

ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 15 APRIL 2018
ST. MARY'S CHURCH RIVERHEAD
AT 11.15.A.M.

Present:
Revd Martin Booth (Vicar of St. Mary's)
Mrs Diane Williams (Churchwarden for St. Mary's)
Mrs Ronnie Todd (Secretary)

And approximately 30 Church members.

VESTRY MEETING
Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar advised the meeting that John Curtis is retiring at the end of his five year period as Churchwarden. Diane Williams and Alison Bull will stand for the coming year. The Vicar explained that when initially taking on the role of Churchwarden, it is for a specific period of five years with nomination and election for each of those five years at the APCM.

Nominations were received for the two Churchwardens, Diane Williams and Alison Bull, who will serve for the year 2018-2019.

Members in attendance were all content for Diane Williams and Alison Bull to serve for the coming year.

The Vicar thanked John Curtis for his 5 year term as Churchwarden and for all the sterling work he has done, together with Diane, over the year.

The Vestry meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.

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1. Apologies for Absence

John & Margaret Curtis, Keith Lovelock, Iain Smith, Lynn Wilson, Sarah Allison, Daphne Harrison, Bennet Smith, Mark Merson and Anne Straight

2. To Approve Minutes of APCM held on 30 April 2017

The Minutes were agreed by all present and signed by the Vicar as a true copy.

Proposed: Geoff Holland

Seconded: Rachel Wigley

3. Matters Arising

The Treasurer, Stuart Wigley, advised the meeting that there had been a small correction to the previously circulated 2017 accounts. A typing error had occurred for the BF/CF figure in December 2016. The figures had differed but are now corrected

4. To receive Electoral Roll

Margaret Nicholas gave the current number on the electoral roll. There are 81 resident and 52 non-resident giving a total of 133.

Margaret made her usual plea for more servers and sidesmen as it is becoming increasingly difficult to make up the rotas.

Karen Forster-Pearce asked whether we are affected by the new data protection legislation.

The new legislation doesn't really affect us as we are a small parish church. It does affect large global corporations. The Electoral Roll is a passworded electronic document and the printed document with the names and addresses is kept securely by Margaret Nicholas. The names and addresses on the electoral roll are not publicised.

5. Annual Parish Report (Attached)

The Parish Report was taken as read.

The Vicar advised those present that the report is to let the wider parish know of our structure, services and activities over the year.

All present were content with the Report.

6. Vicar's Report (Attached)

The Vicar began by thanking John and Margaret Curtis for all their efforts over the past year. He thanked Diane Williams and Alison Bull for all they are about to undertake as Churchwardens in the coming year. There are so many wonderful people who give themselves to all the various jobs and offices in the church to help with the upkeep of the church. They are all thoroughly appreciated.

He welcomed the new PCC members.

There is currently a three parish review which is about to be discussed by members of the three churches, which will look at the best way forward for the three parishes - St Luke's, St Mary's Kippington and St Mary's Riverhead. It needs a lot of thought, especially as St Luke's is currently in an interregnum. There is to be a meeting of designated people from the three churches. The Churchwardens will be nominating people in various categories to go to the meeting. This will be a first meeting for consideration and discussion. A further meeting will take place to look at proposed models of ministry. It will eventually end in an evaluation document to present to the Bishop with recommendations. There will then be a formal consultation and back to the Bishop before anything is finally decided.

The Vicar thanked everyone directly related to Sunday Club. It is good to get the children involved as much as possible and important to encourage them in their faith. It also gives the parents access to church.

Karen Forster-Pearce suggested we make church prayers available to Sunday Club.

Martyn Berry was thanked for all his past help. He will be stepping down from his church duties but not leaving St Mary's. Daphne Harrison will be taking over the weekly service at Dunton Green and other jobs normally covered by Martyn. Daphne's role is not dissimilar to Martyn's but it has been updated.

Julia Brown asked whether we could have a directory of names and addresses of church members. She was told it is not recommended under the new GDPR legislation. A nominated individual for each of the church groups holds relevant information if needed.

7. Financial Report and Accounts/Treasurer's Report (attached)

The Treasurer, Stuart Wigley, gave the report.

The expenditure over the year was split up into Parish Share, Church Repairs, Insurance, Gas and Electricity. He is monitoring the expenditure of energy and will be looking for a more competitive quote for the Insurance.

Our main income results from regular giving, gift aid receipts, legacies and the church hall. Stuart is currently looking at different ways for people to give to the church.

We received the donated money from Tesco in 2016 but the work didn't start until 2017.

In 2017 we didn't use our reserves. The repair fund is growing. The photocopier is being renewed at a good price. Stuart emphasized he is mindful of expenses.

Stuart ended by thanking Margaret Nicholas and others who assist him with the counting and processing of the weekly collections and for their ongoing support.

The Inspector of Accounts, Jim Metcalfe, has been retained again for this year with Sue Davis on hand if Jim Metcalfe is unable to work for us.

Stuart invited questions from those present.

Robert McLintock queried whether we should reconsider our reduction of the parish share of two years ago. Costs of clergy and contributions to other Parishes were not quite being covered. We are

still relying on a subsidy from the Diocese. Is that right, especially as we are an affluent area? Could the Parish Trust Fund, which is formally not part of our reserves, be part of our contribution to the Parish Share?

Stuart replied that we do not have a large congregation and hence a large income. We have recently spent £10k on a new kitchen. We have a finite resource to spend on suitable things and do spend it wisely. We have achieved a 4% increase in our contribution to the Diocese. If we had kept to the £60k of previous years, our funds wouldn't be as they are now. It may be a subject for the PCC to review.

Janet Sharp proposed we remind people about on-line purchases which provides a percentage of the purchase price to church funds. It could be put in the pew sheet.

Denis Williams proposed a vote of thanks to Stuart for all his hard work over the year.

The Vicar told the meeting that a stewardship presentation will be given on 27 May by the Revd. Richard Williams, the Diocesan Finance Director.

A vote to accept the Financial Accounts was taken.

Proposed: Margaret Nicholas
Seconded: Robert McLintock
All in favour.

The Vicar thanked Stuart for everything he does on behalf of the church and for keeping the accounts in good order, as well as all those who help him.

8. Churchwardens' Report (Attached)

Diane Williams had nothing more to add to the Churchwardens' report.

There were no questions.

9. Deanery Synod Report (Attached)

There were no questions from the floor.

The Vicar thanked Anne Straight and Margaret Nicholas for their continued commitment.

10. Parish Reports (Attached)

(a) Sunday Club

There were no questions.

(b) Lunch Club

Janet Sharp noted that more cooks were needed for the St Mary's team.

It was questioned whether the £3 per lunch cost should be retained.

Probably not as we do have £1500 in the lunch club account, which is accessed through Stuart Wigley.

(c) Tots & Toddlers

There were no questions.

(d) Church Hall

There were no questions.

(e) Music

Janet Sharp told the meeting that the choir is in need of more singers and the music group is in need of more instrumentalists.

(f) Mothers' Union

There were no questions.

(g) Events Committee

There were no questions.

(h) Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection

The role has changed. One person is now required to be the representative for both vulnerable children and adults. Diane Williams agreed to take on this role.

(i) Outreach

A representative from Sevenoaks Counselling will be coming to talk to us on Sunday 13 May. The three charities we will be supporting this coming year are:

Mercy Ships
Kerry West Orphanage Project
MAPS (Maidstone and Pembury Support Group)

Karen Forster-Pearce told the meeting that Margaret Holman and she had attended the offices of the Children's Society where a presentation was given. They were very encouraged. It is a very worthwhile charity. St Mary's provides support from the Christingle Services and the collection boxes.

11. Election of the PCC

Five PCC members retire this year.
There are four nominations for PCC membership:

Susan Allender
Charlotte Rakhit
Ali Wakefield
Sarah Way

All present voted in favour.

12. Election to Deanery synod

Anne Straight and Margaret Nicholas have both agreed to continue as representatives for Deanery Synod for the next two years.

All present voted in favour.

13. Election of Sidespersons

The list of Sidespersons was read out.

All present voted in favour.

Many thanks were given to Margaret Nicholas who does a wonderful job.

14. Election of Examiner of Church Accounts

Jim Metcalfe and Sue Devitt were both unanimously voted for as Examiners of Church Accounts.

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16. To discuss date and time of Vestry and APCM 2019

The date of the 2019 APCM will be 7 April 2019.

The meeting closed with prayer.