

## The United Benefice of St Mary's Goudhurst with Christ Church, Kildown

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings of St Mary's Church, held on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12 noon in St Mary's Church.**

### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

1. Hugh welcomed parishioners to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**  
Barney Mayhew, David Nichol, Jill Dunstall and Simon Taurins.
3. **Election of Churchwardens**  
The current Church Wardens, Alison Williams and Simon Taurins had served two years, and both were prepared to serve another year.  
Will Harris proposed that Alison Williams served for another year and was seconded by Kat Ogden. This was agreed unanimously by those present.  
Sam Davis proposed that Simon Taurins be elected for another year and seconded by Chris Williams. This was agreed unanimously by those present.  
Hugh thanked Alison and Simon for everything they do in their roles.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Minutes of the APCM held on 22 April 2018**  
Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22 April 2018 were distributed. These minutes were agreed and signed by Hugh Nelson as a true record.
2. **Election of Parochial Church Councillors**  
James Wickham, Kat Ogden, Catherine Lloyd and Richard Vinton had served their three-year term and had all agreed to stand again for a further term.  
Wes Hinsley, Caroline Davis and Helen Taylor had agreed to stand on the PCC.  
They were all elected to the PCC & Hugh thanked them all.
3. **Election of Deanery Synod Members**  
Hugh reported we are entitled to elect 3 members. Currently Kat Ogden and Sue Donkin were the current Synod representatives, and both were open to standing again. Both were unanimously re-elected.
4. **Election of Sidespersons**  
The sidespersons were re-elected unanimously en block.  
Those willing to serve were, Sharon Bushrod, James Cooke, Alastair Cooke, Ana Draper, Sue Donkin, David Donkin, Anthony Farnfield, Penny Ferdinando, Antony Harris, Richard Hillier, Rose Mbikusita-Lewaruka, Bryan Mason, John McCaig, David Nichol, Terence Pakenham-Walsh, Emma Sibree, Doreen Warner, Gill Wallis-Hoskins, Alan Wickham, James Wickham, Claire Cooke, Gill Cain, Maureen Weston, Chris Williams, Alison Williams, Sonja Drew, Michelle Found, Rosemary Southon and Helen Taylor.
5. **To receive the number on the Electoral Roll**  
Hugh reported that following the renewal of the Electoral Roll this year, the number on the Roll is 211, which is the same as last year.
6. **Financial Report and Balance Sheet**  
David Lodge said the 2018 accounts had been audited and signed and were ready to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners this week, he highlighted:
  - We showed a deficit for 2018/19 of £11,000. This was accounted for by a donation of £6000 to the Weald Family Hub, which was taken from the surplus of 2017/18 and a delay on the gift aid recovery, due to the diocese implementing a new system. This led to a shortfall of £5000 which will be shown in 2019 accounts.

- Our income increased by 2.5%.
- Parish share increased by £3921 making a total of £69274.
- Sunday group costs have increased due to numbers and renting more space around the village.
- We spent £21,444 on repairs and enhancements to the building.
- The current reserve in the bank is £69,277 which is equivalent to one year's Parish share.
- Restricted accounts include the Church Rooms with £30,000 which is accumulating to cover the cost of the new roof: The Mustard Seed Project with £3,287 and The Weald Family Hub which to date, has received £35,000 and as a current balance of £20,800.

The 2019 Budget has been set as a balanced budget. It includes an increase in the Parish Share of 4%. To achieve this balanced budget, our regular income needs to increase by 7%, otherwise we will have to spend less or take money from reserves. We will need a further similar increase in 2020 and a much larger increase in 2021 to continue to fund the Lay Minister post. David Lodge especially thanked Becky Addis for her day to day work, John McCaig who collects the offering weekly and banks it, the Finance Committee and everyone who counts the collection.

Reverend Hugh Nelson asked if there were any questions:

- A question was asked about the required increase in giving, which was set at 5% last year when we only managed 2.5%. The suggestion was made that we need a more focused appeal.
- The point was made that, if children and young people are our priority, this must also be a focus for our finances.
- A parishioner asked for confirmation from the Chair that the increase in Parish Share was the result of more ambitious Diocesan plan for growth and mission. Reverend Hugh Nelson confirmed this was the case.

Hugh thanked David Lodge for all his hard work.

#### **7. To Appoint Independent Examiner**

John Tapper is the current examiner and David Lodge thanked him for his work. It was agreed unanimously that he would continue in this roll.

#### **8. Questions and Comments arising from the Book of Reports**

The Book of Reports was presented in a new format and had been handed to all to read. Reverend Hugh Nelson apologized the Bell-ringing report had been omitted. The APCM received reports from three key areas of Church Life, Each report was structured in response to three questions:

Alison Williams gave a report on Connect, the church Pastoral Care ministry

##### **Question 1. What is the purpose of this ministry in the life of the Church?**

Connect plays an important part in enabling our Church to love our neighbour, food bank, clothing store, meal train, church freezer meals and more recently being intentionally invitational and hospitable to each other. Connect is all our ministry. It is to help us all have a Jesus shaped heart for people, and to share whatever we have.

##### **Question 2. Why this Ministry matters?**

This matters to each and every person whose life has been touched by our demonstration of Jesus' love but also to all those who are taking part in the ministry. Compassion breaks down barriers, prejudices and judgment. This ministry takes us into places we may not usually go, it is an absolute privilege to take this unconditional love into people's lives.

##### **Question 3. What do you understand God's dream for this ministry is in the next 12 months?**

Ali shared the wisdom of a speaker at a recent conference - if our dreams look impossible, they are probably the right dreams and if we pray over our dreams that God will amaze us with what He does in our lives and in the life of the Church. So, I have taken this on board and I'm dreaming BIG,

I'm dreaming that God will reach all people in all places and to reach them with the good news of Jesus. We can all start living the dream now.

### **Huthrie Coplestone – Small Groups**

#### **Question 1. What is the Purpose of this ministry in the life of the Church?**

We are a big church, with lots of people, and the small groups give the opportunity to get to know God and each other better and more intimately.

#### **Question 2. Why does this ministry matter?**

They are a place where the life of the church can be shared in a small, family atmosphere. Huthrie shared a recent e-mail from a small group member that expressed the positive place of small groups in the life of the church.

#### **Question 3. What do you understand God's dream for this ministry is in the next 12 months?**

For everyone in the church to be part of a small group.

Claire Cooke gave a report on the Prayer Ministry

#### **Question 1. What is the Purpose of this ministry in the life of the Church?**

Claire read James 5 v 13 which encourages us to turn to pray as our instinctive response to life and its struggles. This ministry exists to pray and to encourage others to pray and to keep prayer at the heart of the Church.

#### **Question 2. Why does this ministry matter?**

People have experienced physical and emotional healing in our community. Claire shared an e-mail from someone in response to their experience of prayer. The e-mail described how someone from the Prayer Team prayed for a couple after the service. Both were suffering from significant physical ailments and both reported feeling much better afterwards.

#### **Question 3. What do you understand God's dream for this ministry is in the next 12 months?**

God delights in his Church and wants us to pray for the people in our Church and community so that they know Jesus personally and announce his kingdom in this area. The dream is for everyone to become more confident in praying for God's kingdom to come.

Claire particularly thanked Faye & Wes Hinsley for their help and support.

Hugh thanked Alison, Huthrie and Claire. He acknowledged that we have many significant leaders in our church and encouraged everyone to read the Book of Reports.

Andy Freeman thanked Hugh Nelson our vicar for everything he does in our church.

Hugh closed meeting in prayer at 12.46.