

APCM - 28-04-2019 - Minutes

Vestry Meeting:

Election of church warden:

Stuart Hulbert stood for church warden. Diana Ward proposed and Pauline Lewis seconded.

Graham Lawrence stood for church warden. John Gerwat proposed and Anna Hickling seconded this.

Alison Clark proposed a vote of thanks to Stu and Graham for all their work and Ben Sargent mentioned the help that Ingrid Tomkins and Pauline Lewis also give to All Saints.

Annual Church Meeting:

Apologies from:

Ingrid Tomkins

Minutes from last meeting not available.

Review of the year/Chair's Report

Ben mentioned:

- * New members, both young and old
- * Challenges regarding the parish share and finances in general. He hopes that we can grow to become a parish that blesses others through the generosity of its givers.
- * Christianity Explored courses throughout the year. These are a great resource to build up the church.
- * The many activities that happen in order to further the gospel and reach those in Bransgore and the surrounding area.

Diana Ward thanked Ben for being so accessible and open to questions. He is great at getting back to people when they email him with comments and questions.

Financial Review

Damian Brewitt said that the current expectation of a parish share of £80,000 is unfortunately unrealistic when taking into consideration our income. We need to have enough money in our account to cover emergencies. We are not trying to meet it and have negotiated a smaller share for a while.

Our income has fallen for several reasons - for example, some people have ceased to use the church Resource Centre. On the positive side, we have been successful in applying for grants where needed, such as for asbestos reports.

Damian assured us that Jim MacJanet has checked all of the accounts.

Arthur Whittaker said that only a few years ago, the parish share was £37,000. Ben said that our decision not to go into our reserve in order to cover the parish share has been very sensible. We are paying some of the share on a monthly basis.

Diana asked what the penalty is for non payment of the share. Others explained that no one can force us to pay the share, but we can be prevented from doing works on the building if we have not paid. However, the main penalty is that other churches subsidise us and we do not want to be in that situation. Ben said that lots of churches are suffering from the difficulty in paying the share. A lot of people who have been faithfully giving to the work of the church are now very elderly.

Damian explained that the previous methods of donating, such as the envelope scheme, are not used as much now. We are trying to accommodate people who still want envelopes. However, our preferred method of giving is the parish giving scheme. This is far less work to administer and to recover gift aid. We have explored contactless giving, but it is not practical so far. The only scheme we have found so far requires a mobile phone and someone on hand. There may be a more expensive machine available in the future. It would be good to have cashless giving to encourage people to give who may not have cash. Yve Gerwat said that this would be very useful for Godplay, where the mums often don't have cash on entry. Ben said that there is a system in a church in Ringwood, but he has heard that it only just pays for itself. This would not be not a useful way of using the money donated to our church.

Alison proposed a vote of thanks to Damian for all his hard work. Edna Prince seconded this.

Presentation of Reports

Stu reported that we have had work done on the car park twice. The second time was to replace the gutter that kept breaking with a speed bump, which we hope will last a long time. He also drew attention to the Ruth Perkins memorial banner, which was put up at Easter and is

stunning.

The repairs on the roofs of both All Saints and St Mary's are going well. All Saints has been replaced with lead. St Mary's Church roof will be replaced with a lead substitute. Applications for this are ongoing. As regards All Saints, we must make sure that we take steps to secure it, so that our insurance will be valid.

Stu has started a building group. We have had two 'Love your church' days. A storage room has been converted into a creche and the garage has been cleared out. We have had a few boiler issues, which have been resolved.

Alison asked when we are going to mend the fence outside the Resource Centre. Stu said it will be in the next few weeks.

Deanery Synod

Alison and Diana both said that they never hear from the Deanery as regards the meetings and therefore they haven't been attending.

Ali Hulbert agreed to join the Deanery as the third parish representative.

Electoral Roll Officer

Jenny said that our new electoral roll currently stands at 92 members. She wonders if there are a few more people who would like to be included, so there may be a few more who will sign up over the next few weeks. Last year, it was 132, but many of the people who were on it were not regular in their attendance and due to new legislation we are not allowed to chase them up. It is, furthermore, in our interest to keep the electoral roll accurate as a representation of our congregation. Those who are not on the electoral roll are not eligible to vote in parish meetings.

Ben thanked Jenny for all her work and also for leading the service this morning at St Mary's. Diana proposed a vote of thanks and Alison seconded it.

Sides-people

Ben said that sides-people are representatives of the church. Most of the people at the St Mary's 10:30 service are on a service team rota.

Yve proposed these people and Rosalind seconded.

Questions:

Pauline asked about Winchester Diocese - Ben gave credit to the Diocese for the work that they do, their staff and initiatives.

Derrick asked if the plans for the spire have moved forward. Ben said that it is not moving forward quickly, but he will let us know when there is progress.

Ben gave thanks for all volunteers, and all the work they do for St. Mary's.

Ben closed in prayer.

Election of a PCC Secretary:

Jenny Miles proposed Alison Hulbert. Alison Clark seconded.

Election of treasurer:

Anna proposed Damian Brewitt and he was seconded by Pauline Lewis.