

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS
ALL SAINTS GRAYSWOOD – 11th OCTOBER 2020

I ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Rev Fi Gwynn welcomed 21 people to the meeting in person and on zoom and opened with prayer.

- (i) Election of Clerk for the Meeting
Judy Culhane was proposed by Jane White, seconded by Dellah Canale and elected.
- (ii) Election of Churchwardens
Jackie Holmes was proposed by Richard Everett, seconded by Judy Culhane and elected.
Anthony Ramsden was proposed by Daphne Bleach, seconded by Tracy Garland and elected
- (iii) Any Other Business There was none.

II ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- (i) Apologies: Rev Chris Bessant, Daphne and Greg Bleach, Carol Breese, Val Digby, Tracy Garland, Pippa and John McLean and Darren White
- (ii) Minutes of the 2019 annual meetings: These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
- (iii) Presentation of the Electoral Roll:
In Val Digby's absence Fi reported that the new Electoral Roll for 2020 had 111 members of which 61 reside in the parish,

Val Digby - Electoral Roll Officer

- (iv) Annual Report of the Council:
Our PCC had six full length meetings in 2019 which all began with a Bible reading and prayer and one short meeting when we adopt and sign the accounts.
We aim to have a main item at each meeting to challenge us and help us to focus more deeply, in addition to the day to day items that we need to discuss. Our first main item was our focus for the year which after discussion we agreed should be - *nurturing and growing the family*. This both embraced our wish to encourage children in the church and the church family in the village. We considered ways to get more people involved, to encourage families by making a space in front of the back pew for young children to play quietly with toys we provide and to consider how we may facilitate something for an 18's to 30's group which they can develop themselves. It was agreed that a closed Facebook group called 'All Saints Interactive' to engage others in the village in this age group was an exciting way forward. We had encouraging feedback from the away day held in February. Various ways in which we could increase and make more overt our welcome to visitors, passers by and worshippers was another main item which developed from our focus for the year. We discussed stewardship as over half our donations come from people aged 80+ which leaves us vulnerable, and we are aware our parish share is due to increase. We invited Sarah Vullo from the Diocese to give us an overview of digital giving and, and after discussion we agreed to buy two contactless readers. We planned a stewardship campaign to include talents and financial giving which we launched at Harvest Festival through a Gifting Leaflet. The PCC offered to provide a Harvest lunch for everyone as part of our giving.
In March the Rector of Haslemere was appointed so interviews were able to go ahead for the appointment at All Saints for the House for Duty post. The successful applicant turned it down for practical reasons so Fi continued to lead us. Later in the year we were delighted when Archdeacon Paul Davies and Rev Chris Bessant, our United Benefice Rector, came to tell us that Fi had approached them as she felt guided by the Holy Spirit to develop her ministry. Fi had been interviewed by the Regional board and been successful. Paul strongly believed that Fi was being called to this ministry and encouraged the PCC to accept his recommendation that Fi holds the position of Self Supporting Minister, for which there was unanimous support from all the senior clergy. This is a part time post. We were delighted and unanimously in favour of Fi's appointment. Fi and Pete will stay in their own home and Paul proposed that Church House be let and Fi paid a housing allowance. Some time in the next year Elaine Collins, a self supporting minister who wishes to re locate to Haslemere will join the United Benefice team, based in Grayswood, to support Fi.
During the year we support Grayswood School, Grayswood Nursery and our regular Missions. These Missions are CMS, Skillway and Through Faith Missions and in our last meeting of the year we choose whom we would like to support for the first quarter of the next year and we chose Christopher's Smile, a children's cancer charity.

Anthony and Allen, our two deanery representatives keep us informed of any deanery matters we need to consider. We have Safeguarding as an item on our Agenda at each meeting and with Jane (our Safeguarding Officer) we complete a safeguarding self audit and action plan which we send to the Diocese each year. Finally, as I am retiring as PCC Secretary, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to be part of All Saints PCC. Sometimes a little challenging, often inspiring and always enjoyable and rewarding to work alongside such a committed and happy team. Thank you.

Judy Culhane – PCC Secretary

(v) Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish:

Jackie read Darren's report.

It does seem somewhat strange that as we approach the end of 2020, we are now reviewing our finances for 2019. I am sure many of you are more concerned with the impact Covid has had on our finances than our 2019 accounts. With this in mind I would like to assure everyone, due to the foresight and planning of the PCC, we remain in a healthy financial position and with many other churches experiencing much hard ship during this time we took the decision earlier in the year to pay our diocesan parish share in full for the year to offer some assistance in this respect.

Moving to our accounts for 2019, the total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £85,175 and our expenditure amounted to £73,028. With gains on Investments of £1,489 this resulted in net income on unrestricted funds of £13,636 for the year. As a result, the unrestricted fund totalled £49,506 at 31st December 2019, of which the PCC has designated £5,904 for specific purposes as shown in note 15 of the accounts. Our monthly expenditure now averages around £6,000 per month. To break this down further this equates to roughly £1384 per week, £197 per day or £8 per hour. Our plan to install a new lighting design and conversion to LED lights in the church continues to move forward and a generous donation of £26,000 was received to assist us with this. It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and there was £6,250 in this fund at the end of the year. We aim to maintain a minimum of 3 months' expenditure as our cash reserves and we were able to achieve this in 2019.

All of this was only made possible by the incredible generosity of our congregation and as your treasurer, and on behalf of the PCC, we thank you so very much. I would also like to add my thanks to James at Knox Cropper for his assistance and support during 2019 and in the preparation of our final accounts.

Darren White - Treasurer

(vi) Approval of the Accounts

Jackie proposed the approval of the accounts, seconded by Matt Cave and all were in favour. Our thanks were expressed to Darren for producing the accounts.

(vii) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Knox Cropper is willing to continue as our independent examiner. Judy Culhane proposed, Jane White seconded and all were in favour that they should be asked to continue as independent examiner. Judy will write to them and thank them. .JC

(viii) Report of Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Church Fabric generally remains in good order and nothing has been changed during 2019, although we have received approval for the handrail outside the choir vestry and this will be installed early in 2020.

Although not strictly a change to the Fabric of the church, we now have a beautiful Persian rug for the North Transept from Emma Stopford's father.

The cracks in the arches below the angel in the North Transept do not appear to have worsened during the year but we will continue to maintain a watch and wait approach.

As usual, a special mention of thanks should be made to the buildings and grounds team, the church cleaning team and all the other volunteers who do such a great job both inside and outside the church to maintain the fabric and keep our church looking so good.

Jackie Holmes - on behalf of the Churchwardens

(ix) Deanery Report

There were two Synods, in July and November, each attended by Anthony and me.

The first was at the new Busbridge Church Office, adjacent to the Church and converted from the old Rectory. There was a warm welcome for Anthony, who had recently emerged from six months in hospital, from the new Area Dean Simon Taylor, who is also Vicar there. Anthony summarised the position on Deanery finances.

Concern was expressed that, in common with many other Deaneries, we had not filled our quota of places on the Diocesan Synod, which was operating on only 40% of full strength.

There was a short discussion on the Diocesan Review, 80% of which related to internal restructuring, with significant impact for Church House staff. The role of Archdeacon is to become more inspectorial, with inspection of all parishes every two years and scrutiny of Parish action plans.

Discussion also took place on how the Deanery might become more visible, more supportive of individual Parishes and more collaborative. Special services for teenagers were being held at Haslemere and Busbridge. Elsewhere, work was going on with children and food banks. There was talk of a resource directory, to help in the better sharing of resources – for example, Busbridge has two bouncy castles which it is happy to lend to other Parishes.

The second meeting was also at Busbridge, when our new Rector, Chris Bessant, introduced himself. There was further discussion on ways for the Parishes to support each other.

The Area Dean put forward a draft letter from the Deanery to the Archdeacon on registration of marriages, which was approved unanimously by the meeting. This expressed concern at significant changes being proposed, without any input from parish clergy, involving post-wedding registration within seven days by the Civil Registrar, with no provision for a marriage register to be kept by the Parish. This would raise practical difficulties for couples, as well as secularising and damaging the institution of marriage. It was requested that this be discussed by the Diocesan Synod.

It was reported that The Parish Share payable to the Diocese is to increase by 2.5%, in spite of them funding from their reserves a planned deficit of £156,000.

Allen Chubb - on behalf of our Deanery representatives

(x) Election of Deanery Representatives

Deanery Representatives are elected every three years. Allen would like to retire but is willing to stand for another year. If anyone is interested to know more about the role please do talk to Allen. There are normally three meetings a year plus six PCC meetings as deanery reps are ex officio members of the PCC.

Anthony Ramsden was proposed by Judy, seconded by Jane, and Allen was proposed by Richard, seconded by Judy. Both were elected.

(xi) Election of members to the PCC

On our PCC we have ex officio members – Fi, our two wardens Jackie and Anthony and our deanery representatives Allen and Anthony, and 9 elected members. These currently are Sasi Cave, Judy Culhane, Richard Everett, Sarah Hatherall-Good, Tracy Garland, Pippa Hollins McLean, Jasmin Tempest, Darren White and we have one space (Shirley Richmond who moved away). They are elected for a term of three years and may stand for election again for further terms of three years. Jasmin has come to the end of her second 3 year term and we thank her warmly for all her support and input. Pippa has served one 3 year term and would like to stand again. We have nominations for John McLean (proposed by Jackie, seconded by Judy), Nicola Miller (proposed by Pippa, seconded by John) and Pippa (proposed by Dian and seconded by Christian Hatherall-Good. All were elected.

(xii) Sidespeople and Chalice Assistants

Previously sidespeople were elected at our APCM but under new Church Representation Rules, which are designed to be simpler and to give more freedom to Parishes, they are now to be elected by the PCC. They have an important role as they are the first people to greet visitors at the door. They arrive 30 minutes before a service so that they can get everything ready in good time in order to give people a warm welcome as they arrive. After the service they clear up and lock everything away. Those who are regular sidespeople or on the list of reserves are:

Trish Bell, Anthea Brock, Matt Cave, Allen Chubb, Di Cook, Louise Cooper, Valerie Digby, Penny Glaser, Paul Heugh, Jackie Holmes, Mary Holthouse, Elisabeth Holthouse, David Hutton, Geoff Mordin, Emma Stopford, Brian Walker, Jane White and reserves, Daphne Bleach, Greg Bleach, Judy Culhane, Pauline Lamb, and Dian Mordin. We are most grateful to them all.

Our Chalice Assistants are appointed by the priest in charge with the agreement of the PCC and are under the Bishop's authority. They are Daphne Bleach, Matt Cave, Allen Chubb, David Culhane, Richard Everett, Chris Hinton, Jackie Holmes, Jossie McCarthy, Dian Mordin, Vera Prangle and Jane White.

(xiii) Safeguarding Report

The safeguarding report for our lovely church is very easy, but this does not mean we have time to sit back on our laurels. We must all be mindful that harm can be done to any one of us or our children at any times and by anybody. People who hurt children or adults whether vulnerable or not don't wear a badge or a mask. All of our PCC members are required to undertake training and this is reviewed and retaken as and when necessary. Our safeguarding policy is on the door and is signed by myself and the PCC secretary. The diocese lay training on throughout the year at various locations and members of the PCC have undertaken training at Haslemere or on line to ensure that they are up to date. We are in the process of arranging job descriptions for everyone – this has come to light following our safeguarding audit, which is something we have to do every year and this gets passed on to the diocese. Our DBS checks are also all up to date.

Could I ask that if anyone has a concern about anyone, no matter how small or if you even think its so silly it doesn't matter, come and talk to me. The little bit of information you pass on may be one of the last pieces in a jigsaw puzzle.

Jane White - Parish Safeguarding Officer

(xiv) Any other business

Fi added that it is very important that anyone does pass anything to Jane. She thanked everyone and closed with the Grace – at 11.25 am.

Signed

Date