**PARISH OF DENTON WITH SOUTH HEIGHTON AND TARRING NEVILLE**

**Sunday 18th April 2021**

**1. Annual vestry meeting: Sunday 18th April 2021**

This year’s Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting took place during the normal morning praise service. Jez Lowries opened the Vestry meeting with a prayer.

i) Apologies received – see below. Meeting Attended by 54 people.

ii) The Minutes of the Vestry and APCM meetings held on 11th October 2020 (postponed from April 2020 due to the Coronvirus pandemic) were reviewed. A few weeks prior to the meeting these were circulated on the church website and hard copies were made available to anyone who wanted one. No questions were received regarding these minutes, therefore the motion to approve them was proposed by Ruth Reynolds, seconded by Beth Wilson. Not everyone attending was eligible to vote, therefore 41 voted in favour, no abstentions and no one declined to vote. Therefore, as the majority voted in favour, the minutes were approved and signed.

 iii) Jez gave a huge thanks to the Churchwardens – Maria Greco and Nicky Still - for all their hard work and service during 2020. Although the APCM last year was postponed from April to October, Nicky unofficially stepped up to the role from April when Martin Devak was due to step down as Martin was also shielding at that time. Jez wanted particularly to mention what a great blessing their help was in the summer of 2020 in helping him to prepare for the re-opening of church after the initial lockdown whilst Louis was away on sabbatical. Both Maria and Nicky are willing to stand for re-election this year. Maria has been proposed by Gill Beasley, seconded by Stuart Still, and Nicky has been proposed by Sarah Smith, seconded by Rachel Smith. The congregation voted unanimously for both, therefore they were duly re-elected.

**2. Annual Parish Council Meeting**

1. ***Apologies*:** Bruce & Mary Williams
2. ***Minutes of previous APCM****.* These were circulated, and approved for signature, along with the Annual Vestry meeting minutes. No questions arising, therefore as before the minutes were proposed by Ruth Reynolds, seconded by Beth Wilson and a majority vote was made in favour to accept them.
3. ***Electoral Roll Report***: Mary Williams, Electoral Roll Officer was unable to attend the meeting; therefore Ann Anderson read a brief report on Mary’s behalf. 2021 is an interim year and the Electoral Roll just has to be updated but Mary has been unable to record a complete update due to restrictions. On April 18th 2021 the number on the roll is 88, 26 of which are non-resident. Louis then advised that Mary will be stepping down from this role, after having done it for an amazing 34 years. Louis expressed sincere thanks to Mary for all her work and service during this time. If anyone is interested in becoming the new Electoral Roll Officer you are encouraged to speak to Louis or Jez.
4. ***PCC Report****:* Ann Anderson, Secretary advised that we started 2020 with 14 members on the PCC, this includes Louis, Jez, churchwardens and Ruth who is co-opted on due to her position in Safeguarding. Despite the Covid restrictions we still managed to hold 6 meetings in the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec albeit 3 of them were carried out either at a socially distanced meeting (in the summer!) or via Zoom. We ended the year with 12 members, as at the APCM in October Ann Saunders, Derek Bush and Martin Devak all stood down, and Sue McKay joined.

For 2021 we have 2 more members who are due to stand for re-election as they have completed their 3 years – Rachel Smith and Tricia Lockyer. Both have confirmed they are happy to stand again, they have been proposed and seconded by members of the electoral roll and all relevant paperwork has been completed. Details of all members of the PCC can be found on the noticeboard in the porch.

1. ***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 gave a summary;

As detailed in the report, total receipts on general unrestricted funds received for the year were £70696. Planned Giving, both gift aided and non gift aided, together with plate collections at £45,507 was down by £6924 on last year’s total. £12,566 was received in total from HMRC by way of tax refunded on all Gift Aid donations. Gift aid unclaimed and recoverable for this and earlier years amounts to £2418, and once received will be shown in the 2021/2022 accounts. We received grants this year including £2000 towards curate costs from All Saints Linfield and £1798 under the DCMS VAT refund scheme in respect of replacing the boiler at St Leonards. During the year no mission payments were made as these are no longer permitted until the full Parish Share is met (currently 65% of the total due is paid). The Parish Share offered in the sum of £52296 was paid to the Diocese in full in respect of the year despite the reduction in income resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. During the year £375 was used from Friends of St Mary’s restricted fund to fund mowing costs. A donation of £475 together with gift aid funded the purchase of a new laptop and a further donation of £5000 to general funds helped to fund the replacement boiler at St Leonards. During the year two trustee’s re-imbursements totalling £704, but no expenses have been paid. Clergy costs and expenses totalling £5984 were paid; these include water and council tax bills. Payments totalling £3815 were made to a person related to a trustee. There was a surplus on general funds of £288 for the year, a deficit on designated funds of £9979 (£8988 being due to the cost of a new boiler at St Leonard’s) and a surplus on restricted funds of £683. Full details are shown in the financial statements Pages F2-F6. Page F7 has been included for information only relating to various funds that are Restricted or Designated and does not form part of the body of these accounts.

The PCC deems it so that we have a Reserve Policy of 3 months worth of bills, as well as a Quinquennial Repair fund in order to cover the cost of any major repairs to the Church. The money in this fund forms part of the main bank balance. The PCC has also agreed for 2021 to maintain our parish share payable to the Diocese of £52,296.

Louis encouraged everyone to consider whether they could increase their giving, or start giving if they currently don’t do so. As 2020 has been a disastrous year for all of us, if each household that attends church could give £3/week then we would be able to drastically reduce our deficit. The best way to do this is through the Parish Giving Scheme.

1. ***Churchwarden’s Reports:*** Maria and Nicky read out the Churchwardens report, as it is in the Trustees Annual Report. It was a quiet year in terms of hall use, due to the Pandemic. As a result of Bryan Perry’s imminent retirement, a new inspecting architect for both church buildings was appointed, Mr John Bailey of Thomas Ford and Partners. This appointment was approved by the Diocese. He carried out the Quinquennial inspection for St Leonards in July 2020 which did not note any urgent repairs and concluded that very little significant work was needed within the next five years. A new Gas Boiler at St Leonards was recommended some years ago. This was installed by Henry Visick Ltd during the summer of 2020. The cost was met by general Funds bolstered by donations and the grant to repay the VAT element. Due to the pandemic, no services were held at St Mary’s, Tarring Neville. Some minor repairs were carried out to the internal roof. The churchyard was in use for an occasional burial or interment of ashes and work continued to establish a wildflower meadow.
2. ***SQP (Simple Quality Protects)* *and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service/Safeguarding):*** Ruth Reynolds is our safeguarding officer so she gave an update. 4 members of the church family received a DBS check in 2020, mainly due to helping out on the Coronavirus support line. The SQP process continues – all relevant members who are either PCC members or help with children’s work have completed their Foundation level training online which is available through the Diocese. Level 2 training is booked or has been completed for those applicable. There were no safeguarding issues during 2020.
3. ***Rector’s & Youth Report:*** Louis gave thanks to lots of different people for all the work that goes on in running the church – especially over the last year when we have had to find a new way of offering our services to people during the challenge of the pandemic. Throughout 2020 he advised that a small leadership team comprising of Louis, Jez, Maria, Nicky and Ruth met weekly, and they continued to do so whilst Louis took a 3 month sabbatical in the summer of 2020. He gave a special mention for Ruth as she is involved in all the children’s work, as well as being our safeguarding officer and church administrator.

Thanks to all members of the PCC for governing and helping to make decisions in all we do. He gave a special mention to Paul for his continued diligence and hard work as Treasurer and to Ann for organising the meetings.

Our children’s work has been one of the things that we have missed the most during lockdown. Thanks to Ruth, Jenny and Trish for doing their best to keep things going last year. We continue to be grateful that we have so many children attend regularly, we are reminded how important it is for children to be here, and we need to maintain our focus on them.

Thanks go to anyone who has helped out this last year with the Covid-19 helpline as well, helping with anything from shopping to collecting medication to allow people to stay safe in their homes. Louis gave thanks to everyone who helps with the various children’s clubs, which were all thriving before lockdown;

* Frogs for years 4/5/6. Thanks to Ruth, Jez, Gill, Nicky and Stuart.
* Holiday Club – we managed to run Holiday Club at Denton School again in February 2020, which wouldn’t be possible without all the helpers; thanks to everyone. Special thanks to Tim, as by working at the school he is able to make access much easier.
* Bumps and Babies – started by Katy Lowries and Katy Hildersley and was continuing to thrive before lockdown, with some weeks over 20 babies! - Thanks to the helpers here – Brenda, Maria, Diane, Dave and Chris.
* Junior Jivers – this was our new offering to follow on from Bumps and Babies as the little ones get more mobile. Thanks to Jenny Wilson, Katy Lowries and Rosemary Cutbush.

Although we haven’t been able to run lunch club in 2020, we have been lucky enough to be joined by Jane & Sue who have been making meals at home to distribute to families and those in need, funded by the congregation. We are hopeful Lunch Club will be able to return in due course. We are so blessed that so many of our church family are willing to help do the day to day things needed to keep the church running and thanks go to you all;

To Gill, Nick and Kerry for tirelessly maintaining the churchyard, David Reynolds for completely looking after Tarring Neville. Thanks to Stuart for helping with the Parish Magazine, and to Bruce & Mary Williams as they have continued to prepare the service sheets for us as well as all Mary’s help on the electoral roll. Thanks go to Doreena who is currently unwell but has continued to run the Friends of St Leonards and St Mary’s. We’re grateful to Nicky and Tim for being on the Denton Community Challenge Committee and all that entails. The date of this event this year has been moved to 17th July.

Lastly, to everyone who does anything to help with what is undoubtedly the main event for us as a family, our Sunday services – whether you welcome, clean, arrange the flowers, read the bible, write and read prayers for us, or operate the PowerPoint, or this year helped to prepare the online services - we all have a part to play. It remains as important as ever to keep encouraging each other, and be there for each other throughout these strange times. There is light ahead for all of us. We are proud of the way we have pulled together throughout 2020 and found new ways to worship. Louis therefore commended the 2020 Annual Report to us.

1. ***Questions:***The opportunity to ask questions was made, however there were no questions raised.
2. ***Approval of the Trustee’s Annual Report:* T**he motion to approve the 2020 Report, including the financial accounts was proposed by Mike Smith, seconded by Liz Wright. The congregation voted unanimously in favour.
3. ***Election of PCC 2021/2022:*** 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 certain committee members at a time. This year we are re-electing Rachel Smith and Tricia Lockyer. All nomination papers have been completed. All Parishioners voted unanimously in favour of these elections.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm with prayers.

Signed..................................................................................... Date........................................................