

Minutes of the Annual Church meetings of St Mary's, Warbleton
On Monday 29th April 2019

The meetings were chaired by Rev'd Marc Lloyd. He opened the meetings with readings from Acts 1 verse 8, reminding us of the Risen Lord Jesus and Gospel and Acts 2 verse 42. Luke writes of the Apostles' teaching of fellowship and communion, describing the early church as a model to emulate. This was followed by prayer.

The Meeting for election of Churchwardens

1. **The minutes of last year's meeting** were accepted, having been previously considered by the PCC.
2. **The election of Churchwardens:** David Cleverley and Judith Hemsley had been nominated for election and were duly appointed. David gave thanks to Steve Clark for acting as Service Coordinator throughout the year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Brian and Rosemary Wootton-Whitling, Joanna Smith, Helen and Vivian Bowen, Tony Welford, Steve Clark and Jeremy Cooke. There were 15 people present.
2. **The minutes of last year's meeting** were accepted, having been previously considered by the PCC.
3. **Matters arising:** there were no questions from the floor.

4. **Reports:**

a) Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual meeting:

Steve Clark, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that at the end of December 2017 there were 110 people on the Electoral Roll with 52 of these outside of the Parish and 58 inside it. The figure reduced to 109 at the end of December 2018 with 54 living outside the parish and 55 inside it. During the year we lost 7 members of which 6 sadly passed away and 1 person asked to be removed. 6 new members were added to the Electoral Roll during 2018.

The new Electoral Roll for 2019 has 83 people, 33 of these living outside the Parish and 50 inside it.

b) PCC Annual Report:

All members present received a copy of the Trustees Annual report and Financial Report of the PCC. Colette Parsons was thanked for compiling this.

Mick Greaves suggested that in future the Annual Report could be sent electronically to all those with email addresses logged on the new 2019 Electoral Roll. Although a copy of the report had been available in church and the financial statement had been displayed for at least seven days including one Sunday as the Church Representation Rules 2017 9(3),(c) p10 require, it was agreed that it would be good to have more copies available in advance next year and to highlight their presence.

Due to the charitable nature of the church it is necessary to identify the benefit to the community within the Annual Report.

c) Financial Statement of the PCC for the year ending December 31st 2018:

Meryl Clark, PCC Treasurer, was thanked for her hard work over the last year in computerising all the churches' finances and ensuring the 2016, 2017 and 2018 accounts were complete and Independently Examined by Jonathan Gray.

There were no questions from the floor. Meryl noted that the church Chari Fund investments had performed poorly in the last quarter of 2018, dropping by £14K, but was reassured by a rise of £8K in the first quarter of 2019. Meryl explained there will be more Gift Aid backdated payments from HMRC which are now dealt with on-line using new software. Copies of the 2016 and 2017 Examined Accounts were available for inspection and Meryl requested that any questions should be emailed to her for a full reply. Meryl thanked Andrew Russell for his help, Mick Greaves and Melinda Harries for their continued work as the Treasurer's team and particularly Jonathan Gray for his help and guidance throughout 2018.

d) Churchwarden's Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church:

David Cleverley gave this report:

2018 was important because we had our quinquennial inspection in May by architect Mr Fred Courtney-Bennett, almost 6 years since our previous inspection by Mr Peter Prichett. The most urgent recommendations were clearing drainage channels and rain water gulleys and loose quarry tiles in the nave. In the next 2 years we are recommended to start a programme of preventative maintenance on the tower stonework and repair various cracks around the church.

We had a rare buildings committee meeting on 8th August to decide on what actions to take, when to do them and who should do them. Stuart Hemsley has very kindly offered to do some of the jobs for us. Earlier in 2018 Jonathan Austin erected a new handrail between the lych gate and east end of the church- materials cost £564.64 plus £135 faculty fee.

The Church Rooms finally got the new heating system in November which is based on storage radiators and the cost was £3397 and because the rooms belong to the Church and not the diocese we did not need a faculty or fee. Wendy Greaves asked if David was pleased with the result and he replied that from a safety point of view they were greatly improved and the background heat has prevented damp floors throughout the winter.

David is monitoring electricity tariffs to see if the storage heaters are more economical.

e) Deanery Synod Report:

Report provided by David Cleverley:

Deanery Synod meets three times a year co-chaired by Marc Lloyd. The Warbleton church members are Vivian Bower and David Cleverley and Colette Parsons.

The first meeting of 2018 was at St. Phillips, Burwash Weald on **14th March**. The main speaker was Mr Scott Ralph, Diocesan Property Director on the work of his department after severe under investment and staff shortages had undertaken a 20 year plan with flexibility to allow for changing circumstances and 3 surveyors were appointed and John Shepherd will cover Dallington. Better management of the quinquennial process and a hand book will be available for reporting problems. Parishes should apply for grants and alterations in good time to ensure that sufficient funds are ring fenced.

The **June** meeting took place at Horam Parish Church where the main speaker was Revd Dr Daniel Inman, The Diocesan Director of Ordinands. He spoke of the aim to increase the number of clergy by 50% as asked for by the General Synod. This is not just for ordained clergy but also for the lay community. This will be hard to achieve but various initiatives including modern media are planned.

The **December** meeting took place at Wartling Parish Church where the main speaker was Revd Diane Watts, Together in Sussex Development Worker, The Church and the Common Good. (Also known as the Diocese and Church Urban Fund). Revd Watts forges links between the Church and the wider community and the wide spread support available centrally with the help of local knowledge can target where needs are where existing help can be given additional support.

f) Safeguarding

In the absence of Vivian Bown, Safeguarding Officer, Marc Lloyd drew attention to the Safeguarding Notice Board in the Church Rooms which includes recently adopted policies, and the updated information on the Warbleton church website and in the Quiet Room. We continue to work towards Simple Quality Protects, the Diocesan on-line Safeguarding tool.

5. Election of PCC members as representatives of the laity:

Nominations were received from Jane Atherden, Meryl Clark, Sue Holden, Jennifer Gill and Gail Welford, who were duly elected to the PCC.

Thanks were given to Barbara Cooke for her service since 1996 and Colette Parsons for serving as PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod representative.

Anyone interested in filling the casual vacancy to Deanery Synod for 2019 were encouraged to contact Marc Lloyd.

6. Appointment of sidesmen:

Those thought willing to stand are: The Clark family, David Cleverley, Joanna Smith, the Gray family, Melinda and Owain Harris, Lesley Fairway, Jennifer Gill, Mick and Wendy Greaves, Liz Shave, Colette Parsons, Shirley and Jonathan Austin, Brian and Rosemary Wootton-Whitling and Annabel Forbes.

It was proposed and accepted that all the above should be elected as sidesmen.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

Jonathan Gray has very kindly offered to continue as Independent Examiner for the coming year. This was approved unanimously and Sue Holden felt a small gift of thanks would be appropriate. To be discussed at PCC.

8. Rector's remarks:

Marc Lloyd expressed his thanks to the Churchwarden David Cleverley, Steve Clark (Service Coordinator) and Jennifer Gill for providing the church service staffing rotas. He spoke about some forthcoming events including the Diocesan Strategy meeting with Bishop Richard on Wednesday 19th June 2019 at 7.30 pm in Hailsham and invited all present to attend.

Marc asked for prayers for Church Growth and provided book marks for those who wished to take one away.

9. Any other business:

- David Cleverley thanked Marc and Yvonne Lloyd for everything they do for the parish.
- Jennifer Gill thanked Jeremy Cooke for all his work for the parish during 2018.
- Wendy Greaves requested people on Sunday coffee rota set up of a few small tables and chairs at the end of the Church Rooms for those who need seating. Jonathan Austin requested they should not cause an obstruction to others.
- Mick Greaves mentioned that he thought Joyce Parrott had been unable to attend church for a while. Marc sees Joyce quite regularly in Rushlake Green and she is doing much better. Meryl said that Steve would be happy to give her a lift when she wishes to return.

10. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm with prayers.