

PARISH OF DENTON WITH SOUTH HEIGHTON AND TARRING NEVILLE

Sunday 11th October 2020

(Postponed from April 2020 due to Coronavirus Pandemic)

1. Annual vestry meeting: Sunday 11th October 2020

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 34 people.

ii) The Minutes of the Vestry and APCM meetings held on 28th April 2019 were circulated on the website and hard copies were available. No questions were received, therefore the motion to approve the minutes was proposed by Katy Hildersley, seconded by Liz Wright. 29 voted in favour, 1 abstention, 1 not eligible to vote, and 3 declined to vote. Therefore, as the majority voted in favour, the minutes were approved and signed.

iii) Louis thanked the Churchwardens – Martin and Maria - for all their consistently hard work during 2019. Having been a Church Warden for 6 years, Martin gave notice last year that he intended to step down from the post in 2020, although this has obviously been delayed from April to October due to the current Pandemic. Martin wasn't able to attend the meeting today to receive Louis's personal thanks for all the help and support he has given him during that time. Nicki Still has stepped up for election to replace Martin in this role to serve, and has in fact been acting in this role since April. Nicki was therefore proposed by Ruth Reynolds, and seconded by Sue McKay.

Maria has been in post since April 2019, having taken over from Nelly, and she has confirmed that she is happy to continue to serve for another year. Nicki Still therefore proposed that Maria be re-elected to the role, seconded by Jenny Wilson. The congregation voted unanimously for both, therefore they were duly elected.

2. Annual Parish Council Meeting

i. **Apologies:** Bruce & Mary Williams, Martin Devak

ii. **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 Katy Hildersley, seconded by Liz Wright, and a majority vote was made in favour to accept them.

iii. **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. Fortunately Mary was able to complete the register just before lockdown, and 2020 is an interim year so the Electoral Roll just has to be updated. 7 names have been removed from the register, and 4 names added therefore the number on the electoral roll is 92.

iv. **PCC Report:** Ann Anderson, Secretary advised that during 2019 we had 16 members of the church family on the PCC, including Louis, Jez and our churchwardens. Due to her position as Safeguarding officer, Ruth Reynolds is also on the PCC in a co-opted role, which means she isn't required to attend meetings, but is required to keep the PCC up to date with any issues. We held 6 meetings in the period 1st Jan – 31st Dec, and there was high attendance by the majority of members. When you sign up to join the PCC you agree to take part for 3 years, after which you need to be re-elected in order to remain. This year it's Paul Giles turn to be re-elected, and thankfully he has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Derek Bush and Ann Saunders have stepped down from the PCC this year; however Sue McKay will be joining. We are also hoping that although stepping down as Churchwarden, Martin will stay on the PCC, this is to be confirmed.

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;

As detailed in the report, receipts totalling £81, 843 were received. £51, 731 was our planned giving which was an increase of £1,909 on 2018. £13, 877 was received from the HMRC in respect of tax refunds and claimable gift aid. There is currently an additional £2,767 to be reclaimed, which once received will show in the accounts for 2020/2021. We have received several grants this year; £2000 from All Saints Lindfield in respect of Jez, £1,514 DCMS VAT refund in

respect of St Leonard's roof repairs, £2,142 from the House Project in respect of repairs to the church pathway, and £3,500 towards St Leonard's roof repairs. We increased our payments to missions by £200 giving a total of £3,600. £50,808 was our Diocese share which was paid in full. We spent £1,119 on mowing costs from the 'Friends of St Mary's' restricted fund, and £1,315 was spent on new sound equipment from the 'Mike Paine' restricted fund. £2,280 was spent on the new Hall Boiler from the restricted hall funds. 6 trustees received reimbursements totalling £3,063 over the year, and £832 was paid to a PCC member for services. No expenses were claimed by any PCC members. £5,663 was spent on Vicar/clergy costs including council tax and water rates, and £2,340 was paid to a person relating to a trustee. Therefore, at the end of the year we held £66,089 in the Bank with a surplus of £6,563, comparing this to a surplus of £795 the previous year.

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. There is currently £45,062 in this fund, which forms part of the main bank balance. The PCC has also agreed to increase our share to the Diocese this year to £52,296 as well as making our regular mission payments when we are able to do so. This subject is still ongoing within the PCC.

Louis reiterated that 2019 was a good year financially, but not to be complacent – as 2020 so far has been disastrous in terms of finance. Louis once again thanked Paul for carrying out this role with such diligence, making sure we save money and claim money wherever we possibly can.

- vi. **Churchwarden's Reports:** Louis read out the Churchwardens report, as it is in the Trustees Annual Report. There have been fire safety/risk assessment checks carried out, there is a folder in the Vestry. We have purchased a new mower, and had the pathway repaired from the lynch gate to the church at St Leonards. There has been a new boiler and thermostat fitted in the Church Hall, and various checks made at the request of South East Water. For St Mary's we have had support from South Downs National Park volunteers to help clear the land behind the church in preparation for establishing a wildflower meadow in 2020.
- vii. **SQLP (Simple Quality Protects) and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service/Safeguarding):** Ruth Reynolds has taken over from Vicki Blann as our safeguarding officer since April 2019, and Ruth confirmed that we follow all the Church of England guidance and policies on Safeguarding, all of which are detailed on the noticeboard in the Hall. During 2019 there were 9 new DBS checks made and certificates issued and 2 update checks. Everyone involved in the children's clubs or serving on the PCC has completed their Foundation training as necessary, and there were no issues reported.
- viii. Simple Quality Protects is an audit of all our Safeguarding Procedures instigated by the diocese. We had our first official audit in November 2019, and as a result were awarded our Level one certification. LW advised that there was a lot of time and effort involved in getting us ready for that audit, and Ruth thanked Vicki Blann and Rosemary Cutbush for all the work they had done in preparation for this before handing it over to Ruth.
- ix. **Rector's Report:** Louis Wilson

Louis began by thanking everyone for their faithfulness and perseverance in what has been a challenging year so far, especially those involved in managing to get services up and running again in August of 2020.

Looking back to 2019, our children's work continues to be the most important job within the church, so thanks goes especially to the Sunday Club teachers – Ruth, Trisha and Jenny. Thanks also to everyone who helps these teachers at Sunday Club. We have several other activities for children that were run throughout 2019 and were thriving;

- Frogs for years 4/5/6. Thanks to Ruth, Jez, Rebecca, Gill, Nicki and Stuart.
- Sparks – next age group on from Frogs ran for most of 2019. Thanks to Tim, Maria and Jez.
- Holiday Club – we ran our usual club at Denton School where there are too many helpers to mention; thanks to everyone. Special thanks to Tim, as by working at the school he is able to get us access. We have now run a Holiday Club for 6 of the last 8 years, largely thanks to Tim.
- Bumps and Babies – our new offering from January 2019 thanks to Katy Lowries and Katy Hildersley which has gone from strength to strength. Thanks to the helpers here – Brenda, Maria, Diane, Dave and Chris.

- Junior Jivers – another new offering to follow on from Bumps and Babies as the little ones get more mobile, run by Katy Lowries and Jenny Wilson.

Louis also gave thanks to the PCC members for their service, especially Derek Bush and Ann Saunders as they step down this year. Thanks go to everyone involved in the lunch club – Jenny, Jez, Joan, Paul, Ann S, Kerry and Rosemary among others. We are reminded here of our dear friend Jenny Smith, who sadly died earlier today, as she always helped with the cooking of the Christmas dinner. We are lucky that so many of our church family are willing to help do the day to day things needed to keep the church running; thanks 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 for all the hours they spend photocopying various things for us. Thanks go to Doreena for continuing to run the Friends of St Leonards and St Mary’s, Ann Saunders for doing our rota’s and standing on Denton Community Challenge Committee until last year, and to Tim and Nicki for continuing to represent us on the DCC committee.

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 everyone, clean the church, arrange the flowers, read the bible, write and read prayers for us, operate the PowerPoint, buy tea/coffee, or wash tea towels we all have a part to play. Louis asked us all to keep bearing with it, and to keep finding ways to keep in touch with each other, and keep encouraging each other as we make our way through these difficult times. We have achieved a lot together, so Louis commended the 2019 Annual Report to us.

- x. **Approval of the Trustee’s Annual Report:** No further questions were raised in respect of the TAR, therefore the motion to approve the 2019 Report, including the financial accounts was proposed by Ruth Reynolds, seconded by Katy Hildersley. The congregation voted unanimously in favour.
- xi. **Election of PCC 2020/2021:** 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 Paul Giles, and we also have 1 new election – Sue McKay. Derek Bush and Ann Saunders are stepping down. All nomination papers have been completed. All Parishioners voted unanimously in favour of these elections to the PCC.
- xii. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives 2020/2021:** Louis gave a bit of background into the role of the General Synod and the Deanery Synod and how they link. Over the next 5 years the General Synod will make critical changes as to how the Church of England views human sexuality and morality, therefore it is important for us to ensure we have the right quota of people attend Deanery Synod meetings in order to have a vote on these matters, particularly as we want to ensure the historic orthodox beliefs of the Bible are upheld. According to our number on the electoral roll we can have 3 representatives so Joan Parish has advised she is happy to continue to serve for another year, and we have 2 new representatives – Maria Greco and Katy Lowries. All relevant nomination forms have been completed. All Parishioners voted unanimously in favour of these elections.
- xiii. **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 12.00pm with prayers.

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