

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 following the 9.30 service

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Revd Guy Bridgewater was in the Chair and 60 – 70 Members of the congregation were present.

#### 1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayers led by Revd. Guy Bridgewater

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Pam and Martin Dexter, Pauline and John Welch, Myra and Dick Ansell, Kimbal Edey and Yvonne Cooper

#### 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. Update on Current Projects

##### 5.1 Diocesan Review of Crawley and Horsham

The prayerful and faithful exercise of the review had been carried out by Archdeacon Fiona Windsor and had identified the challenges for Crawley which is understaffed. The implications for our Team Parish centred on the proposed large development of North Horsham. The recommendation is that as this new housing takes St Mark's focus further away from Horsham centre it warrants the creation of a new and separate Parish to serve the new housing developments (2,500 plus the possibility of a further 2,000) working collaboratively with Roffey especially in the mission and outreach to the near housing. This recommendation was unanimously supported by the PCC.

Revd Guy Bridgewater read from a submission he had made prior to the outcome of the review explaining his view that the development of North Horsham made the creation of a new benefice appropriate. The Horsham Team would continue with the four remaining churches.

Brenda Large commented that St Mark's had been planted in Holbrook following the development of the old St Mark's site and had grown into a strong and energetic church. She felt the new benefice should be celebrated as a positive and God given next stage of that outreach.

##### 5.2 St Mary's Conservation and Renewal Project

At the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's a resolution had been agreed to wind up the Friends and for their work to become part of the Conservation and Renewal Project team. Guy gave heartfelt and grateful thanks to the Friends for the significant funding, commitment and expertise they had provided in the past for the maintenance and enhancement of St Mary's Church.

An unsuccessful application for a grant for the first stage in the roof repairs had been followed by a second application which is hoped will be successful.

120 responses had been received to the recent questionnaire regarding the renewal projects and improved facilities which contained excellent feedback, suggestions and offers of help. Thanks were extended to all those who had contributed to this exercise. A planned Vision Day will take place on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July when the Vicar will lead the congregation in taking stock of our present position, considering our calling, opportunities and challenges, determining our priorities and attempting to ascertain what is required in terms of use of the building, people and funding in the foreseeable future.

Nigel Stalley thanked all those who responded to the questionnaire in such an encouraging and helpful way and for the receptivity to change expressed. The responses are being collated for use at the Vision Day. He also stated that a link will be put on the St Mary's website for fundraising purposes. Guy informed the meeting that St Mary's had received two generous legacies this year and encouraged

members of the congregation to consider this method of investing in the future of the church that we love.

## **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**

Guy thanked the choir for the fantastic way in which they enhance our worship and praised the high standard attained. Thanks were also extended to Laurence Windward for his work in organising sidesmen for all services particularly those special services arranged at short notice.

### **6.2 Growing as Disciples**

There are many signs of God's blessing with over 110 people in our home and small groups and in excess of 100 volunteers involved with our work with families and children.

### **6.3 Caring as a Fellowship**

Thanks were given to all those who do the faithful visiting as part of our pastoral care and we are looking forward to Holiday at Home which is presently being planned.

### **6.4 Serving and Transforming the Community**

Thanks were extended to Nora who has recently left St Mary's Nursery after 11 years enthusiastic service and to all the staff. The congregation's attention was drawn to the very informative noticeboard at the back of the church giving relevant information about projects we regularly pray for and support financially.

### **6.5 Proclaiming the Gospel**

We are part of the worldwide family of God and demonstrate this by our welcome and outreach, including our partnership with the activities of Horsham Churches Together. Recruitment to the executive committee of HCT has proved difficult and we are grateful for Jimmy's active contribution and continued and increasing role. Particular thanks were given to Terry and his team in welcoming visitors to St Mary's.

### **6.6 Buildings & Fabric**

Thanks were expressed to Jane Gorrie, our unfailingly warm and welcoming verger, who looks after the church on a day to day basis and to Manny Holden and his team in the Many Hands project for example - for the maintenance of the vicarage garden during the Vicar's sabbatical. Thanks were also given to Tony Hoadley, now retiring as Chairman, for his unstinting work.

### **6.7 Admin & Finance**

Thanks to Jonathan Powell, Keith Burgess both supported by Paul Kirkbride for their tireless work on the accounts and managing the budgets. As Jonathan will not be standing as Treasurer again, our grateful thanks were extended to him for all his hard work behind the scenes. The work put in by Linda with the Stewardship Scheme was also very much appreciated.

The smooth running of St Mary's administratively was a result of the hard work and efforts of Alison Carre and her team of volunteers in St Mary's Church office which is hugely appreciated and Richard Holloway was warmly thanked for all the work he puts into the running and maintenance of the Church Centre.

Guy then thanked everyone who so generously give their time, skills and financial support to St Mary's and through this to churches not only in our Diocese but also nationwide.

## **6.0 Safeguarding**

There are 250 names on the list of people who have been checked regularly and huge thanks are due to Caroline Crooks for all the work she does in this respect for St Mary's. Thanks also to Joyce Brown who undertakes a similar role for the parish.

## **7.0 Nominations**

### **7.1 Church Wardens**

Morag Davies, Nigel Stalley and Stephen Benson were all standing again this year and the congregation unanimously elected all three. We continue to be very grateful indeed for all their hard work and expertise in dealing church matters and they were given a standing ovation. For the future, consideration is being given to Deputy Church Wardens to help with succession planning and to spread the workload a bit more widely.

### **6.2 Parochial Church Council**

Christine Bright was elected to the PCC for three years to join Pauline Welch who has one year to serve and Peter Fruin who has two years to serve.

### **6.3 Deanery Synod**

Elizabeth Jink was nominated to stand for this vacancy caused by the sad death of Keith Bridgeman, our previous representative. 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, Marcus Newton, Zoe Malyon, Michael Lickiss, Francois Van Schalkwyk, Calvin Johnson, Richard and Jeannine Pearson and Elizabeth Hawkins 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**

Elizabeth Lickiss was nominated and unanimously elected to represent St Mary's joining Sue West and Maureen Muggleton.

### **6.7 Family Support Work**

There were no nominations for representation and should anyone reconsider and wish to have more details they should contact Jimmy Young for information.

## **7. Chairman's comments**

Before beginning his comments, the Vicar gave thanks for the lives of those from our church family who have died in the last year and remembered each by name. He commented that it is a privilege to build on the heritage passed on to us in both the faith and the building and that it is wonderful to be part of the family of Christ.

During his recent ill health, Guy had felt enveloped by the church family in love and care and he hoped that others felt the same at times of need. He encouraged everyone to let the clergy or church wardens know if folk are in any kind of need so that we are able to fully support each other.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Jimmy for all his work and support during his sabbatical and sick leave. He thanked God for sending us someone so capable and inspiring who brings so much to us. Guy paid tribute to Alan Mayer whose wise and steady presence was deeply appreciated, to Michael West for his faithful pastoral ministry and to Karen Ind and Simon Quail for all they do. Finally he thanked Jebbs for all her loving service and support and for the incredible amount of careful pastoral care she does behind the scenes.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed with verses from Psalm 90 - *May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.*

## **8. AOB**

Nigel Stalley proposed a vote of thanks to Guy, Jimmy and Alan on behalf of all at St Mary's, for their

leadership, pastoral care and spiritual guidance.

**9.** The meeting closed in prayer.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children.

May the beauty of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us, yes, establish the work of our hands.