

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WEST WICKHAM.**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in  
Church on Sunday, 23 April, 2017**

**Rev. Jonathan Ward**, who was in the chair, opened the meeting with prayer.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Geoff and Dee Larcombe, David and Anne Biddle, Jim and Angela Walters.

**2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners** held on Sunday, 17 April 2016 were accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Mary Daniels and seconded by Roger Jordon.

There were no matters arising.

**3. The Churchwardens' Report on Parochial Charities:**

The report had been distributed beforehand. The balance brought forward from 31 December 2015 had been £392 and the income for the year ending 31 December 2016 had been £188.00. Although only one grant was made during the year, it had not been debited to the account until 2017. Consequently, the only expenditure during the year had been £2.00 on a booklet recommended by the Universities & Colleges Christian fellowship for those starting their tertiary education. The balance therefore carried forward was £578.00.

This report was accepted without amendment on a proposal from Sybil Andrew, seconded by Penny Seabrook.

**Election of Churchwardens:**

Richard Cienciala, proposed by Stu Carey and seconded by Adrian Roberts, was re-elected; and Bill Derham, proposed by Roger Jordon, seconded by Aston Stockdale was elected unopposed, on a motion proposed by Stu Carey and seconded by Christine Blackburn.

Jon thanked Jonathan Tickner for his five years of tireless service. He also asked if anyone in the Church would like to volunteer to serve as Churchwarden from 2018. If so, it would be good if they could put themselves forward this year to gain some experience of what the role requires.

Signed.....Dated.....

## **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WEST WICKHAM.**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held in Church on Sunday, 23 April 2017.**

Rev. Jonathan Ward was in the chair.

#### **1. Acceptance of:**

(1) The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 17 April 2017 were accepted without amendment on a proposal from Maureen Lang, seconded by Penny Seabrook.

(2) The Reports for 2017 were accepted without amendment on a proposal from Sue Watson, seconded by Aston Stockdale.

#### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matter arising.

#### **3. Trustees' Reports and Financial Statements for 2016**

Christine Blackburn thanked the other members of the Financial Sub-committee, David Biddle and Roger Jordon, Margaret Kingman, our Planned Giving Officer, who also dealt with Gift Aid, Mary Daniels for assisting with our weekly collections, and our Welcomers, for counting the collections each week. Christine also asked if anyone would be interested in taking over from her during the course of the year.

Voluntary income: This was £175,363.00 in 2016, a slight increase of £657.00 on the £174,706.00 given in 2015. Of that figure, there had been an increase in general giving, or gift-aided giving, of £8,000.

Expenditure: Of £162,125 spent in 2016, £90,000 was on the Parish Support Fund, £18,429.00 on SJ's, £9,987.00 on Children's Ministry, £29,658.00 on expenses, £14,200 on allocated giving and £2,389 on depreciation.

Christine listed the allocations to Missions and Charities, explaining that although we had paid out £14,200.00 so far, we still had £2,775 to tithe - £2,500 of this was to be sent to India for Das and Sarita's Son Aman for his University fees.

Overall, there was a general fund surplus of £15,858.00 for 2016, with the Fund now standing at £128,437. Christine noted that as a charity we were required to hold reserves of £40,906 in cash to cover three months' operating costs.

As far as SJ's was concerned, the fund stood at £94,550, which was the Fixed Asset value of the building. Gift income for SJ's amounted to £4,520.00, which together with a transfer from the General Fund of £2,431.00 for the use of the Parish Office space, made a total of £6,951.00 against a running cost of £6,201.00.

Looking forward to 2017, we were expecting costs to increase. Partly, this was due to a full year cost of Curate housing, but also because money would need to be spent on the Church building, both inside and out, following the last Quinquennial review.

Christine also explained that, following agreement with the PCC, the cost of running SJ's would be included in the General Fund as part of the overall church running costs. The only item remaining in the SJ fund would be the property value.

Jon thanked Christine and her Finance Team for all their time and work on our behalf during the previous twelve months. Jon also thanked everyone for the way that they had responded and for the fact that the direct giving had increased. Although it was great to have a substantial reserve, we wanted to look this year at how some of that reserve might be used going forward. It is true that a significant sum would have to be spent on the Church fabric, but there would still be money available, and we needed to be faithful stewards, whether this meant spending on a new building, or youth worker or indeed anything else.

Jon also asked if there were any questions about the finances.

Marc Bassot asked how we determined what to give to the Diocese now that the quota had been abolished.

Christine explained that we had been looking more widely to get information on how best to do this, but so far we had not developed any particular principles on which to base our giving. The diocese expected a 2% increase year on year, but last year we did not do that, in part because we had just taken on a curate, but mainly because we had made a significant increase the year before.

Jon said that we could do some sort of income assessment, but that feels rather invasive, so we were currently unclear about any other way to determine a realistic figure. That said, in the absence of anything else, we would look to be generous-spirited.

The Trustees Report and Financial statements were approved without amendment on a motion proposed by Richard Cienicala and seconded by Sara Morgan.

#### **4. Electoral Roll Officer's report 2017**

There had been 188 names on the Electoral Roll in 2016. Since then four names had been removed and eight added to the Roll, leaving a larger total of 192.

#### **5. PCC Secretary's report 2017**

Jon thanked Jeremy Tagg for stepping in as Secretary, after Paul Kingman had taken on the role on a temporary basis between February and September 2016.

#### **6. Rector's report**

Following a question from Mary Daniels about our Children's and Youth work, Jon explained that, following an initial analysis of the questionnaires, we needed to meet with the leaders and parents and dig a little deeper into some of the issues raised. We would then be presenting the findings with the PCC and then with the Church.

Currently, though, we had a real challenge in finding leaders to take forward Club 2000 and 14+, where the leaders would be stepping down this September. We had seen much fruit in 14+, and of the 20 children that attended Club 2000, around 10 of them did

not attend St John's. So, it would be a real concern if we felt that we were unable to continue with either club.

Jon shared the new vision statement: *"We aim to help everyone 'do life' with Jesus, so that individuals, our local community and beyond can flourish"*. Although the phrasing might not be perfect, we wanted to sow this vision into the DNA of the Church.

Concerning the All Saint's land, we were looking to see if it might be possible to secure part of the land on which to build a Church Hall. To that end, we had been trying to secure a face-to-face meeting with Vision Homes, which bought the site off the original purchaser's Regis. The good news was that we had at last managed to arrange a meeting with one of the Directors on 28 April, at which both Jon and Jonathan Stockdale would represent the Church. Even once we have established the viability of securing land for a building we would of course need to ask how that fitted with the vision of the Church.

The Electoral Roll Officer's Report, the PCC Secretary's report and the Rector's report were all accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Christine Blackburn and seconded by Marc Bassot.

## **7. Elections:**

### **(1) Deanery Synod Representatives**

Both Sybil Andrew and Ann Gardner were standing down and were thanked for their valuable service. The two new candidates were: Val Hollamby, proposed by Sybil Andrew and seconded by Aston Stockdale; and, Jeff Seabrook, proposed by Sybil Andrew and seconded by Val Hollamby.

### **(2) PCC**

Although Christine had now served two three-year terms on the PCC, she would continue to attend the PCC meetings as Acting Treasurer.

Two members of the PCC had served a three-year term and were standing for election: Aston Stockdale, proposed by Sally Munns and seconded by Paul Kingman; and Roger Jordon, proposed by Bill Derham and seconded by Aston Stockdale.

Esther Farah had also come to the end of her three-year term, but had chosen not to stand for re-election.

The only new member on the PCC was Jeremy Tagg, proposed by Tim Harris and seconded by Richard Greenhalgh.

The PCC members were elected unopposed on a motion proposed by Richard Cienciala and seconded by Sara Morgan.

**(3) Welcomers:** the following were elected en bloc, on a proposal from Dawn Tickner and seconded by Margaret Kingman:

|                    |                 |                 |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sybil Andrew       | Steve Edwards   | Tim Harris      | Jeff Seabrook    |
| Anne Biddle        | Charlotte Faint | Val Hollamby    | Penny Seabrook   |
| David Biddle       | Sarah Fletcher  | Rosemary Jordon | Wendy Sears      |
| Stephanie Brehcist | Michelle Fox    | Felicity Mason  | Jonathan Tickner |

**8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:**

It was agreed on a motion proposed by Christine Blackburn, and seconded by Jonathan Tickner, that we would continue with Philip Landergan of Landergan and Co., Ltd., 26 Burney St., SE10 8EX.

**9. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and ornaments**

**10. Safeguarding Report**

**11. Deanery Synod Report**

**12. Churches Together in West Wickham Report**

**13. SJ's report**

**14. Team Ministries' Reports**

Reports 9 to 14 were all accepted without amendment on a motion proposed by Penny Seabrook and seconded by Derek Gray.

Only one point was raised by Marc Bassot: that there had been no Christmas message in the leaflet publicising the Christmas services. Stuart Carey agreed that we could do much better with our publicity, given that we do not even know what everyone else in the Church is doing. We really needed a publicity team to address these issues.

**15. Proposal to reduce the size of the PCC**

Although Jon had mentioned this at last year's APCM, we failed to agree it. Jon explained that for a Church of our size (more than 100 but less than 200 on the electoral roll), we could have 12 PCC members – although that could be varied by resolution at an APCM.

It was noted that with the various ex-officio members, we already had 16 people who could potentially attend PCC meetings, which was more than sufficient. It was therefore resolved, on a motion proposed by Jonathan Stockdale and seconded by Richard Cienicala, that the official number of PCC members would drop from 12 to 9 with effect from the 2018 APCM. Mary Daniels was not in favour.

**16. Any Other Business**

There was no any other business.

The meeting closed with prayer

**Signed.....Dated.....**