

PARISH OF ST MARY, SHORTLANDS

Minutes of a Meeting of Parishioners and of the 100th Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's, Shortlands, held on Sunday, 7 April 2019, in the church following the 10.30 am service

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens

1. The Chair stated that there were two nominations for Church Warden; Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard were appointed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Present: Tim Dawson (*in the Chair*), Adolph Williams and Sarah Leonard (*Churchwardens*), Robin Hogg (*Vice Treasurer*), Stephanie Maurel (*Secretary*) and 56 parishioners

Apologies for absence: Anne Swatton, Sally Aldred, Peter White, Tricia White, Heather Leverton, Canon Tillotson, Pat Chase, Ann-Marie Jefferys and Dr Jefferys.

Minutes of the 98th Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. The minutes of the 99th Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 18 March 2018, which had been displayed on the church noticeboard, were taken as read. The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

2. The Secretary read the Electoral Roll report, it was noted that once in every six years the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place, and this was in 2019. This means that everyone had to come off the roll and re-apply. The number on the electoral roll was 171 (238 in 2018), 84 of whom lived outside the parish. There had been ten new additions to the roll, namely Rebeca Aldred, Rachael Bratt, Dieter Gramlich, Daren Grover, Richard Hookham, Alexis Rose, Gareth Thomas, David Tillotson, Rachel Tillotson and Oliver Wright-Jones. 12 people who had passed away were remembered, namely, Edna Mary Purslove, Geoffrey Sewell, Margaret Joan Known as Peggy Smith, Lesley Nagendran, Yvonne Jose Petty, Kathleen Girvan Rees, Geoffrey Webber, Mary Newland, Christopher Mezzetti, James Lazenby Vigers, Elizabeth Ann Gimson and Eileen Nelson.

Review of 2018

3. **Trustees' Annual Report:** Mrs Bingham presented the Trustees' Annual 2018 which had been posted online. The meeting received the report. Mrs Bingham pulled out the key highlights of the year.

a. Rev Morag's last service was the 15 April 2018

4. Mrs Bingham commented on the past year drawing out two main themes. The first theme commented upon was the PCC, ministry team and the whole congregation ensuring that St Mary's continued to be open for business as usual and holding things together. Mrs Bingham gave particular thanks for their support to the Church Wardens Sarah Leonard and Adolph Williams, Canon Claire Tillotson, the visiting clergy and the ministry team, the Pastoral Assistants Marion Westropp and Sue Harrison, Tim Dawson, Robin Hogg, Stephanie Maurel and Nicola and Emma in the office.

5. The second theme commented upon was the work of those at Saint Mary's who have ensured that the interregnum not be a time of standing still, but a time for healing, reconciliation and spiritual growth. It was noted that the ministry team (Licensed Lay Ministers, Readers and Pastoral Assistants) started meeting as a team in the interregnum. Activities have included

a. Monthly "prayer space"

b. Discussions in the PCC on the need for healing within our church community

- c. Work by the PCC and Ministry team on rebuilding the Church community and being open to spiritual renewal
- d. Continued work on progressing the "Future Generations Project"

Examined Accounts

6. The Vice Treasurer spoke to the extract from the charity accounts which had been circulated and answered questions. There were copies of the full Charity Commission accounts available for inspection. The Vice Treasurer noted the voluntary income was up £8,000 mainly due to donations for the heating repairs and a £10,000 bequest: pledge giving was down £8,000. Income from Church Activities was down slightly mainly due to a reduction of weddings at funerals in the past year. Costs are similar to last year however repair costs are down £3,000 while the cost of the development is up £3,000. A revaluation of the investments gave an increase of £9,000 in the value in 2017 and a loss of £4,000 in 2018. Mr Hogg stated that after the transfer to the repair funds Saint Mary's made a loss of £16,000; this was mainly due to the shortfall in pledge giving (£8,000) and the transfer of the bequest to the Repair Fund. The costs linked to the recarpeting and repainting of the vicarage are coming from the Church Repair Fund. The accounts were received.

7. In response to a question on the spend on capital projects, it was confirmed that c. £7,000 was spent on the Site Development work in 2017 and c. £10,000 in 2018. Most of this amount had been spent with the Church Architects, CPL, for drawings and meetings.

8. A plan to return of Saint Mary's to an annual surplus will be looked at with Rev. Gary. There has been a positive response to the stewardship campaign and pledges are increasing.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

9. The Vice Treasurer thanked Paul Hemsley for acting as independent examiner for the 2018 accounts. Mr Hemsley was reappointed for the 2019 accounts.

Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod

10. Mrs Buchannan reported on the proceedings of the Synod during the last year. Members have organised cross Deanery events including moving forward with the Flower Arranging course and Deanery trip to Oberammergau. Presentations were held including from the Home of Good Charity and on the role of the Cathedral in the life of Deaneries and Parishes. At an extra-ordinary meeting in September Indicative Offers were considered.

Appointment of four Parochial Representative of the Laity to the PCC

11. The four nominees for the four PCC vacancies were invited to stand up; Debbie Speller, Lynsey Grover, Tony Wright-Jones were present and were appointed. David Jefferys was appointed in absentia.

12. It was noted that the commissioning of the PCC would take place on the 9 June after the 10.30 service.

Appointment of Sidesmen

13. Adolph Williams said there were no new sidesmen to appoint, but all current ones were continuing.

Deputy Churchwardens

14. Adolph Williams said the current deputy churchwardens were all prepared to continue, namely, Pat Chase, Stan Clark, Derek Cooper, Mark Fox and David Jefferys.

Election of roles

15. The roles were confirmed as

- a. Chair (until the arrival of an incumbent): Tim Dawson

- b. Vice Chair: Sarah Leonard
- c. Secretary: Stephanie Maurel
- d. Treasurer: Tim Dawson
- e. Vice Treasurer: Robin Hogg

Safeguarding

16. Mrs Coleman presented a safeguarding update concentrating on her work to ensure that all officers and leaders have their DBS certificate and have completed the correct level of online training. Mrs Coleman is also finishing a Diocesan Safeguarding Audit.

Questions

17. Alan Roberts thanked the congregation, church wardens and PCC for the positive and happy atmosphere at Saint Mary's; he added that as a deaf individual he has been well supported including at the APCM.

18. It was explained that the scaffolding at the back of the church is for putting up the spotlights to illuminate the space between the choir stalls.

19. The Annual Fabric report was been posted online for those who wish to read the detail.

20. Following a question about the Diocesan share a discussion ensued around the financial situation of the diocese and what was being done to redress this. It was shared that the Parish Share now includes the clergy costs and this is paid whether there is an incumbent or not. There have been many debates in the Diocesan offices about the way forward for the Parish Share; Saint Mary's have fed back via the PCC thoughts on how to amend the calculations. To note that Saint Mary's is a well-off parish compared to others in the diocese. It was also stated that it was important that Saint Mary's pays into the diocese to support the parishes that can't. The Diocese contributes to the church of England centrally.

21. On behalf of those present, Prof Fox thanked Mrs Aldred and Mrs Bingham for their work on leading our spiritual development and the enormous contribution both have made to the parish during the interregnum. This was applauded.

Action: SM to thank SA

The meeting closed with the blessing.

Date

Chair