

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 14th April 2019 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 69 persons present.

Fr Colin Lawlor, Priest and Chris Gadd, Churchwarden shared the Chair.

- 1 **WELCOME:** Fr Colin extended a warm welcome to everyone to the APCM at St George's. He explained that he would open the meeting and continue until the election of Churchwardens had taken place and would then hand over to Chris Gadd as lay chair of the PCC to preside over the rest of the meeting.

Fr Colin said:

I want to just say a few words reflecting upon the past 6 months, since I came to the parish, and then saying a little bit about the future.

Firstly, I want to say how happy I am to be here! When a priest moves to a new ministry it can be rather daunting – not just a new parish, but a new home, a new town and, in this case for me, a new diocese. But I am very happy to be here and feel settled in my new environment, so I want to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome.

Following someone who has been in post for a while presents all of us with both a challenge and an opportunity. And at the heart of both the challenge and the opportunity is the possibility for change.

Change can of course be frightening, I think as human beings we shy away from change and think it is more comfortable to just let things carry on as they always have. But having a new parish priest gives the parish an opportunity to reflect upon the past, to build on what has gone before, and to think creatively together how we might serve Christ in this community in the years ahead.

I am sure you will already have noticed some very minor changes to the liturgy, and there will be others – but I don't intend throwing out the baby with the bathwater and making sweeping, revolutionary changes that are likely to cause distress. I note in the church wardens report later mention has been made of the 'subtle' changes that have taken place, and that has been quite intentional on my part. For any change to work we need to ensure that we bring people along on the

journey with us and that we don't alienate.

At the heart of whatever we do must be mission. Mission both in terms of seeking to bring more people to faith and to our faith community and, more importantly, mission in the sense that we share the love of Christ amongst the people with whom we live and work, and to have the confidence and the skills to speak about our faith, not least in the context of growing secularisation where faith in general, and Christianity in particular is often pushed to the margins, we must be careful not to be complicit in this, as I think sometimes Christians are.

Mission will be one of my priorities in my time as parish priest here. The other, and in a way the two are closely allied, is stewardship. I know when that word is uttered the reaction is likely to be 'he's talking about money', and certainly that is one aspect of stewardship (and given our current financial position, that we will hear about later, that is indeed a priority) but stewardship means much more than that, it is about reflection on our giving in financial terms, in our talents, and in our time – always understanding that no one should be expected to give more than they can.

And so one of the things that I hope we can set up very soon is a Mission and Stewardship Sub Committee, in the first instance to put together a Mission Action Plan, which I hope will assist us as a parish to grow in faith, and to bring others to a knowledge of the love of God in Christ Jesus, drawing more people into his church. That committee will also consider our stewardship in its broadest sense, but focussing as a priority on our current financial position.

But lets' not be gloomy! There is so much that is positive in this thriving parish. One of the first things I noticed when I arrived was the warmth of welcome that St. George's give to visitors and newcomers. This is a warm and friendly community where so much happens.

We are blessed with so many people who give so much of their time in so many ways, much of which we will be hearing about during the meeting.

I am enormously grateful to you all.

I would particularly like to mention Lesley, our parish administrator for all that she has done, and the many ways that she has supported me in these past few months. To Jane, our PCC secretary, for always

making sure things are in order and that papers and agenda are sent out well in advance. And also of course, the two church wardens. We are truly blessed here to have in John and Chris a team that really complements each other, using their unique gifts for the benefit of our church.

For that we should all be grateful.

For my part I am also grateful for the support, encouragement and friendship they have given me from day one. It is the usual practice here for wardens to serve for 4 years, but they still have to be elected each year.

John Hood has served for 3 years and has indicated a willingness to serve for a 4th year. Chris has served one year, and is willing to stand again this year.

2 **APOLOGIES** were received from John Hood and Lindsay Hood, Bob and Sue Andrews, Dick and Lesley Handy, Candy and John Williams and Pat Winter.

3 **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS:**

Churchwardens stand for 4 years at St George's but have to be elected every year.

John Hood has indicated his willingness to carry on for another year. John of course is a regular worshipper at the 8.00 am Holy Communion.

Chris Gadd has indicated his willingness to carry on for another year. Chris is a regular worshipper at the 10am Parish Communion.

- John Hood has been proposed by Malcolm Brewer and seconded by David Cavey
- Chris Gadd has been proposed by Colin Monk and seconded by Nigel Morgan.

Fr Colin asked if there are there any other candidates to come forward for the post of churchwarden? As none were forthcoming he asked whether everyone is happy for these two to be elected as Churchwardens. This was agreed unanimously.

They will be sworn in by the Archdeacon in due course.

4 **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER**

Tony Rice-Oxley reported that every 6 years the Electoral Roll has to be totally updated and everyone has to complete a new form. Tony reported that there is a slight drop this year – he thinks that some of these could be due to the fact that people have not realised that they have to complete a new form. There are 155 parishioners currently on the Electoral Roll, 72 of these are from outside the parish. Tony explained that the list that is displayed now only has names on it because of GDPR. If anyone still wishes to fill in a form after this meeting they can do and hand it to Tony and it will be agreed by the PCC. Tony indicated his willingness to carry on as Electoral Roll Officer and thanks went to Tony for all his work on this.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2018, was 90 adults and 6 children including weekday attendances.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2018 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were no amendments and the minutes were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record. Colin Monk proposed that we accept these Minutes and this was seconded by David Palmer and agreed unanimously.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.18:**

Dawn gave the following report:

“The accounts have been audited by Paul Read and there are no alterations required.

This year the accounts are not good reading. Income is lower than budgeted and this is on top of expenditure being higher than budgeted. Our total assets have decreased by £8118 in 2018 with lower balances in the charity account, main bank account, hall account, flower fund and the toddler group.

Our investment value has decreased in value by £392 and was valued at £25584 at the end of December.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £10732 at the end of December. We also have money in the UTB account of £40703 and a reserve buffer account to ensure we are able to manage our cash flow of £7519 (We did not have to use this during 2018). We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £838.

We received £10724 back from HMRC so thank you to everyone who is a UK tax payer and have signed a gift aid form. This was however £500 less than 2017. If you would like to gift aid your donations and have not signed a form David Cavey will be happy to help with this. Both myself, David, Colin and Malcolm cannot stress how much easier giving is using the parish giving scheme. Not only does it reduce the amount of admin, but it is far safer than carrying cash through Waterlooville precinct every week. If you do not give by this method, please consider, it as we get the tax back straight away rather than having to wait 3 months, and you still have control over how much you are giving. You can do this even if you are not a tax payer, again David Cavey will be happy to help with any queries you may have.

The donation figure is lower than last year by £1692. This comes from Donations made to the church and also collections from baptisms, which we receive half of, and the other half goes to the charity of the month. Green envelopes, gift aided pink envelopes and loose plate collections are lower than last year by £661 and was £793 lower than the budget. This was in line with our predictions when setting the budget in October 2017. Standing orders are £2161 lower than budgeted and £2749 less than 2017.

Our gift day raised £585 but this was £415 less than budgeted and £870 less than 2017. We will be holding another gift day later in the year, so please watch out for information in the bulletin.

The fundraising figure exceptional again this year amounting to £18890 and takes into account the money taken by the shop (£5995 before gift aid), and money received from Bonus ball (£400), Friday coffee morning (£1400) and 100 club (£544) to mention just a few. We also received donations from the social committee and Wednesday coffee morning. A big thank you to everyone who has organised fundraising events during the year and also to all of you who have supported them.

We have received dividends from our investment and these have come out slightly higher this year at £873.

During the year we discovered that major work had to be completed on the hall roof. Without the funds to do this, we had to look for other options to fund the work. We received loans from some members of the congregation in order to raise the funds desperately needed to repair the hall roof and this amounted to £11000. The loans will have to be paid back over the next couple of years except for the £1000 which was loaned from the Toddler group who use the hall on a Tuesday morning, and have said they do not want it repaid. A big

thank you to those of you who have loaned the money.

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year. In general the expenses remained within budget. Church & grounds maintenance, Magazine, bookstall & bulletin, Piano & organ tuning, administration, photocopier costs, fees paid out and fundraising costs were all over budget. Although we made savings in clergy expenses, additional costs were incurred for the extra work required by our administrator in the absence of a priest for most of the year.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2616 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £127,566.

We have set the budget making as many savings as possible, however if we carry on as we are, our reserves are going to run out and we will not be able to pay for our basic needs. The budget we have set still has a shortfall of £13597. If we carry on with this trend it will only be 4 years before we run out of money assuming we do not make any further savings or increase our income in some way.

2018 was again a challenging year and unfortunately from a finance point of view 2019 does not seem to be going to be any better. A big thanks goes to George's men who work tirelessly on the upkeep of the church and in doing so, saving us money. We have just had our latest Quinquennial inspection and they will be trying to complete as many outstanding points as possible, however there are some larger jobs that have been identified that we will have to use outside contractors. Fortunately nothing is as bad as the repairs to the tower the year I became Treasurer.

Once again I would like to say a big thank you to the PCC and in particular the Fabric and Finance committee for all their support over the last year. I would also like to say thank you to Colin Monk, Malcolm Brewer and David Cavey (and helpers) for taking on the role of counting and banking the money each week. Without their continued help it would be very difficult for me to continue to be Treasurer, but I am happy to say that I will be remain in this role for another year".

Len Palmer proposed that we accept the Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2018. This was seconded by ?? and agreed unanimously.

On behalf of the PCC, Churchwardens and Fr Colin thanks to Dawn for all the work she has done over the last year.

First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 10 times over the last year. Sadly we are losing 4 people this year – Anne Morgan as Outgoing Churchwarden last year was entitled to sit on PCC for a year and Patricia Byrne, Norma Kershaw and Colin Monk who have served their time on the PCC. Thank you to all of them for all they have done. Richard Spurgeon has also decided to stand down from PCC due to work commitments and we therefore have to appoint 4 new PCC members. We have received 4 applications as follows:

- Anne Morgan – proposed by Chris Gadd and seconded by Colin Monk
- Marian Haughton – proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by Don Lloyd
- Mo Peters – proposed by Tony Shepherd and seconded by Lynne McNeill
- Sara Pask – proposed by Robert Vann and seconded by Linda Wainwright

Chris Gadd asked if there are there any other candidates to come forward for the PCC? As none were forthcoming he asked whether everyone is happy for these four to be elected onto the PCC. This was agreed unanimously.

8 **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS**

In Dick Handy's absence Chris Gadd read out the Sidespersons rota as follows:

08:00 Service

1. Graham Biggs
2. John Hood

10:00 Service

1. Alice Pitney
2. Audrey Linney
3. Carol Walker
4. Colin Monk
5. David Cavey
6. Margaret Cavey
7. David Pask
8. Sara Pask
9. Jane Cook

10. Linda Wainwright
11. Malcolm Brewer
12. Marian Haughton
13. Marilyn Atkins
14. Patricia Byrne
15. Sandra Hewett
16. Sheilah Hall
17. Susan Deal
18. Dick Handy

Acceptance of the list of sidespersons was proposed by Rod Starr, seconded by Rosemary Monk and agreed unanimously. If anyone else would like to join please see Dick.

9 **REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS, PCC SECRETARY AND TREASURER AND CHURCH GROUPS**

Chris Gadd said thank you on behalf of John Hood and himself for re-electing them. Chris said that the various reports are in the main APCM report which hopefully everyone has read online or by hard copy. Thank you on behalf of Fr Colin and the Churchwardens for all the work that goes on at St George's. Chris asked if anyone wished to add anything to their report.

- Fiona Ross asked for 2 amendments to be made to the Churchwarden's report:
Page 8 - Fr Mike's last Sunday was June not July.
Page 18 - The interregnum was 15 months long not eight months.
- Tony Rice-Oxley asked about Churchwardens Assistants – did the Churchwardens need a replacement for Jaye Warren now that she has moved. Chris Gadd said he is not sure we need these posts so proposed that we stand them down and this was agreed unanimously.
- Anna Richardson thanked Fr Colin for the pre-Eucharistic prayer which she thinks is stunning.
- Wendy Clark wished it to be noted that the Waterlooville Post Office and the Greengrocers in the Precinct have boxes on their counters in aid of the church and a thank you goes to everyone who has supported it.
- Adrienne Bridger asked if the appeal for donations for the donkey today had managed to pay for it and it was confirmed that donations covered this.
- Wendy Clark said she hadn't realised that the pieces from the old

font had to be buried in the churchyard as it has been consecrated and wondered if others realised that.

10

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

We are very grateful to Paul Read (who usually attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2018. Dawn Trimby said that as she has not heard otherwise we will assume Paul's willingness to examine the accounts again next year. This was proposed by Malcolm Brewer, seconded by Dawn Trimby and agreed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm and was followed by the Parish lunch.