

PARISH OF HORSHAM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St Mary's Church Congregation and Council held in St Mary's Church on Sunday 2nd April 2017 following the 9.30 service

Revd Jimmy Young was in the Chair and **60 – 70** Members of the congregation were present.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayers led by Revd. Jimmy Young

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Judy and Terry Brinkworth, Morag Davies, Zoe Malyon, Christine Bright, Howard and Marion Dawson, Pam and Martin Dexter, Chris and Hennie Sleeman and Leslie Cooper.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 13th March 2016

Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

5.1 Diocesan Review of Crawley and Horsham

Following the review, the new Parish of Holbrook had been created incorporating St Mark's Church which would serve the north of Horsham in collaboration with All Saints Church, Roffey.

5. Update on Current Projects

5.1 St Mary's Conservation and Renewal Project (Thanks a Million)

Nigel Stalley gave a brief resume of the state of the church building, roof repairs and maintenance required. Following the successful second application for a grant and loans from the Archdeacon and the PCC and using our fabric fund, there is sufficient funding to start the urgent work on the roof. The work, which had to be scheduled around the bat movements, had commenced with the removal of vegetation on the North side to prevent further damage and stone work on the south side. It is hoped that this stage of the work will be completed by June/July. Guy expressed warm thanks to the Building and Fabric MAP Team, particularly to Nigel and Steve for their dedication and effort to progress this project.

Guy stated that the Thanks a Million project will be formally launched at Easter and was optimistic regarding the outcome. It was noted that Lawrence McLean, Diocesan Advisor had been helpful. A Gift Day will be held on 7th May, with events organised by the two fundraising teams set up for the church building and the church centre facility. Guy made it clear that we should be seen to raise funds within the church family before asking those outside to contribute. At present, the re-ordering of the church centre facility had no finalised plans or permissions but the vision for an updated community facility with the nursery (which will become pre-school in September) book shop and cafe is firm. Guy stated that God had called us to be His people in this town and we must be obedient to God's vision and rely on His provision.

6. Church Council (Mission Action Team) Reports

As MAP reports were available to be read in paper form in church and on the website they were not presented in great detail. The Chairman briefly reviewed the reports and invited questions.

6.1 Worshipping & Praying

Jimmy thanked all those who work to enhance our worship particularly the choir and our sidespeople. The new pattern of services is initially for six months when it will be reviewed and continued for another six months if appropriate especially as the seasons of the year will have passed. A final decision will then be made on the future pattern of services at the end of the year.

6.2 Growing as Disciples

Jimmy thanked all the volunteers who so generously give their time and expertise. There are over 100 volunteers involved with our work with families and children. Jeannine Pearson is stepping down from Little Footprints and Jimmy thanked her for all her help and guidance with this group. The work that Fiona Prentice and Matt Lee is much appreciated and was shown by enthusiastic applause from those present.

6.3 Caring as a Fellowship

Thanks were given to all those who undertake faithful visiting as part of our pastoral care. The pastoral visitors scheme will be reviewed and to help us, a representative from a similar sized church with the same type of scheme is being sought to help bring fresh eyes in the review to ensure that our scheme covers the breadth and depth of need identified.

6.4 Serving and Transforming the Community

Thanks were extended to all Mission Action Team members. The innovative Lent Angels scheme is working well if somewhat cumbersome administratively. The development of the church centre is anticipated with joy by the nursery staff.

6.5 Proclaiming the Gospel

Pilgrim Groups are growing as is the attendance at TGI Friday. Positive feedback had been received from the prayer exercises and beautiful Flower Festival in 2016. Jimmy thanked all the flower arrangers for their faithful commitment and their skill with the flower displays throughout the liturgical year.

6.6 Buildings & Fabric

Recognition of the hard work and effort of those who lead the stewardship of the church building and the church centre was given with much appreciation. The dedication was noted of Nigel Stalley and Steve Benson for their unstinting work in the maintenance and upkeep of church property. Jane Gorrie was thanked warmly for all her care, efficient management and welcoming presence in church. Thanks were also extended to Richard Holloway who had retired from the caretaking of the church centre. Sincere thanks were given to the two Thanks a Million project teams (church and church centre) who have taken over the work of the Church Conservation and Renewal project team. The bellringers who ensure that our worship made evident to those out in Horsham, were also thanked.

6.7 Admin & Finance

Grateful thanks were extended to Keith Burgess and Paul Kirkbride for the long hours needed to deal with the accounts and budgets, especially this year when St Mark's church has left the team which had resulted in additional accounting processes. A review will be made of the shared costs of the remaining four churches

The smooth running of St Mary's administratively is invaluable and Alison Carre and her team of volunteers in St Mary's Church office is hugely appreciated. This was re-inforced by the hearty applause by all those present.

Guy then stated that there was no Stewardship Sunday in 2016 because of the imminent Thanks A Million project and it has been 18 months since St Mary's had received a significant increase in the regular income.

6.0 Safeguarding

Jimmy stated that safeguarding is a serious responsibility and thanks were given to Caroline Crook and Joyce Brown for keeping St Mary's up to date. He stressed the need for volunteers to regularly attend safeguarding training courses.

All reports from the Mission Action Plan Teams were accepted by those present.

7.0 Nominations

The Chairman thanked everyone who has served in any capacity during the last year. We have been blessed in having Morag Davies as Church Warden for the past 9 years but she has now decided to stand down. Morag has been a fabulous gift to St Mary's leading the Caring as a Fellowship Team, organising pastoral visitors and supporting the almshouses. In her absence, she was given a standing

ovation in thanks.

7.1 Church Wardens

We are grateful that Nigel Stalley and Stephen Benson were standing again this year and the congregation welcomed the nomination of Elizabeth Lickiss as the third Church Warden. They were unanimously elected. We continue to be very grateful indeed for the hard work and expertise in dealing church matters in the past and look forward to working with Elizabeth in the future. Jimmy also thanked their spouses for their support and understanding. The Church Wardens were given a standing ovation on their election.

6.2 Parochial Church Council

No nominations had been received for the PCC to join Peter Fruin who has one year to serve and Christine Bright who has two years to serve. Guy stated that this was an exciting time to be part of the PCC as the impact of the new Parish of Holbrook has afforded the opportunity to review the arrangements of the four remaining churches. The clergy had met and had discussed closer working between the churches, to continue the joint service for the Parish on 1st January, to preach annually in each of the other team churches and to arrange Growing Leaders course for the laity next year.

6.3 Deanery Synod

Alison Carre was nominated to stand for this vacancy. The congregation unanimously approved the appointment.

6.4 St. Mary's Church Council

Sheila Pilkington, Emmanuel Holden, Pam Dexter, Veronica Kidd, Joyce Brown, Kimball Edey, Zoe Malyon, Michael Lickiss, Francois Van Schalkwyk, Elizabeth Hawkins, Pauline Welch, Delysia Hill, Keith Burgess, Elizabeth Lickiss, Nigel Stalley and Stephen Benson were all elected to the DCC for a period of 1 year having been proposed and seconded by members of the congregation.

6.5 Sidesmen

The congregation were delighted to approve the list of Sidesmen.

6.6 HCT

Becky Lickiss was nominated and unanimously elected as our representative on Horsham Churches Together.

6.7 Family Support Work

There were no nominations and it was agreed that this item be removed from future agendas for the time being.

7. Chairman's comments

Guy thanked Jimmy for taking the Chair at the Annual General Meeting and for his handling of the meeting.

Before his comments, the Guy gave thanks for the lives of those from our church family who have passed into God's presence in the last year and remembered each by name. He gave thanks for their witness and faith.

Guy rejoiced and thanked God that he is now in good health and again thanked the church family for the love and care he had received. He paid tribute to Jebbs who has been a wise, good and selfless support to him in his 30 years of ordination. She works tirelessly behind the scene bringing her love and care to all. There was spontaneous applause as those present showed their acknowledgement of the valuable pastoral role she plays within the church family.

This year we have concentrated on the Year of the Bible and the Thanks a Million Project. Our journey is one of faith and trust and God has sent us people with many and varied gifts and Guy feels strongly that the Spirit is moving in all sorts of areas of our church life.

In the Chichester Diocese 2018 is the Year of Prayer and 2019 will be the Year of God's Mission and Outreach with many calls to vocational ministry and we are already working towards using people's

gifts for the sake of the wider world.

8. AOB

Nigel Stalley proposed a vote of thanks to Guy for his leadership and to Jimmy and Alan on behalf of all at St Mary's for their pastoral care and spiritual guidance.

9. The meeting closed in prayer.