



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

of the Parish of St Peter with Christ Church (Southborough),
St Matthew (High Brooms) and St Lawrence (Bidborough)

THE SOUTHBOROUGH TEAM MINISTRY

Held at Christ Church on 24th April 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Welcome

Chris Wicks welcomed the 46 representatives from the Parish to Christ Church for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Chris explained that following Gerald Hovenden's retirement, Stephen Hills and himself would alternate Chairing parts of the APCM.

Nigel Griffiths led a short period of worship, reflection and prayer.

Chris informed those present that the Rev Canon Clive Porthouse, the first team rector and former vicar of Christ Church, had passed away on Easter Day.

2. Elections of Churchwardens

Two Wardens are elected for each Church. The people proposed for each Church were as follows:

St Peter:	Richard Stanbury Roy Langman
Christ Church:	Graham Syms Gavin Large
St Matthew:	David Johnson Bridgette Shaw
St Lawrence:	Graham Wilkinson Robert Gibson

It was proposed that the above be duly elected.

Proposed: Len Morland
Seconded: Michael Wightwick

Chris thanked the Churchwardens for all the work they put in during the year, and expressed thanks and gratitude to Michelle Shirley and Gareth Stephens who were stepping down.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome

Chris welcomed everyone present to the second meeting – the APCM.

2. Apologies

Received from:

Barbara Bourne, Lesley Clare, Clare Masters, Rob Masters, Sheila Syms

3. Minutes of APCM – 25th April 2016

Sue Shrubbs requested the following names be removed from the list of Christ Church sidespeople: Bill Brewer, Peter Davey, Peter Gurney, Harry Hawk, Tom Pearce, Jan Stewer.

The minutes were approved with the above amendments.

Proposed: Bridgette Shaw

Seconded: Marion Short

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Interregnum and future of ministry in Southborough and High Brooms

Stephen Hills read out the following Note to be read at APCM's in the Southborough Team Ministry and St Thomas:

"In February 2016 Bishop James suspended the right of presentation at St Thomas in order to consider options for pastoral reorganization of the Anglican churches in Southborough, High Brooms and Bidborough. In February 2017, following the Team Rector's retirement the right to presentation in the Southborough Team was also suspended.

Following a period of review by the Rural Dean, and conversations in both parishes, it is proposed that during 2017 the parishes explore options for effective future ministry in Southborough, Bidborough and High Brooms. This might take the form of one or more of St Lawrence, St Peter, Christ Church and St Thomas looking at joint ministry opportunities across Southborough. St Matthews will be holding conversations with their neighbouring parishes in Tunbridge Wells.

Following these explorations, proposals for any reorganization of parishes, in the form of a new grouping of parishes, the formation of a new parish or parishes, or maintaining the status quo, would be drawn up in consultation with all stakeholders (Parishes, Patrons, Rural Dean, Archdeacon, Bishop etc) for presentation at the APCMs in 2018, thereby giving a year of working upon which to base any decision concerning the way forward.

It is proposed that a Joint Working Group comprising Stephen Hills, Rachel Wilson, Nigel Griffiths and two representatives each from Christ Church, St Peter's, St Thomas and St Lawrence (one representing PCC/DCC's and the other ministry/mission teams) meet monthly to consider ways of working together and future options. The representatives from each parish are to be chosen in a way acceptable to respective parishes. A report on these discussions should go to respective parishes and interested parties well ahead of the APCMs in 2018."

Graham Syms expressed concern about the rectory being empty to 2018, apart from Nigel using it as an office. He wondered if the diocese should pick up some of the bills. Jolyon, the Treasurer, advised that a slight adjustment had been made in the Parish Offer.

Jim Stevens suggested that a letter be sent to the Bishop urging swift action. Chris Wicks replied that the Diocese would also want a swift appointment and stressed the importance for the future of the Southborough Team Ministry. Stephen Hills commented that St Thomas's was in a similar position to St Lawrence – not large enough to have its own parish – and Rachel was in a post for 4/6 of the time. He also said that the Southborough Team was in a strong position compared to other parishes and could absorb the costs and had responded to Parish Offers and the Diocese was in deficit.

6. Team Ministry Reports

Chris Wicks

Chris thanked Michelle Shirley who was stepping down as Churchwarden and also Clare Caless who had also stepped down from the office during the year. One of the highlights of the year was the church weekend away with Mike and Liz Resche. Mark Lavender was ordained, the fourth member of St Matthew's in a decade. Children and youth ministry continued to flourish under Jon and Claire Carrol and St Matthew's would be very sorry to lose them when they leave in the summer. Chris ended by saying that we were entering a season of change which also offered new opportunities.

Stephen Hills

Stephen reported that the theme of "Love God, Love People" had been constant in both St Peter's and St Lawrence. St Peter's had a faithful committed congregation and prayer for the neighbourhood had continued through the year. St Lawrence had a village community and pastoral care played a large part. Gospel initiatives included new Mens' Ministry with "Who Let the Dads Out" and "Men of Bidborough". Stephen thanked Gareth and Mary Stephens, who had moved to Devon, for their work as Churchwarden and Parish Children's Representative. He also expressed thanks to all the teams for serving in different ways and also to Robert Gibson for taking on the responsibility of Churchwarden at St Lawrence.

Nigel Griffiths

Nigel said that it had been an eventful year which included building work on the annexe and preparations for Gerald's and Pat's departure. There had been a lot of positives: an awayday at Rosehill; Alpha and Life Groups continued to grow. There had also been development in youth and family work; Gen Griffiths had been taken on to cover while Linnea Voisey was on maternity leave. Messy Church was busy. The official opening of the Annexe was taking place on Saturday 29 April.

All the Clergy Reports were accepted:

Proposed: Rita Morland
Seconded: Gavin Large

7. Trustees Report

Stephen explained that this was found on pages 8– 20 in the APCM pack and said that there was a huge wealth of information in this report about the Parish and what has been going on in the life of the four churches. He thanked Alison Lush for compiling this report.

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Sue Shrubb
Seconded: Roy Langman

8. Revised Church Electoral Roll

Lesley Clare, Electoral Roll Secretary, provided the following information:

The current number on the Parish Electoral Roll is 433, five more than the previous year. The split between the churches is as follows:

Church	Total at APCM 2016	Additions during year	Deletions during year	Total at APCM 2017
St Peter	66	1	0	67
St Lawrence	97	2	2	97
St Matthew	154	11	5	160
Christ Church	111	0	2	109
TOTAL	428	14	9	433

The above report was accepted.

Proposed: Graham Wilkinson
Seconded: Jim Walker

9. Churchwardens Reports

These were found on pages 21 – 24 in the APCM pack.

All reports were accepted.

Proposed: Eric Bowen
Seconded: Michael Wightwick

10. Report from Parish Children's Representative

This was found on page 25 of the pack. Mary Stephens had moved to Devon and Jayne Liley had agreed to take over the role of Parish Children's Representative.

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Graham Wilkinson
Seconded: Jim Stevens

11. Deanery Synod Report

This was found on page 26 in the APCM pack. Deanery Synod Representatives were due to be appointed later in the meeting. The Deanery Synod meets about 3 or 4 times a year.

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Len Morland
Seconded: David Johnson

12. Parish Treasurer's Report

This was found on pages 27-42 in the APCM pack.

Jolyon commented that the figures in 2105 had been affected by legacy donations and gift days. In 2016 Gift Aid giving and expenses remained constant with previous years.

Jolyon and the individual church treasurers were thanked for their hard work in producing these accounts.

The annual accounts were accepted.

Proposed: Graham Syms
Seconded: Roy Langman

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed to re-appoint David Stephens as the Independent Examiner for 2017. This appointment was agreed.

Proposed: Eric Bowen
Seconded: Ian Wilson

14. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Deanery Synod Representatives are elected every three years and elections were due to be held in 2017. No nominations had been received for the vacancy at St Lawrence or the second vacancy for St Matthew's.

Nominations had been received as follows:

St Peter: Rodney Hutchinson
St Matthew: Mary Wilson
St Lawrence:
Christ Church: Barbara Bourne

These people were duly elected.

Proposed: David Johnson
Seconded: Carol Wicks

Election of PCC Representatives

Each Church has one elected representative on the PCC who also joins the DCC. Nominations for this role had been received as follows and these people were duly elected.

St Peter: Marion Short
St Matthew: Ian Wilson
St Lawrence: Gordon Mungeam
Christ Church: Len Morland

Proposed: Graham Wilkinson
Seconded: Graham Syms

15. Appointment of Sidespeople

The Churchwardens put forward the following names:

St Peter:

Keith Brooker, Karen Bull, Stephen Bull, Carol Jones, Norman Jones, Roy Langman, Emma Leitch, Marion Short, Richard Stanbury .

Christ Church:

Val Aldis, Carol-Grace Buckman, Annette Cole, Steve Cole, Sue Drury, Lesley Grice, Vera Grover, Joan Hall, Michelle Hall, Pete Hillier, Pauline Lyons, Kevin Matthews, Alan Peggs, Tina Peggs, Jeanette Tompkins.

St Matthew:

Norman Andrews, Sue Andrews, Rosemary Blanchard, Gordon Blanchard, Heather Corbett-Smith, Jan Gabriel, Mark Gabriel, Katy Johnson, Duncan Oakley, Giles Parratt, Catherine Root, Lance Savage, Sarah Savage, Mike Southwick, Christine Veness, Ian Wilson, Rob Wilson.

St Lawrence:

Ashley Adams, Don Buckland, Jill Buckland, Edward Cole, Charles Cullimore, Cate Deller, Ed Dix-Perkin, Peter Eames, Mike Fawcett, Alison Gibson, Robert Gibson, Shirin Haque, Pippa Hillen, David Hunter, Paul Langridge, Carole Lee, Michael Lee, Alison Lush, Bill Lush, Clare Masters, Robert Masters, Jenny Rogers, Tony Rogers, John Tune, Ian Whittaker, Graham Wilkinson.

All the Churchwardens requested the power to co-opt any extra help if required.

The above names were accepted.

Proposed: Gordon Blanchard
Seconded: Norman Andrews

16. A.O.B.

Graham Syms paid tribute to Clive Porhouse who had been responsible for many things at Christ Church, including the re-ordering of the church interior.

There was further discussion regarding the interregnum and it was emphasized that no decision could be made without a vote at the APCM.

Chris Wicks was asked what a team meant to him. He replied that he saw it as working together and supporting one another and using gifts. He reminded everyone that he had been the architect of the Southborough Team Ministry. Previously they were a united benefice and since they became a team the churches had done less together.

The meeting ended in prayer led by Stephen.