

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH CENTRE
ON THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2016 at 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENT: The Revd David Bouskill (in the Chair); Revd's Canon Guy Bridgewater, Paddy Beresford, Richard Coldicott, Natalie Loveless, Bernard Sinton, Jimmy Young; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary), Paul Kirkbride (Parish Treasurer); Nigel Stalley, Mike Attfield, Libby Risby (Parish Wardens); 67 parishioners;

Apologies were received from 20 parishioners

The Revd David Bouskill opened the meeting with prayer.

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015, had been circulated. On the proposal of Richard Coldicott, seconded by Nigel Stalley, they were approved *nem con*.

2 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT PARISH WARDENS

The Chairman thanked Libby, Nigel and Mike for their faithful service.

Election: There were three written nominations for Parish Wardens.

Nigel Stalley (St Mary's), proposed by Brenda Large, seconded by Maureen Muggleton

Mike Attfield (St Mark's) proposed by Linda Humble, seconded by Bob Silver

Bob Silver (St John's), proposed by Brian Jones, seconded by Malcolm Bridgeman

All three were *elected by acclamation*.

3 REPORT ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

Reports on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the five churches were circulated.

The Chairman thanked all those who had prepared these reports and who care for our church buildings.

4 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Treasurer reported that these had been adopted by the PCC for presentation to the APCM; copies had been placed in all the churches and opportunity had been given for questions to be asked in advance. He said that the parish was financially sound, having made a surplus of £30,990.

The new Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) regulations require that the Trustees' Annual Report has to show greater transparency, especially in regard to evidence of public benefit. The Charity Commission is placing much more emphasis on this.

A full audit was not required as the total income was less than £1m. An Independent Examiners report was presented. Both unrestricted income, including planned giving, have increased. Four funds previously shown as restricted were transferred to unrestricted as no proof could be found of the restriction. SORP requires the inclusion of a cash flow statement and the inclusion of legacy income in the accounts for the year when the legacy is first known about.

The unrestricted funds equate to approximately two months of unrestricted charitable expenditure, which is considered adequate.

Paul expressed his thanks to all who helped him over the year - the church Treasurers, Chris Button, Brenda Large and all the clergy. He particularly thanked Linda McLean for continuing as bookkeeper for a while after her planned retirement.

The Chairman thanked Paul for his report and his work throughout the year. Guy echoed this; it had been a particularly tricky year with the new regulations, but everything came in on time. He thanked all those present and all the faithful worshippers who expressed their love in finance, as well as in many other ways. He thanked God and his people; this was greeted with applause.

5 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

The Chairman thanked those who are standing down this year – Anne D’Arcy, Angela Haydon, and Sandra Gooding.

St Mary’s has nominated **Christine Bright** to serve again for 3 years; St Leonard’s has nominated **Gill Budd** to serve for 1 year; St John’s has nominated **Lesley-Ann Holland** to serve for 2 years.

There were no elections for the Deanery Synod this year, but following the sad death of Keith Bridgeman (St Mary’s) the DCC has nominated **Elizabeth Jinks** to fill the vacancy on Deanery Synod.

On the proposal of Frank King, seconded by John Stoddart, it was agreed *nem con* that those people who have been elected to the PCC by their respective AGMs and are listed in the report attached in the Minute book be confirmed in their positions.

6 ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

(List attached in the Minute Book)

Those who had been elected by their respective AGMs to serve as sidespeople/welcomers are listed in the attached report. Their election was confirmed. The Chairman thanked those on these long lists for being willing to undertake this important role in the ministry of hospitality.

7 ELECTION OF AUDITOR

On the proposal of Linda McLean, seconded by Linda Humble, Morris Palmer Limited were elected auditors for the Parish *nem con*. The Chairman thanked them for their work and for assisting in producing a clear report.

8 PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

A report prepared by the Secretary on the activities of the PCC during the past year was circulated.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIOCESAN REVIEW OF MINISTRY IN CRAWLEY AND HORSHAM

Guy said that when Bishop Martin was appointed he diligently visited all the parishes and found a particular area of challenge in Crawley, which was understaffed, and the structure of the four team parishes was creaking. He set up a review led by Archdeacon Fiona Windsor. It was obvious that this needed to include the neighbouring parishes, including Horsham, Colgate and Rusper, especially because of the building of Kilnwood Vale. The Archdeacon and her legal and finance experts visited and consulted every PCC and DCC. She found that our challenge is in North Horsham, with a whole new community likely to be built. She recommended the formation of a new parish of Holbrook, based on St Mark’s, to work with All Saints Roffey.

St Mark’s was built in the town centre by the Victorians to accommodate growth. It was moved to a new building in North Heath Lane in the 1970s. This is the next stage. It seemed clear to all that St Mark’s should form its own parish.

Richard Coldicott said that it could possibly be accomplished by the early Autumn 2016. Roffey and Colgate are to amalgamate. Horsham PCC had been very supportive of the

development and look forward to the reinvigoration of the Horsham Team. Richard recorded the gratitude of St Mark's for all the support from the churches and from Guy. At the licensing of the new Curate at All Saints, Bishop Martin had said he was excited to see the evangelical St Mark's and the Anglo-Catholic All Saints working so well together. This sharing across church traditions is a real gift from Horsham Team, and enabled us to relate to all the churches in HCT also. Guy said that St Mark's will remain "family" and led prayer for the people at St Mark's as they move forward.

10 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

A report prepared by the Deanery Synod secretary on the activities of the Deanery Synod was circulated. Brenda drew attention to the vacancies for Horsham representatives.

11 YOUTH WORK

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

A report by Judi Cox, together with her three year plan for Youth work, had been circulated. The emphasis now is to grow the community work, and for this more volunteers are needed. The Chairman said he was excited to be on the edge of this work with Café Connect and gave his personal thanks to all the leaders.

12 ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Electoral Roll report prepared by Keith Rayner had been circulated. The roll now stands at 1032. The Chairman thanked Keith and the church officers.

13 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

Joyce Brown had circulated her report on safeguarding in the parish.

14 REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

These had been circulated

a) St Mary's

Guy Bridgewater thanked Jimmy, Alan and the team vicars for looking after St Mary's while he was on sabbatical and then sick leave. During that time Fr David as Team Rector and Martin King from Rudgwick as Rural Dean had ably filled the roles. There had been good growth in the church, with young families and newly retired people, They are about to embark on a major conservation and renewal project.

b) Holy Trinity

David drew attention to the exceptional Christmas attendance, and numbers had continued to be up till Easter. Having been here for 8 Christmases he is now seeing third children in a family in their first nativity play. Such longstanding involvement has led to some deep conversations. He added that there is still no other job that tempts him to leave Holy Trinity.

c) St Mark's

Richard also commented on huge numbers at Christmas and Easter, and the large team that serves St Mark's in so many ways. The appeal for money for new chairs had been so successful that they were able to buy a new sound system with what was left over.

d) St John's

Paddy was delighted with the way the church had flourished while he was ill. He spoke about the Broadbridge Heath Magazine which one person in the church had pushed for,

and is now up and running, bringing the old and new communities together. It is also excellent that there is a need for fortnightly Sunday afternoon baptism services.

e) St Leonard's

Natalie had nothing to add to her report. Guy said that at the St Leonards AGM he saw shoots of new life already, and it was good to welcome Natalie to the St Leonard's vicarage.

15 PARISH AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

Reports from the following organisations were circulated

a) Mothers' Union

Guy thanked Christine for her great leadership of the MU Branch. He is looking forward to Sue being equally successful when she takes over.

b) Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support

Brenda said that the parish as a whole is not very involved with FSW, though Holy Trinity had had a talk from a local worker and continues to collect goods for them.

c) Parish News

The Chairman said that the Magazine was valued for decades but people get their information in other ways these days. The decision to close it was not a reflection of its content or Margaret's editorial skills. To older people in particular it was of value, and we need to find other ways of communicating. In general discussion, members mentioned Warnham Magazine for the church and the village but this would not really work in the town. Use of the press was urged. Each church needs to consider how it will present itself. Visitors need to have something they can take away with them.

d) Horsham Churches Together

No report had been produced. Brenda said that there had been a recent meeting of Ministers to review the work of HCT. The will to co-operate is strong but HCT is struggling to maintain projects, get volunteers and work with HDC. Many ministers have changed and are concentrating on their own congregations, not having the time or energy to look at wider work. Prayer is need for this re-energizing. The next Forum is to consider how to reshape HCT. Jimmy is to join the Executive.

e) St. Mary's Primary School

The Chairman said that he is currently enjoying his engagement with the children as he takes his turn to lead the Tuesday morning assembly. It is good to have such an excellent school in the parish.

f) Holy Trinity School, Crawley

Brenda requested prayer for the newly appointed Headteacher as she takes up her position.

16 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Taking into account the challenges of the past and the current years he was prompted to read 2 Corinthians 4 "Treasure in clay jars" and closed at 9.05 p.m. with prayer.

Signed

Chairman of the Meeting

Date