

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
HELD IN THE CHURCH CENTRE  
ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 at 7.45 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater (in the Chair); Revds Paddy Beresford, David Bouskill, Natalie Loveless; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary), Paul Kirkbride (Parish Treasurer); Nigel Stalley, Bob Silver (Parish Wardens); 44 parishioners;

**Apologies** were received from Revds Bernard Sinton and Brian New and 15 parishioners

**1 PRAYER**

The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater opened the meeting with worship.

**2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2017 had been circulated. Subject to the correction of Rosemary Couchman's name at 16b they were approved *nem con*.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted that the course on Growing lay leaders had not run. 2019 is the Diocesan Year of Vocation, so it will be appropriate to run it then.

**4 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT PARISH WARDENS**

**Election:** There was only one written nomination for the three Parish Wardens posts. Nigel Stalley (St Mary's), proposed by Brenda Large, seconded by Paul Kirkbride, was elected by acclamation.

Bob Silver will remain in post until 31 July 2018, unless another candidate is elected before then. Guy encouraged people to think about the role and thanked all those who served as legal churchwardens for the parish and as team church wardens. He added that the wardens of the individual churches can attend the Archdeacon's visitation when the churchwardens are formally admitted.

There is another kind of Archdeacon's Visitation; she visits each parish to make sure that everything is being done correctly, especially as regards property and buildings. She will visit Horsham in June; she has delegated to Guy, as Rural Dean, the other Visitations in the Deanery. This will be the first time he has done them.

**5 REPORTS ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH**

(Copies circulated and attached in the Minute Book)

**a) St Marys.**

The Chairman noted that the important roof repairs had been completed. The Quinquennial Inspection was facing all of us. He remarked on the excellent teamwork in tackling jobs in all the churches.

**b) Holy Trinity**

**c) St Leonard's**

**d) St John's**

The chairman commented how important the church halls for mission.

**6 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Treasurer presented his report. The chairman said that the results were not great but we were on budget. There was always a risk of diverted giving when big building projects are on, but we know that the investment will bring mission results in the end. He is grateful for the regular giving of parishioners and thanked Paul and all who work in our church finance area.

**7 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, formally nominated, and are listed in the report attached in the Minute book be confirmed in their positions.

**8 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD.**

There were no nominations.

**9 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. Their election was confirmed. The Chairman noted that some had served for a long time. In particular at St Mary's Lawrence Windwood had served as a sidesman for 60 years and had been the coordinator for 30.

**10 ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Paul said that because our income is now under £1 million we do not need an auditor but an independent examiner. He thought we had a good system working with Morris Palmer. On the proposal of Peter Fruin, seconded by David Bouskill, Morris Palmer Limited were elected independent examiner for the Parish *nem con*.

**11 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. Nigel Stalley said that from 25 May 2018 we need to abide by the General Data Protection Rules (GDPR). In order to tighten up how we handle data the parish is using the software package Churchsuite. He thanked Alison Carré for putting all the electoral roll on this. It is stored in the Cloud. We must make every effort to destroy old hardcopies of personal data. Further guidance will be coming out about how we can best move forward on data protection.

**12 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 East Grinstead parish had been without a vicar for two years. He asked for prayers for Revd Alison Letschka as she is inducted as vicar there tonight.

**13 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 837. By law a new roll has to be prepared next year. Figures will probably dip but then grow.

**14 YOUTH WORK**

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

A report by Judi Cox had been circulated. She offered huge thanks to all who had helped and supported her. The chairman said she had said nothing about herself; her report had exemplified looking out. This would be her last presentation after seventeen years, as she is leaving later in the year for new adventures.

Matt Lee, the trainee youth worker, said he spoke on behalf of all the youth leaders when he thanked her for her leadership and inspiration. It was amazing to work alongside her. He felt he was training alongside the very best.

Chris Robertson, the youth leader at St John's, said that he has been working with Judi for the whole seventeen years. She is a fine role model and a pleasure and privilege to work with. He said that the kids loved her because she loves them. Her vision has been creative and inspiring. He presented her with the gift of another hoodie, inscribed with over 40 of Judi's characteristics that the young people had mentioned.

Emily and Lucy paid tribute to her from Horsham YMCA. Lucy said that she had been working the chaplaincy at Horsham Y for over five years. It was 9.30 to 11 every Thursday evening, a faithful presence with no agenda. It was so valued. She thanked the parish for allowing Judi to do this outreach work, which has been the basis of a growing chaplaincy in the Y in Sussex. Emily spoke of her first meeting with Judi when she was at the Y and was quite isolated. She said she had grown as a person from knowing Judi.

Judi said that seventeen years ago she stood in the pulpit to set out her vision, and was fearful. Seventeen years later she lay under the pulpit on a sleepover as she was soon to leave. She particularly thanked Sarah White for her support, and has leaned on the Lord all through. There were too many vital volunteers to mention by name, and she thanked them all. But Chris and Julia Robertson were certainly worth a mention. She said that our young people are the church of now and it is always a joy to be with them.

The meeting thanked her with enthusiastic applause. There will be a party to celebrate her work when she finally leaves.

## **15 SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

Joyce Brown had circulated her report on safeguarding in the parish. The Chairman thanked her for her long service.

## **16 REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES**

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

These had been circulated

### **a) St Mary's**

### **b) Holy Trinity**

David Bouskill said that Susie Street had agreed to become their new safeguarding officer.

### **c) St Leonard's**

The chairman commented that as usual the work at St Leonards was very creative.

### **d) St John's**

Paddy Beresford said that this would be his last APCM as he retires in September he is delighted that there is so much going on at St John's.

Bob Silver spoke about the renewal project. The windows need to be replaced and community growth needs a larger church. This week they have narrowed their plans down to a feasible project. The chairman said that Bob has helped St Leonard's and St Mary's as well as being her key contributor to the St John's building plans. This was an excellent example of sharing gifts across the parish..

## **17 PARISH AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS**

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

### **a) Mothers' Union**

The chairman said that the programme was full of good things especially with an international flavour.

**b) Horsham Churches Together**

The chairman asked for prayer for Tom Mary as she stands down as moderator. Three more lay people are needed on the executive. The Christmas and Easter events had been outstanding. Prayer is also needed for Horsham Matters as they have new staff and a challenging financial position.

**c) St. Mary's Primary School**

The chairman thanked the foundation governors for their service to the school. He noted that the diocesan staff came to prepare the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report on the Christian features of the school on the day when the school was working with prayer spaces in church.

**d) Holy Trinity School, Crawley**

The chairman noted that the head teacher Rev Chrissie Millwood had commented on the wonderful service to the school from Judi Cox.

**18 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The chairman rounded off the meeting by saying that we were all about Jesus. The Bible begins and ends with him and so does Horsham parish.

He closed the meeting with prayer at 9.00.

Signed ..... Chairman of the Meeting

Date .....