

PARISH OF DENTON WITH SOUTH HEIGHTON AND TARRING NEVILLE

Sunday 28th April 2019

1. Annual vestry meeting: Sunday 28th April 2019

This year's Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting took place during the normal morning praise service. Louis Wilson opened the Vestry meeting with a prayer.

i) Apologies received – see below. Meeting Attended by 66 people.

ii) The Minutes of the Vestry and APCM meetings held on 22nd April 2018 were approved, and therefore signed. The motion to approve was proposed by Mary Williams, seconded by Rachel Smith. All voted unanimously in favour.

iii) Louis thanked the Churchwardens – Martin and Nelly - for all their consistently hard work during the year. Having been a Church Warden for several years already, last year Nelly was persuaded to continue for another year, along with Martin. Little did we know what that year would hold for Nelly, and sadly Nelly now has to step down. Louis paid tribute to Nelly in how she has dealt with the massive change in her life, and has shown great strength in showing how teachable she is, and how she has been willing to change to adapt – despite the disability she now lives with she is a spiritual giant, and we could all learn from her. Louis thanked Nelly for all the tremendous help she has given him over the years, and presented her with a gift of flowers.

Martin has agreed to stay on as churchwarden for another year, although notice was given that this will be Martin's last year so the congregation were encouraged to think about if anyone else felt they may be able to fulfil the role next year. Nelly will be replaced by Maria Greco – Maria has reached a stage in her life where she feels she is able to serve. Jenny Wilson therefore proposed that Martin be re-elected to the role, seconded by Mike Smith. Geraldine Hawes proposed to elect Maria to the role, seconded by Hayley Cole. The congregation voted unanimously for both, therefore they were duly elected.

2. Annual Parish Council Meeting

i. **Apologies:** Vicki Blann, Natasha Sheppard, Martin Deva

ii. **Minutes of previous APCM.** These were circulated, and approved for signature. No questions arising. Proposed by Mary Williams, seconded by Rachel Smith. All voted unanimously in favour.

iii. **Electoral Roll Report:** Mary Williams, Electoral Roll Officer advised that the electoral roll has now been completely rewritten, and she thanked everyone for completing their forms. We currently stand at 95 names on the roll, of which 27 are non-residents of our parish. This is a drop in previous year however LW advised not to be disheartened as since the rewrite the list is now much more reflective of our standard regular Sunday congregation. LW thanked Mary for all her efforts looking after this throughout the year, as well as Mary's husband Bruce who assists and helps out.

iv. **PCC Report:** Ann Anderson, Secretary advised that during 2018 the PCC held 6 meetings in the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec, and all were attended by a minimum of 80% of members. The APCM held in 2018 was attended by 41 members. We had 16 members on the PCC, however 2 of which were co-opted on due to their roles in safeguarding and DBS. Vicki and Rosemary are stepping down from that role this year so they will no longer be involved in the PCC, and their role will be taken over by Ruth Reynolds and Rachel Smith. Ruth was a member of the PCC last year, but has chosen to step down from this meeting, although she will still be co-opted. Her deputy Rachel Smith is already a member of the PCC, as she joined in April 2018. The other changes made during last year were that Joyce Corbett stepped down in April and Nicky Still joined as a full member after being co-opted for a year previously.

v. **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Giles advised that the Financial Report and Review is on file within the Trustee's Annual Report which has been circulated over the last few weeks for all to read, so he simply gave a summary;

2018 was a very good year financially. We had an extraordinary income of £9000 last year, £4000 of which was given to us by All Saints Linfield, the church where Jez our curate previously came from, and £5000 from anonymous sources. The result of this extra income was that we managed to complete roof repairs, finished renovating the church hall, and basically managed to cover the costs of all our heavy capital expenditure along with other regular costs and still finish the year with a surplus of £795.

PG also reiterated LW's sermon about giving and encouraged everyone who does it to index link their contribution. 25 people do index link theirs, however 21 people don't. It's a nominal increase less than a cup of coffee i.e. for every £10 the increase of 4% is 0.40p, but it is a commitment to give and we must all think about doing so if we don't already for the future of the church. Louis thanked Paul for all his continued hard work – it is a real privilege to have Paul on board looking after our finances due to his experience and expertise.

- vi. **Churchwarden's Reports:** In the absence of Martin, Ruth Reynolds read out the Churchwardens report, a copy of which is included in the Trustees Annual Report for St Leonards and St Mary's. Ruth advised we have done extensive repairs to the church building as per the Quinquennial report, and all the Church Hall refurbishments are now complete. Our thanks go to the Friends of St Leonards and various different charities that have provided us with the funds to be able to complete these works.
- vii. **SQL (Simple Quality Protects) and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service/Safeguarding):** Vicki Blann was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, but her report is included in the Trustees Annual Report. Six members of our church family have been checked and received their DBS clearance during November 2018. They are Brenda Anderson, Katy Lowries, Katy Hildersley, Ann Anderson, Ann Saunders and Sue Leighton-Jones. No safeguarding issues have been reported during the past year.
- viii. Simple Quality Protects is an audit of all our Safeguarding Procedures instigated by the diocese. SQL Level 1 was completed early at the beginning of 2018, but we have yet to hear from the Diocese to be rewarded our Level 1 certificate, and advise on the next step. Vicki and Rosemary Cutbush, her deputy are both now stepping down from this role, and as previously mentioned the role will be taken on by Ruth Reynolds, with Rachel Smith as deputy. Louis wished to express his sincere thanks to Vicki and Rosemary as they step down for all their work in this role, particularly with regards to SQL.
- ix. **Rector's Report:** Louis Wilson

Louis spoke about the highlight of 2018 undoubtedly being the arrival of our curate Jez and his family Katy, Anna-Rose, Lydia and Micha. They have been a great asset to church life, and Katy has started the Bump and Babies support group which is thriving. Louis reminded us that Jez will be ordained at St John's church in Eastbourne on the 15th June at 2.30pm – all are welcome to attend.

The other big change in 2018 is that since September Ruth Reynolds has been working as part time hall manager and administrator for us, and this has made a big difference in streamlining the way things are done, and is a tremendous help, along with her husband David who also helps behind the scenes.

Sunday club continues to be a success story, we have an enviable number of children in relation to the size of our church, and we should be grateful for that. LW reiterated that this is arguable the most important job teaching our young children about God. All our other children's groups are also continuing to thrive – Frogs for children aged 8-11, run by Ruth, Louis and Jez and Sparks is the group for teenagers 11-16 run by Tim Cole, Maria, Jez and Louis. We also ran Holiday Club again last year with a successful number of children, with many of our congregation involved in that.

LW thanked all those involved in Lunch Club that runs 8 times a year – namely Jenny Wilson, Jez, Joan, Paul, Ann Saunders, Ann B, Kerri and Rosemary. We have had some delicious meals served up at just £2 a head.

LW thanked Nick, Jill and Kerri for looking after the Churchyard. It doesn't look this neat and tidy by accident, so thanks to them for continuing this work. Thanks also to Stuart for continuing to help produce the magazine each time, and to Angela for help to distribute it. And thanks to Doreena for running the Friends club, and Geoff & Anna for putting the PowerPoint together each week.

Special thanks to Ann Saunders for all the work she does with the rotas as well as helping on PCC and the DCC committee and all the other little things that Ann does.

And thanks to everyone else who helps and serves in any way; Cleaners, Readers, Prayers, Sides people, musicians, coffee rota, washing tea cloths. Thanks also to Sue Mckie who purchases all our kitchen supplies.

Lastly, Louis talked about the future of the 10am Sunday Service, as this is our main worship event each week. Due to gas works a few weeks ago we had the opportunity to experiment in holding the service in Denton School. It was an interesting experiment as for the last 6 years that LW has been in Denton he has thought about our options if we outgrow the church building, and puzzled over how to increase capacity as the building is not flexible. It's partly this reason that we don't seem able to reach and keep the baby and toddler audience so trialling a meeting in the school was a more flexible and neutral environment. So how did it work? – Louis spoke about how during those few weeks in the school he noticed an improvement in singing, in fellowship as we all stayed in the same place, and we were able to expand our Sunday Club as we had the use of 2 classrooms so we could do more age-specific work. 1 person commented to Louis that they attended at school as they didn't feel 'trapped' there – they could easily leave unnoticed if they wanted to, unlike at church. However, there were also those who did not like going to the Hall, and prefer to be in church. So moving forward we have decided that from the beginning of May, every 3rd Sunday the service will take place at Denton School. The headmaster is happy for us to use it free of charge, and we hope that by holding 1 service a month there that is a reasonable and workable compromise and is something the whole congregation can live with and support.

- x. **The Trustee's Annual Report:** No questions arose in respect of the TAR, therefore the motion to approve the 2018 TAR (including Paul Giles's treasurer's report) was proposed by Jeff Lee, seconded by Mary Williams. The congregation voted unanimously in favour.
- xi. **Election of PCC 2019/2020:** According to Church Representation Rules each member has to be elected for 3 years, on a rolling basis so that not all members retire at the same time. This means instead of re-electing all members every year we only need to elect a few of the committee at a time. This year we are re-electing Ann Saunders, and Ann Anderson, and we have 2 new elections – David Reynolds and Katy Hildersley. Ruth Reynolds is stepping down however will be seconded onto the PCC, as this is a requirement under SQP so that the PCC can be kept updated. All nomination papers have been completed. Proposal to accept all these nominations was made by Katy Lowries, seconded by Joan Parish. All Parishioners voted unanimously in favour of these elections to the PCC.
- xii. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives 2019/2020:** Joan Parish advised she is happy to continue to serve for another year. Relevant forms have been completed. Louis advised we do have a vacancy for someone to attend the Deanery Synod meetings with Joan, all encouraged to think about whether they could fulfil this role. Joan was unanimously voted in.
- xiii. **Election of Sides persons 2019/2020:** Everyone on the current list of Sides confirmed they are happy to continue to serve.
- xiv. **Questions:**

No questions were taken on the day, as everyone was given the opportunity and encouraged to submit questions in advance of the meeting. There were no questions submitted.

The meeting closed at 11.30am with prayers.

Signed.....

Date..... 11.10.2020