

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, HORSHAM
ON TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2019 at 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENT: Nigel Stalley, Parish Warden (in the Chair); Revds Natalie Loveless, Bernard Sinton, Brian New, Kate Bailey; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary), Paul Kirkbride (Parish Treasurer); Reg Haydon (Parish Warden); 36 parishioners;

1 OPENING WORSHIP

The Revd Natalie Loveless opened the meeting with worship.

2 APOLOGIES

were received from Revd David Bouskill and 15 parishioners.

3 MINUTES

a) APCM on 13 April 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2018 had been circulated. Subject to the correction in 12 to read West Grinstead, they were approved *nem con.*

b) Meeting of Parishioners 12 July 2018

The minutes of the special meeting held on 12 July 2018 to elect a churchwarden had been circulated. They were approved *nem con.*

4 MATTERS ARISING

None

**5 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT THREE
CHURCHWARDENS (PARISH WARDENS)**

Election: Valid nomination forms had been received for

Nigel Stalley (St Mary's), Reg Hayden (Holy Trinity), Margaret Symonds (St Leonard's). They were elected by acclamation.

6 REPORTS ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

The following reports, having been circulated, were received. Copies are attached in the Minute Book.

a) St Marys.

b) Holy Trinity

c) St Leonard's

d) St John's

The chairman thanked all the church wardens for the work they do to manage the church buildings and grounds.

7 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

The Treasurer said he was pleased to present the Financial and Trustees' Report for 2018, which had been circulated. The final accounts for 2018 have been independently examined. He highlighted the following matters.

The most significant point to emphasise was that this year has been most successful in that we are virtually in a breakeven position. Last year we experienced a sizeable loss and it is most gratifying that by everyone's hard work and efforts we have been able to turn the situation around. Every church has contributed to this wonderful position.

The income from unrestricted funds for the year amounted to £574,630, with the largest amount being received from planned giving at £301,039. Expenditure from unrestricted funds was £577,435, with the largest item spend being the diocesan quota at £256,626. The total general unrestricted fund total is £90,219, which equates to just over 2 months expenditure and meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.

The Trustees' Report has been presented in a more interesting and readable document, and contains a couple of graphs to illustrate various facts.

He thanked everyone for their help in making this a successful year and for helping him in his work, mentioning particularly the church treasurers, the clergy, the churchwardens, the administrators and a special mention to Nigel Stalley, whose tremendous efforts and energy have been remarkable.

The chairman thanked Paul and his team of treasurers.

8 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

It was agreed *nem con* that Alistair Inglis-Taylor, Keith Rayner, Bob Whittaker, Anne Mellor, Audrey Lee, Joan Denn and Richard Pearson, who had been nominated to the PCC by their respective DCC AGMs, and listed in the report attached in the Minute book, be confirmed in their positions.

9 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD.

It was agreed *nem con* that Marie Emmanuelle Gros-Lemesre, who had been nominated by St Mary's DCC AGM, and listed in the report attached in the Minute book, be elected to fill a casual vacancy on the Deanery Synod.

10 ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

(List attached in the Minute Book)

Those who had been elected by their respective DCC AGMs to serve as sidespeople/welcomers are listed in the attached report. Their election was confirmed.

11 ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Paul said it would be more straightforward if the independent examiner came from the same firm as our bookkeepers. A different individual in the firm would be responsible for the independent examination. On the proposal of Paul Kirkbride, seconded by Bernard Sinton, D A Clarke were elected to act as independent examiner for the Parish *nem con*.

12 STATUTORY REPORTS

The following reports were received.

a) Proceedings of the PCC

Having been circulated, the report prepared by the PCC secretary Brenda Large was received.

b) Deanery Synod report

Having been circulated the report prepared by the Deanery Synod secretary Brenda Large was received.

c) Electoral Roll report

The Electoral Roll report prepared by Keith Rayner had been circulated. The chairman gave special thanks to Alison Carrie for her work on the data. This is a new roll, which now stands at 702.

13 PARISH ACTIVITY REPORTS

The following reports were received. Copies are attached in the Minute Book.

a) Youth work

The Youth report prepared by Chris Robertson of St John's, had been circulated. The chairman said that the parish had been blessed by the work of Judi Cox, who had not yet been replaced, and Matt Lee, whose traineeship has been completed. He thanked Chris for holding the youth work together, with strong support from Natalie.

b) Safeguarding report

Richard Pearson had circulated his first safeguarding report. St John's members said that they do have a safeguarding link on their church website.

Richard added that the diocese does not intend to replace the pocket safeguarding guides. He recognises that Horsham parish policy is out of date. At the next PCC he will propose that we use the Church of England policy handbook. But the current websites do give the right message. He wished to highlight the work of the church safeguarding officers which takes a great deal of time and sensitivity.

c) St Mary's

d) Holy Trinity

e) St Leonard's

f) St John's

g) St Mary's Preschool

The chairman said that the Preschool is the responsibility of the PCC but that this was the first time a Preschool report had been requested for the APCM.

14 RELATED ORGANISATIONS

The following reports were received. Copies are attached in the Minute Book.

a) Mothers' Union

b) Horsham Churches Together

The chairman thanked those who represent the parish at these meetings.

c) St. Mary's Primary School

d) Holy Trinity School, Crawley

The chairman said that he was a governor of the school, and that they are looking for another governor from Horsham Deanery.

15 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The chairman, on behalf of himself and his fellow churchwarden Reg Haydon, thanked people for coming to the meeting and for all the time and talents they give to the church. This year has been challenging for the wardens. He thanked Guy and Paddy for all they had done for the parish and for Horsham. Their loss has led to an increased workload, and he offered special thanks to Natalie and all the other clergy who had sustained the parish. This was met with applause.

The interregnum is a time of waiting, and can be frustrating. We need to trust in God's timing and to wait patiently. All the churches were involved in the parish review and the PCC agreed with the proposals that St John's becomes a separate parish and that Holy Trinity thinks about this. They also agreed that a review of parish governance is necessary. With these proposals agreed St Mary's and St John's can move forward on appointments.

The parish profiles are already done. By the next APCM he hopes that both parishes will have a new vicar.

16 CONCLUSION

Revd Natalie Loveless thanked all the wardens who had taken on extra responsibilities during the year. This was met with applause.

It had been a difficult year for the clergy, and she noted that she will be the only paid member of the clergy working over Easter. She paid thanks particularly to Bernard, Alan, Kate and Brian. She asked members to pray for David's healing. Finally she thanked Rebecca for sticking with us as curate; we are looking forward to her priesting this year

She closed the meeting with prayer at 8.25 pm.

Signed Chairman of the Meeting

Date