**The United Benefice of St Mary’s Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kilndown**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary’s Church held on Sunday 11 October 2020 via Zoom**

**Meeting of the Parishioners**

Ali Williams welcomed Parishioners to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Helen Taylor.
2. The meeting appointed Barney Mayhew as chairperson for this meeting.
3. The meeting appointed Claire Reed as clerk for this meeting.
4. Election of Churchwardens

The current churchwardens, Ali Williams and Simon Taurins, have agreed to stand again and were unanimously re-elected. Barney expressed his thanks for all they have done and continue to do for the church.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Apologies for absence**

 Apologies for absence were received from Helen Taylor.

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 7 April 2019**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

1. **Election of Parochial Church Councillors**

With the current electoral roll standing at over 200, we are permitted to elect up to 15 PCC members excluding the Vicar, Church Wardens and Deanery Synod members. Helen Taylor is stepping down from the PCC at this meeting, and Barney thanked her for her service. Tim Wormington’s term is ending after three years since he was last elected, and he is not standing for re-election. Barney thanked him warmly for his service to the PCC over the past 12 years, including his time as Church Warden. Val Martin who has served as PCC Secretary for part of the time since the last APCM was warmly thanked, as was Claire Reed who has served as interim PCC Secretary and who is now stepping down.

Claire Cooke, Gill Wallis-Hosken, Phil Wright and Martin Loy were nominated and seconded in writing prior to the meeting and Dave Lodge (who has previously attended by virtue of his role as Treasurer) was nominated at the meeting by Simon Taurins and seconded by John McCaig. They were elected unanimously. Barney thanked all members of the PCC for their service and Simon welcomed the new members.

1. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

Barney reported that we are entitled to elect up to 4 representatives to the Deanery Synod. Kat Ogden and Sue Donkin are the current Synod representatives, and both were willing to stand again; they were unanimously re-elected.

1. **To Appoint Independent Examiner**

John Tapper is the current Independent Examiner and David Lodge thanked him for his work. It was agreed unanimously to re-appoint him.

1. **To receive the number of the Electoral Roll**

Becky reported that following the renewal of the Electoral Roll this year, the number on the Roll is 203, slightly down on last year’s figure of 211.

1. **Questions and Comments arising from the Book of Reports**

The Book of Reports was made available to the whole church family, online, prior to the meeting.

Simon Taurins summarised life in church since the 2019 APCM:

* He thanked Hugh for his ministry and Hugh’s family for their time with us.
* Simon noted how challenging it had been for the selection panel to appoint a new vicar as there was little guidance available; the panel plan to write guidance notes for other parishes to use in the future.
* It was testament to Rachel that the panel were unanimous in their decision to appoint her to the role of vicar.
* Simon reminded us that we should be thankful for the little things and that as we move forward, we must listen to, and respond to, God.

Barney Mayhew thanked Simon, Ali and the wider leadership team for stewarding us through this difficult period.

Barney asked if there were any questions relating to the Book of Reports or Church life in general:

* A question was asked about teenagers (and young people) and how they could be encouraged back into church. It was noted that with social distancing and the reliance on Zoom meetings many were now less involved.

Delaéhle Gale responded that provision for young people was at the forefront for the Sunday Group teams and that they recognise that different children engage in different ways. A survey was sent out to parents last week to find out what the young people want. The new PCC will discuss this with Rachel when she arrives in the New Year and the appointment of a new youth worker needs to be a priority for 2021. Barney thanked Delaéhle and the team for their work to engage children.

* A question was asked about the take up of Blend since its return.

Approximately 20 - 25 children are attending each week with quite a few being new to Blend. Unfortunately, Blend is not able to provide food at the moment which is a popular aspect of the group.

* A question was asked about reigniting the telephone tree which helped to keep in touch with those who welcomed that during the lockdown. The tree has petered out as there has been less call for it however with the predicted second wave of COVID-19 and winter drawing in there was a discussion about restarting this. Huthrie has oversight of this and although there is not much demand people have made new friends. It was decided that the congregation would be asked to keep in contact with their friends from church to make sure everyone was connected. There was also a discussion about trying to get more of the existing small groups together either online or in socially distanced groups in church.
* A suggestion was made to hold zoom coffee breakouts after the 10.45 service or for people to bring their own coffee in flasks and to meet in groups of 6 following the service.

The Church Wardens thanked everyone for holding the church together during this difficult period of lockdown and the interregnum.

1. **Financial Report and Balance Sheet**

David Lodge explained that the accounts were for the period from April 2019 – October 2020, six months of which were during lockdown. He summarised as follows.

* The net income for the period was £4,000 however income in 2020 is down as there has been no plate or door income – the shortfall for the 2020 financial year is expected to be around £12,000. We need to encourage more people to move to online giving.
* Giving is up by approximately 0.5% however costs have also increased.
* The income figure in the 2018 accounts was down because a substantial amount of Gift Aid relating to that year was recovered in 2019; therefore the income figure in the 2019 was higher than it would normally be.
* At the end of 2019, there was approximately £73,000 in the bank which was in line with our reserves policy. However, with the drop in income we are now eating into reserves which needs to be monitored.
* We have made a commitment to spend £15,000 on the QI masonry works.
* Louise from the Weald Family Hub has been successful at fundraising for the project however the income is being spent.
* The Beacon Fund, established when Caroline Turvey was appointed, still has money in it which can be used for the next lay minister however it needs to be kept topped up.

David Lodge thanked Becky and John McCaig for all of their work and support with the finances and Barney thanked them both for all of their hard work.

Claire closed the meeting in prayer at 1343.