

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH CENTRE
ON THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017 at 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENT: The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater (in the Chair); Revds Paddy Beresford, David Bouskill, Natalie Loveless, Bernard Sinton; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary), Paul Kirkbride (Parish Treasurer); Nigel Stalley, Bob Silver (Parish Wardens); 16 parishioners;

Apologies were received from Revds Kate Bailey and Jimmy Young and 10 parishioners

1 PRAYER

The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater opened the meeting with prayer.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2016 had been circulated. On the proposal of David Bouskill, seconded by Peter Fruin, they were approved *nem con*. The Chairman thanked David for chairing that meeting.

3 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT PARISH WARDENS

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

Election: There were two written nominations for the three Parish Wardens posts.

Nigel Stalley (St Mary's), proposed by Bob Silver, seconded by Brenda Large

Bob Silver (St John's), proposed by Steve Benson, seconded by Val Burgess

Both were *elected by acclamation*.

The chairman invited the wardens of the individual churches, who are not legally churchwardens (parish wardens) to attend the churchwardens' admission meeting, where they will gain a lot of useful information.

4 REPORTS ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

(Copies circulated and attached in the Minute Book)

a) St Marys.

The plans for the future were emphasised.

b) Holy Trinity

Fundraising would be important

c) St Leonard's

They were very pleased with their new signage.

d) St John's

They are planning work that will solve the problem with the windows and increase capacity to serve their growing community.

The Chairman said that it was very valuable to be able to share skills across the parish via the PCC.

5 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Treasurer presented his report. The chairman noted the cost of the creation of Holbrook Parish, but was satisfied that it had been the right thing to do. He thanked Paul for his good leadership of the treasurers' team, who pulled well together.

6 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

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. In addition it was noted that Holy Trinity intend to nominate Reg Haydon

to serve on the PCC for 2 years; this nomination will be dealt with as a casual vacancy at the next PCC, when the required forms have been signed.

7 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD.

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. In addition St Mary's wishes to nominate Liz Jinks and St Leonard's to nominate Barbara Hammond to the Deanery Synod. These nominations will be dealt with as casual vacancies at the next PCC, when the required forms have been signed.

8 ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

(List attached in the Minute Book)

Those who had been elected by their respective church AGMs to serve as sidespeople/welcomers are listed in the attached report. It was noted that there was duplication in the St Mary's list. Their election was confirmed. The Chairman thanked those willing to undertake this important role.

9 ELECTION OF AUDITOR

On the proposal of Peter Fruin, seconded by Keith Burgess, Morris Palmer Limited were elected auditors for the Parish *nem con*. The treasurer said that they had done a wonderful job.

10 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. The Chairman said that the support mentioned was mutual.

11 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. The chairman said that the presentation on energy conservation had been particularly timely. The discussion on the training levy showed how important issues can be escalated from a parish via the Deanery to the Diocese.

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 825. The Chairman said that it is worth mentioning the Electoral Roll from time to time in church, to ensure that people are aware of it.

13 YOUTH WORK

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

A report by Judi Cox had been circulated. Judi has been thinking hard about her job. She always wants to be where the Lord wants her, and that is where she loves to be. She needs a season of prayer and seeking his way. She would also like feedback on the streams of work that are happening now.

The Sleepeasy brought the streams together. She is particularly pleased to have one of the Y centre staff involved with TGI Fridays.

She thanked Matt Lee, "a super student youth worker", and all those who have been working so long in this field.

Guy thanked Judy for her constant enthusiasm.

14 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

Joyce Brown had circulated her report on safeguarding in the parish. She emphasised the need for introductory and renewal training. She thanked St Mary's office for their assistance.

15 REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

These had been circulated

a) St Mary's

Guy Bridgewater spoke about the "Thanks a million" campaign to raise funds to repair and enhance the church and reorganise the church centre into a home for St Mary's nursery and a better centre for the community. Architects are working on ideas. There will be a gift day on 7 May with the aim of raising £50,000 in the 50 days to Pentecost. We can then go out to grant givers. Meanwhile the roofers have been removing weeds and spotting trouble. The vision day had led to a restructuring of the service pattern, which will be reviewed in due course. He thanked everyone for their support when he was ill early in the year. He had found it a powerful thing to be on the receiving end of care. Finally he repeated how sad he was to lose Michael West, who had left a legacy of pastoral care to the parish.

b) Holy Trinity

David Bouskill thanked the Holy Trinity family for all the work they did during his sabbatical. His novel is still coming along. Guy said that the mental health seminar he had prepared will be very valuable. Messy church had brought huge numbers to Holy Trinity. At the last one there were over hundred and thirty people involved. And there are always new people.

c) St Leonard's

Natalie Loveless emphasised that it had been a busy year with lots of new initiatives and good engagement with the community. They plan soon to have a Sunday morning dedicated to mental health. She thanked Jill and Sam for their long-standing service as wardens and welcomed Rosemary Hensor and Anne Apted as the new wardens.

d) St John's

Paddy Beresford also expressed his gratitude for care when he had been ill. He noted that Kate has made her mark, and Brian New will be returning, with his licensing on 24 May. Chris Robertson has given a day a week to children's work and he may be able to increase this. He spoke particularly of Kinderoo, a mothers' and toddlers' group, which he described as a manic Thursday morning. It started as a secular group in the church hall, and they have made some wonderful contacts. There have been numerous baptisms of children from the new estates, where there are nearly 6000 new houses already with a 150 more to come. Guy said that often a christening is the first time all the family is together, especially if the parents are not married. He quoted "If you do a good christening, you get the wedding gig."

Guy praised God for lots of signs of life in all the churches.

16 PARISH AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS

a) Mothers' Union

A report was circulated, and a copy is attached in the Minute Book.

Guy commented that it was a very varied programme and he thanked Sue for her leadership.

b) Horsham Churches Together

A report was circulated, and a copy is attached in the minute book
Guy said that Rosemary Coachman, a member of St Mark’s, was doing a really good networking job as the Horsham Churches Together coordinator. There had been meeting for ministers the previous day and he asked for prayer for Deacon Tom Murray the moderator. Good conversations were happening with Horsham District Council officers on church planting and work in the new areas

c) St. Mary’s Primary School

Unfortunately no report had been received. Guy said that a new head, Mr Alex Bird, had been appointed to start in September. He gave particular thanks to the foundation governors for their service to the school.

d) Holy Trinity School, Crawley

There was no report from Holy Trinity, but it was noted that they too have a new head, the Rev Chrissie Millward.

17 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Guy spoke about what had come out of the staff awayday.

a) Pray together more

On the first Monday of every month from 7.30 to 9.00 there will be a parish prayer meeting called Hope. This will help us to know and understand each other and collaborate better. The first one will be at St Leonards.

b) Swapping pulpits

It is planned to do this three times a year so that people know all the clergy and the clergy begin to know the people.

c) Team ministry news on DCC agendas

d) Sharing parts of the confirmation preparation

e) Growing lay leaders by running a course across the parish

The PCC will do more work on the structural changes needed, growing out of the prayer meetings.

The parish covenant service on 1 January 2017 had been a good way to start the year and it will be repeated. It will probably be on the first Sunday after Christmas.

Paddy closed the meeting with prayer at 9.05.

Signed
Chairman of the Meeting

Date