



## **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 St Matthew's Church on 30th April 2018 at 8.00 p.m.

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

### **1. Welcome**

Chris Wicks welcomed the 58 representatives from the Parish to St Matthew's Church for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

Chris explained that this year he would chair the meeting and that Stephen Hills would lead the section on the future of ministry in Southborough and High Brooms in the APCM meeting following.

The meeting opened with worship and prayer.

### **2. Elections of Churchwardens**

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

<b>St Peter:</b>	Richard Stanbury Roy Langman
<b>Christ Church:</b>	Graham Syms Jonathan Taylor
<b>St Matthew:</b>	David Johnson Bridgette Shaw
<b>St Lawrence:</b>	Robert Gibson Edward Dix Perkin

It was proposed that the above be duly elected.

Proposed: Len Morland  
Seconded: Melanie Knight

Chris thanked the Churchwardens for all the work they put in during the year and expressed thanks and gratitude to Gavin Large and Graham Wilkinson who were stepping down.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

### **1. Welcome**

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

### **2. Apologies**

Received from:

Val Alldis, Geoff Baker, Rosemary Blanchard, Barbara Bourne, Gill Fuller, Karen Hickson-Smith, Rodney Hutchinson, Roy Langman, Carol Lee, Michael Lee, Isobel MacDougall, Marion Short, Helen Steven, Sheila Syms, Hilary Taylor.

### **3. Minutes of APCM – 24th April 2017**

The minutes were approved.

Proposed: Graham Syms

Seconded: David Johnson

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

Stephen Hills outlined the events that had taken place over the last three years since Gerald Hovenden had indicated his plans to retire which was around the same time as the retirement of the incumbent at St Thomas's. This had been seen as an opportunity to explore the future of ministry in Southborough. Rachel Wilson had been appointed as Priest-in-Charge at St Thomas's in the knowledge that change would be likely. St Matthew's with a view to independence had been exploring ministry links with other parishes in Tunbridge Wells. Following the retirement of Gerald Hovenden a working group was formed and there had been correspondence with the Bishop who had also visited. The Bishop had observed that currently the churches operated more as a group than a team. It was not obvious how St Peter's fitted in as all the other churches had an obvious community which St Peter's did not. The Bishop offered help with a feasibility study with St Peter's which has produced some interesting ideas which have resulted in conversations with the Methodists and the consideration of other churches "planting" into the church. These conversations are ongoing.

The first option considered was to remain as a team without St Matthew's, but including St Thomas's. However, St Thomas's had reservations about the idea.

Both St Matthew's and Christ Church fulfill the criteria for individual parishes, but St Lawrence, St Peter's and St Thomas's do not. Rachel Wilson was appointed as Priest-in-Charge in a 4/6 post. Stephen already shared leadership between St Lawrence and St Peter's and there were already connections between the two parishes. Stephen commented that Christ Church were holding interviews for the new incumbent the following week after the ACM.

The team structure had served well with the PCC acting as the main legal body and administration role, with each church having its own DCC. A group structure would mean each church would be responsible for its own administration but would offer opportunities for shared mission such as with the new 'Hub' project in Southborough. A new structure would not be set in stone and it would be possible to make changes in future years.

At St Thomas' recent APCM there had been unanimous approval for the proposal that St Thomas church become part of a newly-formed Southborough and Bidborough group ministry.

Len Morland asked about the timescale. Stephen replied that it was dependent on the Church Commissioners, but it would be likely to take a year.

Kevin Clare asked what happened if people voted against the proposal. Stephen replied that we would have to go back to the drawing board.

Clare Masters said that the working group had spoken to other churches in a group ministry and not all churches had to agree with everything.

Jim Walker thanked those who had maintained links between Christ Church and St Matthews, mentioning in particular Trevor Long and offering his condolences to him following the recent loss of his wife, Eve.

Tellers were appointed and the meeting was asked to vote on the following proposal:

“This meeting approves and supports the proposal that –

- The Southborough Team ministry be dissolved.
- St Matthew’s becomes an independent parish.
- Christ Church becomes an independent parish and a member of a new Southborough and Bidborough Group ministry.
- St Peter’s becomes a parish with St Lawrence’s and a member of a new Southborough and Bidborough Group ministry.
- St Lawrence’s becomes a parish with St Peter’s and a member of a new Southborough and Bidborough Group ministry.
- The new Southborough and Bidborough Group ministry will also include the parish of St Thomas’ Southborough.”

The proposal was approved with 49 votes in favour and 1 against.

## **6. Team Ministry Reports**

Chris Wicks said that in view of the above, the team ministry reports this year would not be as full as usual. Nigel Griffiths had completed his training as a curate and been signed off the previous day.

### **Chris Wicks**

Chris reported that St Matthew’s had said good bye to John and Claire Carroll, Youth and Children’s Ministers. Tom Tyler and Lois Fryett had taken on the roles and made a great start doing things in different ways and had made a significant impact. The interregnum had meant changes for the team and for Christ Church and Nigel Griffiths in particular. Chris and Stephen had both played supportive roles. Chris said that it had been a privilege to work with Stephen Hills and was grateful to him as joint chair and for leading the process of the future of the team ministry. He thanked Alison Lush and Jolyon Head for their work as PCC Secretary and Treasurer and also Hannah in the church office for taking on extra work to allow things to continue. Although it was sad to come to the end of an era, there were new opportunities to look forward to in a positive way.

### **Stephen Hills**

Stephen thanked Graham Wilkinson who was stepping down as Churchwarden at St Lawrence now that he had completed his LLM training and he also thanked Edward Dix Perkin for taking on the role. St Peter’s and St Lawrence had already started working with St Thomas’s, sharing an Alpha course which over 20 people attended. There had been a number of different speakers at church services. 2018 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the parish of St Lawrence and Project 800 had been launched to provide a toilet for the church as well as update the heating and provide flexible seating and space.

### **Nigel Griffiths**

Nigel said that it had been a challenging year, and the last 15 months since the Hovendens had left, leaving two large holes, had been harder than running the marathon which he had done some years ago. There had been a lot of positives, particularly the Lent course. Nigel was grateful to everyone who had helped out. He thanked outgoing Churchwarden, Gavin Large, for all his hard work over the years; Graham Syms, who had felt the weight enormously, for keeping people together; Jim Stevens for preaching and preparation of rotas; Allan Jonnes for his hard work as Treasurer over the years. Nigel said that he had learnt a lot from Chris and Stephen for which he was very grateful. He ended by reading from Hebrews 10:23: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

All the Clergy Reports were accepted:

Proposed: Len Morland  
Seconded: Gavin Large

### **7. Trustees Report**

Chris explained that this was found on pages 9– 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: Graham Wilkinson  
Seconded: Jim Walker

### **8. Revised Church Electoral Roll**

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

The current number on the Parish Electoral Roll is 441, eight more than the previous year. The split between the churches is as follows:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Total at APCM 2017</b>	<b>Additions during year</b>	<b>Deletions during year</b>	<b>Total at APCM 2018</b>
St Peter	67	2	0	69
St Lawrence	97	0	0	97
St Matthew	160	6	1	165
Christ Church	109	1	0	110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>441</b>

The above report was accepted.

Proposed: Jane Richardson  
Seconded: William Harper

### **9. Churchwardens Reports**

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

All reports were accepted.

Proposed: Norman Andrews  
Seconded: Lesley Clare

#### **10. Report from Parish Children's Representative**

This was found on page 25 of the pack. Jayne Liley had taken over the role of Parish Children's Representative.

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Sue Shrubb  
Seconded: Graham Syms

#### **11. Deanery Synod Report**

This was found on page 26 in the APCM pack.

The report was accepted.

Proposed: Gavin Large  
Seconded: Len Morland

#### **12. Parish Treasurer's Report**

This was found on pages 29-45 in the APCM pack.

Jolyon commented that Christ Church had reported a deficit due to expenditure of funds raised previously on the Annexe. St Lawrence had reported a huge surplus due to funds raised on Project 800. If these figures are stripped out, then the overall position for the PCC is a small deficit of £3k which is not of concern due to the significant reserves held.

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

The annual accounts were accepted.

Proposed: Graham Wilkinson  
Seconded: Melanie Knight

#### **13. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was proposed to re-appoint David Stephens as the Independent Examiner for 2018. This appointment was agreed.

Proposed: Norman Andrews  
Seconded: Mary Wilson

#### **14. Election of PCC Representatives**

Chris Wicks explained that each Church has one elected representative on the PCC who also joins the DCC. PCC Representatives are elected annually, but can serve for three years. The current representatives had served for three years, but in view of the proposed changes to the Team structure it was proposed that for the purpose of continuity they served for a further year if elected. The only nominations for this role that had been received were from the current representatives and the Chairman invited other nominations. There were no other nominations and therefore it was proposed the following representatives be elected for a further year:

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

Proposed: Clare Masters  
Seconded: Bridgette Shaw

The proposal was approved by all present and the representatives were duly elected.

### **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 Alldis, Annette Cole, Steve Cole, Sue Drury, Lesley Grice, Vera Grover, Joan Hall, Michelle Hall, Pete Hillier, Pauline Lyons, Nicky Mackie, Alan Peggs, Tina Peggs, Judy Stevens.

#### **St Matthew:**

Norman Andrews, Sue Andrews, Jean Best, Rosemary Blanchard, Gordon Blanchard, Mark Bray, Jacquie Bray, Caroline Clark, Heather Corbett-Smith, Nick Funnel, Jan Gabriel, Mark Gabriel, Katy Johnson, Giles Parratt, Lance Savage, Sarah Savage, Jo Smith, Mike Southwick, Christine Veness, Ian Wilson.

#### **St Lawrence:**

Ashley Adams, Don Buckland, Jill Buckland, Edward Cole, Mary Cottle, 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, 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: Graham Syms  
Seconded: Graham Wilkinson

### **16. A.O.B.**

Elizabeth Hills asked if this would be the last year of PCC accounts. Jolyon replied that he did not know; it depended on the timing of the change in structure, but that the last set of accounts would not be prepared on a going concern basis which would imply fixed assets would increase (as property is held on the balance sheet at cost value which is significantly below current market value).

Stephen Hills thanked everyone for their overwhelming support for the proposal for the future of the ministry in Southborough and High Brooms.

The meeting ended in prayer.