will give a better insight as to how that is unfolding. However, it was joy to welcome the school children into church when we could and for Liz and me to attend some collective worship in school and explore the Christian faith in individual classrooms.

Another joy for the parish is that people like to get married in St Laurence's. I have been lovely to welcome wedding couples as they prepare for their weddings. In the reporting year there were 11 weddings but the majority of those outstanding (all but four) have been transferred to 2021. Thanks must go to Norma for the connection she makes with the wedding couples, not only for her wonderful flower arranging but keeping me on track and ensuring records of attendance are kept to ensure we meet the legal requirements for the

couples who are married in the church. I guess the biggest challenge for us is to consider how we maintain contact with couples and encourage them in discipleship once they are married.

It has also been a pleasure to be invited to a morning with the GFS to help me understand what they do and their ethos. Since then I have enjoyed following them on their Facebook page and thank Jaci Dooley for her work and encouragement that enables the girls who attend to have independent and an outward looking and caring focus in their lives and for the community.

Within all that goes on across the benefice, we mustn't under-estimate the amount of time that has been required of me to work on Area Dean business. This has been quite intense at times due to the demands placed upon deaneries, especially during recent years. Thank you for your understanding.

I am unable to thank all people individually for the work you do in the name of Christ from this church, however, it doesn't mean I do not appreciate all that all of you do, especially those who work tirelessly behind the scenes in caring for the people who use and visit this church, the church building and its grounds and for doing unseen administrative work etc. There are too many to mention here. But thanks must go to Dave Arnott and Rob Dominy for their sterling work as Churchwardens, to Phil Brown for the task of balancing the books and all that involves and to Jean Gartland for her work as PCC secretary. Thanks too to Leslie for his immense support and encouragement in the leading of worship, the pastoral care he offers and much more.

In closing, we must not forget the good foundations on which we can continue build. It has been delightful to see both benefice churches supporting and complementing one another, and I look forward to this continuing in the coming years. We may have hit a hiatus, but things will pick up again and I look forward to what we will continue to achieve together. I am here as your priest and the priest of this parish. I am here to care for you, nurture you, pray with and for you, to share in all the highs and lows of parish life, to lead you in worship and to lead us where God calls us to go and be the people he calls us to be. I cannot do this in my strength alone and so I too would value you your continuing support and prayers for me as we journey on together in God's love and care.

God Bless.

Heather

Revd. Canon Heather Murray
Priest in Charge of St Mary Magdalene, Belmont and St Laurence, Pittington.
Area Dean of Durham.

7. Closing Prayers

Signed

Date.....

C: PCC Meeting

At a short meeting of the PCC following the APCM, the positions below were taken by people agreeing to stand;

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Lay Chair | Mr D Arnott |
| Hon. Secretary | Mrs J Gartland |

STATUTORY REPORTS

Electoral Roll Report

Kath Fall
Electoral Roll Officer

This year has seen an increase of 2 in the number of names on the register, consistent with numbers hovering between 30 and 36 in recent years.

2016/17 there were 32 names on the electoral roll.

2017/18 there were 35 names on the electoral roll

2018/19 there were 33 names on the electoral roll

2019/20 there were 34 names on the electoral roll

2020/21 currently 36 names on current register

PCC Business April 2019 to March 2020

Jean Gartland
PCC Secretary

April/May 2020

1. All churches are closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Diocese wishes to allow churches to be opened for private prayer, when this becomes possible.
2. Rob is to check the building regularly to fire up heat pumps, take meter readings and run the water.
3. Dave has applied to Cathedral and Churches Grant Body for the organ and wall repair.
4. Most weddings have been postponed rather than cancelled.
5. Church Draw: Kath continued to receive payments although the draw could not be made until she had witnesses to oversee fair play.

June/August/October 2020

1. A meeting was held to discuss the implications of opening St. Laurence's Church for private prayer and funerals. Heather is to prepare a risk assessment and it was decided to wait and see how opening worked out at St. Mary Magdalene's.
2. In August the meeting was held to discuss the necessary measures for opening the church for public worship on Sunday 23rd. August.
3. Face coverings must be worn by all except for the people presiding, reading or preaching. Distancing is to be observed. Hand sanitising to be done on entering church and before and after receiving communion. There can be no singing or refreshments and chat in church.
4. Two windows were repaired
5. Kath drew the August draw
6. Heather is to light a new Paschal Candle to mark our new coming together.

7. In October the meeting had a long discussion on the Guided Pledge but no firm decisions could be made as our treasurer was unable to attend the meeting.
8. The Pew Removal Faculty was received and several people have expressed an interest in buying them.
9. Discussions are ongoing regarding the organ repair.
10. Christmas service: There won't be a midnight mass this year. Instead there will be a Christmas Eve communion service at 6pm. There is going to be an online communion service which can be uploaded on Christmas Day. Thursday prayers have not been well attended and it was decided that opening would change to one hour only – Thursday 10am – 11am.
11. There will be an Act of Remembrance on Sunday 8th. November.
12. There are two weddings this year – 29th. November and 12th. December. Only 15 people will be able to attend.

November/December 2020

1. Thursday prayers have been well attended by members of St. Laurence's congregation and the Methodist Church.
2. The church gutters were cleaned.
3. A solemn and respectful Act of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday where Rob laid a wreath and Dave read out the names of the fallen.
4. Dave and Rob were sworn in as Church Wardens via ZOOM
5. The PCC felt that dogs should be made welcome to the churchyard. A notice was placed on the gates asking people to keep their dogs on leads and to clean up after them.

January/February/March 2021

1. Pew removal: an extension to the faculty for the pew removal was applied for and the plan is to use the area as a welcoming and prayer space but the exact detail has not yet been decided upon.
2. Planning continues on the organ repair work.
3. Liz has prepared a Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse, based on the one published by the Church of England. The policy was adopted by the PCC.
4. The church remains open for funerals and Heather and Liz continue to support bereaved families. All weddings have been cancelled until June.
5. A candle stand is to be donated by the family of Dorothy Potts in memory of Dorothy.
6. Dave and Rob are to have more training in Fire Risk assessment and fire drills are to be arranged.
7. The Lent ZOOM course has been attended by ten people.
8. Thirteen of the twenty weddings have been transferred to 2021 and there is to be a change to certification.
9. Further discussion took place on the Guided Pledge. Nathan Bruce, Parish Giving champion, will attend a future PCC meeting.
10. The Safeguarding Policy is now on the website.

Accounts

Philip Brown
Treasurer
(See Appendix A)

Wardens Report

Dave Arnott and Rob Dominy
Wardens

We continue to face the corona virus national emergency measures. We have had intermittent closure from worship for several months and begin again on 14th March, in the knowledge that many people will have received their vaccine. Private prayer has continued on Thursday mornings and has been reasonably well attended. We use all the Corona safety precautions as before.

Canon Heather and Rev, Liz have led streamed services throughout.

Dave Arnott and Rob Dominy have continued as wardens. Phil Brown continues as Treasurer and Jean Gartland as PCC Secretary.

Any progress on repairs and the removal of unused pews has been hindered by the pandemic and we have a faculty extension on the welcome space / pew removal project until the end of June.

The PCC sees Kath Fall planning to stand down and we thank her for all her excellent work.

We are suffering as a community and financially from the lack of events in church and as a consequence we have had to limit any review of Parish Share significantly from what was asked by the recently introduced Guided Pledge system

The wedding list has been decimated with cancellations but we hope to resume in June 2021. Funerals have taken place with limited numbers.

As wardens we look forward with concern but also hope to 2021. We trust that God will help us through and we know that we can still pray and worship together. We pray for all affected by corona virus and hope any taken ill will make a speedy recovery.

Deanery Synod

Dave Arnott and Phil Brown
Synod Representatives

Meetings continue via Zoom.

The Synod is still working on the mission, poverty and children areas. Issues being raised now include community involvement, climate change and how we react to this as churches. Deanery Plan has been the main topic of discussion.

Parish Exchange – allowed members to share their up and coming events.

Data Protection

Dave Arnott
Data Protection Officer

There have been no new data protection issues. We continue to follow our policy and privacy notice.

Safeguarding

Dave Arnott
Safeguarding Officer

We have formally adopted, signed and displayed the new Safeguarding Policy. We also reported that we have not got historic safeguarding issues. We continue to follow this policy and have ensured it is on the front page of the website.

FURTHER REPORTS

Small Pilgrim Places

Sylvia Hope

Points taken from Newsletter, Jan. 2021

Thanks to Ali Green for posting an inspirational item on our Facebook page each day during Advent 2020, as she did through Creation-tide, Autumn 2020, and now in Lent 2021.

The Core Group, is working on producing a small book to celebrate 20+ years of the Network. It is an attempt to give a flavour of what SPPlaces can offer, and for those who cannot physically journey we hope that perhaps the Places and words in the book can be used as part of a pilgrimage of the heart.

Where do we go from here?

The Core Group has met regularly by phone and Zoom. One hopeful idea is to build up the feeling of being a Network and create regional awareness among members...hopefully by setting up some regional meetings by Zoom.

This Autumn we may be able to have a National Gathering and AGM in Birmingham, which was intended in 2020, to celebrate 20 years of the Network.

Sylvia Hope, 15/3/2021

www.smallpilgrimplaces.org



Grapevine Report

Dave Arnott

The £6 per year subscription has been held again as the approved charge. Instead of collecting fees in January, we are now going to collect in April as several issues were not printed during lockdowns. We have sadly lost Dave Drinkwater, a leading light in the Grapevine's history. Mike Hodgson has also retired as advertising manager and Geoff Moore is taking over this role. Megan Port and Carole Dover continue as editors Carol Bloomfield has also retired from her administrator post so she is out of the picture as well. Gilpin Press, Houghton-le-Spring continue to produce the magazine.

St Laurence Church Numbers Draw

Kath Fall

Despite the pandemic making collection more difficult I am delighted to report that most members have renewed their numbers and we welcomed several new contributors, 206 numbers are currently taken with more members taking up the option of paying directly into the bank account using internet banking, either monthly or quarterly.

Zoom has made it possible to ensure that the draw can continue to take place every month and my thanks go to the PCC, especially Dave & Rob for facilitating this.

Prizes of 1 x £50, 2 x £20 & 2 x £10 are awarded monthly. As always my thanks must go to Mary & Dave who collect from our regular supporters and to Mick who undertakes many of the behind the scenes tasks, without their support the draw could not continue. Numbers are always available should people wish to support the church, with the possibility of a small win on a regular basis.

Pittington St. Laurence Girls Friendly Society

Jaci Dooley
Group Leader

It has been a strange year for GFS. Face to face meetings were cancelled from mid March, and the Easter eggs which had already been bought were delivered on my daily walks!

Virtual meetings on Zoom started in May and Councillor Kellett gave us a small grant of £100 to buy craft activities to deliver to all the girls, and other resources to use at zoom meetings, which are very different to face-to-face meetings! GFS wrote some new programme too, and leaders have been having regular zoom meeting to support each other.

For various reasons not all girls attend zoom meetings, so we have kept in touch by delivering craft packs, sending Christmas cards and Easter cards and using facebook and regular texts to parents.

The Singing Elf project have donated activity packs for the girls and we have also had a small grant from Pittington Parish Council which will fund some packs for next term. If the 'roadmap' continues according to plan, we will go back to face-to-face meetings in June, after the school half term. Hopefully we will be able to be outside for meetings then and restrictions should be lifted in late June.

There is a lot of planning to do to keep us all safe, and a lot to look forward to, as we have rebooked the activities which were planned for last year – a day at Moor House Activity Centre, a Drumming workshop and a visit to Clip'n'Climb at the Metrocentre. We have all missed the girls and are very much looking forward to seeing them again.

Appendix A: Accounts

Financial Statements For The Year 31st December 2020

for

St. Laurence, Pittington

St. Laurence, Pittington

Receipts and Payments Account

For The Year Ended 31 December 2020

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>				
Planned Giving Covenants		11985		11783
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>				
Collections	786		2507	
Fetes, Coffee Morning, Events	421		3543	
Donations	<u>3985</u>		<u>2604</u>	
		5192		8654
<u>Other Ordinary Income</u>				
Fees Paid to PCC	3189		7182	
Interest Received	52		78	
Lottery Income	12		-	
Inland Revenue	4247		4575	
Friends of St Laurence	760		715	
Flower Fund Donation	<u>-</u>		<u>400</u>	
		8260		12950
		<u>25437</u>		<u>33387</u>

St. Laurence, Pittington
Receipts and Payments Account
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Payments</u>				
<u>Ministry</u>				
Diocesan Parish Share	12792		12300	
Clergy Expenses	437		320	
Expenses of Locum Clergy & Pastoral Staff	-		1050	
		13229		13670
 <u>Church and Services</u>				
Gas and Electric	1109		2084	
Water	40		48	
Insurance	4478		4471	
Repairs	929		3707	
Upkeep of Services	19		602	
Printing & Stationery	18		-	
Dees Paid to Durham Diocese	1498		1404	
Fixtures & Equipment	-		237	
Deanery Synod	40		-	
		8131		12553
 <u>Miscellaneous Payments</u>				
Gift, Rev Hollis	66		-	
Cost of Trading	20		471	
Charities	305		455	
Vicarage Water	192		87	
Sundry Expenses	376		346	
		959		1359
		22319		27582
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		3118		5805

St. Laurence Pittington
Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2020

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Represented By:</u>				
Debtor		4247		4575
Bank Current Account		18299		29887
Bank Deposit Account		27719		12703
Church of England Investment Account		4222		4204
		54487		51369
		54487		51369
 <u>Accumulated Funds:</u>				
 <u>General Fund</u>				
At 1st January 2020	38926		36509	
Less: (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year	(658)		2417	
		38268		36926
 <u>Building Fund</u>				
At 1st January 2020	7877		4489	
Add: Surplus for the year	526		3388	
		8403		7877
 <u>Organ Fund</u>				
At 1st January 2020	4566		4566	
Add: Surplus for the year	3250		-	
		7816		4566
		54487		51369
		54487		51369