

## **St. Andrew's Church APCM Meeting**

**Venue: St. Andrew's Church Hall**

**11am – 10th October 2020**

### **Easter Vestry Meeting and Appointment of Churchwardens.**

**In attendance:** Canon Ed Pruen (Chairman); Mr Stephen Cross; Mrs Sarah Rees; Mrs Wilma Hainsworth (Treasurer); Dr Ian Hainsworth; Mrs Yvonne Haigh (Secretary); Mr David Rowe; Mr David Hayward; Mr Patrick Busby; Mrs Wendy Busby, Revd Peter Owen-Jones and Revd Ingrid Owen-Jones.

- 1. Opening Prayer** Revd Canon Ed opened the meeting with a prayer and a summary of the current Covid19 situation which had delayed the APCM by six months.
- 2. Apologies** from Mrs Diane Balchin; Mrs Sarah Bankhead; Mrs Sharon Blackshaw; Mr Stephen Blackshaw; Mrs Gabriel Howard; Mr I Jurd; Mr John Lofthouse; Mrs Anne Lofthouse (Churchwarden)
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held on 7th April 2019.** The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 4. Election of Churchwardens** Mrs Anne Lofthouse has agreed to continue her three-year term as Church Warden. Canon Ed thanked Anne for all her hard work this year with regards to getting the boiler installed, the hall roof, and the other maintenance work that has been required. Canon Ed also expressed his thanks to Mrs Sarah Rees for all her hard work as Church Warden before she sadly stepped down in the summer. Mrs Rees asked whether Mr Stephen Blackshaw was still intending to continue as an Assistant Churchwarden. Canon Ed said that Mr Blackshaw was stepping down from church duties for the foreseeable future. He expressed his thanks to him. Mr David Rowe said he was willing to continue to stand as an Assistant Church Warden.

### **APCM 2020**

- 1. Notification of any other business** None notified.
  - a) In attendance:** Canon Ed Pruen (Chairman); Mr Stephen Cross; Mrs Sarah Rees; Mrs Wilma Hainsworth (Treasurer); Dr Ian Hainsworth; Mrs Yvonne Haigh (Secretary); Mr David Rowe; Mr David Hayward; Mr Patrick Busby; Mrs Wendy Busby, Revd Peter Owen-Jones and Revd Ingrid Owen-Jones.

b) **Apologies from:** Mrs Diane Balchin; Mrs Sarah Bankhead; Mrs Sharon Blackshaw; Mr Stephen Blackshaw; Mrs Gabriel Howard; Mr Noel Howard; Mr I Jurd; Mr John Lofthouse; Mrs Anne Lofthouse (Churchwarden); Mrs Debby Barnes; Mrs Hazel Rowe, Mrs Ginny Hayward; Mrs Diane Palmer; Mr David and Mrs Sue Stiles.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the APCM held on 7th April 2019 and Matters Arising.** The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting. David Hayward pointed out that Canon had 1 n and not 2 on page 24.

3. **Matters Arising:** The heating will be installed very shortly as a priority. The pipework, boiler and electrics are all installed. The gas meter is to be installed on Thursday, and an appointment has been booked for a week Monday (19th), when the boiler company will return to connect the water and gas supply and commission the boiler. Canon Ed thanked David Hayward for the huge amount of work that he has put in to get to this stage, and led a round of applause for what he said was a considerable achievement.

4. **Presentation of the Annual Report for 2019.** Canon Ed said that he had been advised by the Diocese to keep the meeting as short as possible because of the current Covid19 situation. Canon Ed reports that since the start of lockdown over 54,000 people worldwide have logged on to our new online services. Also that individual pages had been opened over half a million times. This has helped put our benefice on the map, and widened our Christian mission. We are a thriving Church and have reached out further than ever with our mission to spread the Gospel. Canon Ed thinks that this is something we should be proud of as a Church. In addition, since the pandemic lockdown, we have managed to run a limited range of services mostly at Bentworth for Parish Communion, as it is the largest church in the Benefice, and therefore the easiest to maintain strict Covid Rules in. A service has also taken place at St. Andrew's for Harvest Festival, and also St. Mary's at Lasham. Shalden parish has been running evening prayer outside their Church throughout the summer months, and they plan to continue while they can. He reported that it has been hard to continue with social events due to the restrictions and this has led almost all our weddings being postponed until next year. Those that have gone ahead have been limited to 15 people in the congregation. Funerals are limited to 30 people, and Christenings are now limited to only 5 which does not allow for the usual number of Godparents and Parents let alone Grandparents.

**Church Hall:** Mrs Aloma James has now replaced Mr Pat Mitchell as Booking Clerk for the Church Hall. Mrs Sharon Blackshaw has agreed to oversee her and report to the PCC. A paid caretaker has been suggested for the hall but this will be discussed by the PCC.

**FOSAC** has been reformed under a new Constitution with the Chairman, Mr Bill Dawson, and a new committee. The committee consists of Mrs Anne Lofthouse, Mrs Sarah Bankhead, Mrs Kristina Rogge, and possibly Mrs Deborah Jackson. A £10,000 pandemic grant from EHDC will go towards the toilet refurbishment and £3,200 for the replacement roof tiles. The hall toilets refurbishments are likely to cost around £7,000.

Canon Ed would like to thank Mrs Anne Lofthouse (Churchwarden), Revd Ingrid Owen-Jones and Mr Logan Colbeck for their help in getting the Church open following the lockdown. St. Mary's at Bentworth has also been open for weekly services since July. Services will only be planned a month at a time for now. These will be advertised on the BLMS Website.

Canon Ed said he would also like to thank the Revd Ingrid and the Revd Peter Owen-Jones for volunteering to take some of the services including the online Tuesday Evensong throughout this altered period.

The BLMS Administration for occasional office role has been taken over by Revd Ingrid Owen-Jones following the retirement of Mrs Sarah Rees after three years of service. Mrs Rees had been given a bouquet of flowers and a voucher in gratitude, led by Canon Ed.

Going forward into the near future, Canon Ed said we must pray for a vaccine and a change in the future for our current situation. Only 40 people can attend St. Mary's in Bentworth on a Sunday service, 21 in St. Andrew's is a maximum; approximately 40 people can attend St. Mary's Lasham safely, and 28 in St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Shalden.

There were no questions raised for Canon Ed.

## **5. Treasurer's Summary on the Audited Report of 2019**

Mrs Wilma Hainsworth (Treasurer) said she would like to thank everyone for their continued support of this ministry which was needed to enable this Church to survive. The Treasurer had been pro-active in securing additional funds by new member's planned giving and in particular since the Church had been unable to open for such a long period during lockdown.

She presented the seven pages of comprehensive and clearly laid out accounts for 2019, with a brief explanation. She encouraged everyone to take time at home to read through the Notes.

The Accounts for 2019 had been audited by Mrs Lesley M Chapman, a Chartered Accountant, resident in Medstead. The Treasurer reported that Mrs Chapman would be donating her fee of £100.00 for her work to Christians Against Poverty.

The Treasurer reported that the Income for the year up to December 2019 was £80,776.05. The total expenditure for the year was £69,001.02, leaving the Excess Receipts over Payments as £11,775.03. She explained that £14,280.04 had been charged to the Fabric Fund and gave a breakdown of this figure. She explained that the new church heating project was being phased over 2 financial years and that £9,000.00 relating to this was included in this total.

The Treasurer explained the Balance Sheet. Total funds therein amounted to £189,948.71. FOSAC funds of £16,460.22 had been returned to its account. She reported that the Church Hall was owned by St. Andrew's Church but it was usual for these buildings to be registered in the name of the Diocese. Canon Ed reminded everyone that the Hall had lost significant income this year (2020) due to the Covid19 lockdown. The Hall has only recently re-opened but with reduced groups according to safety restrictions.

Moving forward to this year, 2020, the Social Committee had been unable to plan regular events this year, so there have been no jumble sales, social evenings or recitals which usually bring in a lot of income. This would be

reflected in the figures for 2020. The Treasurer reported that some parishioners need to be encouraged to give consistently, i.e. by one of the regular planned schemes, in order to keep the required funds coming in.

Mr David Rowe asked how close we will be to meeting our Parish Share towards the Diocese this year and how does our present income compare with the figure of £54,000? The Treasurer reported that we are currently in credit and that we will be ok with meeting our Common Mission Fund (CMF) contribution, but that there are some members of the Church who do not give using one of our regular methods. Therefore, income from those members cannot be predicted. Canon Ed reported that the Bishop had to furlough most of the curates during lockdown, and a number of the Stipendiary Clergy will need to be cut. Many office workers throughout the Diocese are also furloughed. There has been a lack of income this year due to weddings being cancelled. The Bishop will have to make a £2 million saving by next August, which means that some Clergy will be extremely vulnerable, and potentially homeless. Mr Rowe pointed out that many people do not realise that the Church actually needs money to survive as the Church as a whole is thought of as wealthy.

Following a question by Mr Cross about the cost of the website, Canon Ed reassured him that this was affordable at a cost of £45 per year, which is also split between the four parishes.

- 6. Election of PCC Members** With 74 people on our electoral role, we are able to have up to 9 elected members and can co-opt 2 more if required. Canon Ed said that there is a minimum of four PCC meetings per year. The next APCM will be in March or April 2021. This is due to the APCM being held later than usual. Mr Stephen Blackshaw and Mrs Di Balchin were retiring from the PCC, and Canon Ed was uncertain whether Mr Ian Jurd wished to remain on the PCC. He was extremely grateful to all that they had given during their term on the committee. Nominations have been received for the following: Mrs Wilma Hainsworth; Mrs Yvonne Haigh; Mrs Sarah Rees; Mrs Sarah Bankhead; Mr John Lofthouse; Mrs Anne Lofthouse (ex officio) Mr Patrick Busby and Mr Stephen Cross. There were no objections to any of the

nominees so they were duly elected. Canon Ed advised that Mrs Sharon Blackshaw would be happy to be co-opted onto the PCC at the first meeting.

7. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives** Canon Ed said he would like to thank Gay Howard for her long standing role in this position, which spanned many years. We do not have any nominees for this position so Mrs Antonia Goor (Lasham) will act as Benefice Representative until one is elected.
8. **Election of Sidespersons** These will be elected later at the first PCC Meeting.
9. **Appointment of Independent Examiner** The Treasurer proposed that we re-elect Mrs L M Chapman for a second year. Seconded by Mr Cross. There were no objections.

#### 10. **Any Other Business:**

**Electoral Roll Officer** Following many years of service, Mr Stephen Blackshaw is retiring from the role. Canon Ed said he would like to thank Stephen for his years of service in this role and that of the PCC. The role of Electoral Officer will now be taken up by Dr Ian Hainsworth, and Canon Ed said he was very grateful to Dr Hainsworth.

**Appointment of a Safeguarding Officer** Mrs Diane Palmer is retiring due to the pressure of her work in the NHS, and a replacement is needed. No nominations were received so this will be deferred until the next PCC meeting. For now, Mrs Cathy Dumelow (Bentworth) will help out.

**Village Hall Committee Representative:** No nominations were received. Canon Ed will investigate the possibilities.

**School Governor Representatives** Mr David Rowe asked who were the school governors for Medstead Primary School. Canon Ed advised that Mrs Lynne Hignett (from Shalden) was the Foundation Governor for two of the Benefice Schools. She was an ex Head Teacher of two church schools in the past but has now retired. Medstead School was looking for a new Head Teacher following the resignation of Mrs Jane Oborn. She will be retiring at the end of the Autumn term. Canon Ed suggested that our Foundation

Governor, Mrs Hignett, will be looking to appoint a Head who is a communicant member of the Church of England. She will be on the interview panel but Canon Ed will not. At present, the children are unable to attend services in the church due to the Covid rules. Mr Rowe asked how we can encourage parents to bring their children to the church. Canon Ed explained that over 75% of people who attend church were first influenced by a friend or relative to attend. Friendships with parents can help children to feel welcome.

Mr Cross suggested that we put out a flyer or advertise our online service more. 1 in 4 people have accessed worship services online nationwide and locally that has tailed off a little since the re-opening of our churches.

Canon Ed discussed his thoughts on finding new ways of worship for the future. Communion is central to our gathering as Christians, although sometimes it is less accessible for newcomers. We need to break free from being stuck in old fashioned worship. Revd Peter Owen-Jones reminded us that nearly all the new housing developments are in the parish of Four Marks. Canon Ed pointed out that the boundary is Five Ash Road, the south side of which is part of Four Marks' parish. The boundaries are clear on the benefice website. In the future it is likely that benefice sizes will increase with teams of clergy covering. This helps to prevent clergy feeling so isolated. Many clergy are suffering from stress and mental health issues and teamworking will be a useful way forward. Some churches will become Chapels of Ease, opened primarily for occasional offices.

**11. Closing Prayers** Canon Ed finished with a prayer and led the Grace.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.