**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS,**

**AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**OF THE PARISH OF WARGRAVE WITH KNOWL HILL
HELD ON SUNDAY 4th JULY 2021 IN ST. MARY’S CHURCH AT 11.00 A.M.**

45 members of the congregation were present,

**Meeting for Election of Churchwardens**

Sandra Baker and Ian Matthews would continue to serve as Churchwardens, and John Cook led the thanks of both congregations for their work within the Parish.

Peter Mayes had offered his resignation from his position as Churchwarden at St Mary’s, and in his absence John Cook announced that he would be taking him a gift to show the appreciation voiced by the meeting for his many years of service

Mark Puddy had been duly proposed and seconded, and his nomination as a Churchwarden for St Mary’s Wargrave was agreed nem con.

John Cook led prayers for the Churchwardens and the PCC and offered blessings for their work ahead.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Rosie Creedon, Annette Greathead, Sue Griffiths, Peter Mayes, Lesley Turville, David Williams, and Sue Witney.

1. **Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 27 September 2020**

The minutes of last year’s meeting were reviewed and were agreed *nem con*.

Christine Walker asked if the members of the congregation could see the Archaeological Report following the excavations during the building of the Church Extension at St Mary’s; or even better be given a presentation similar to one already given to the Local History Society. John Cook and Andy Ferguson undertook to contact Wessex Archaeology to enable this to happen.

1. **Vicar’s Report**

The Vicar started his report by formally recording his thanks to the other members of the Clergy for how they had supported him and the Church during the past difficult 15 months of COVID>

The Vicar’s Report had been published in the Parish Reports, and there were no questions on this.

He then made a short presentation on the PCC Strategic Priority for the last 5 years which had been concerned with reaching and gathering children and young families into the congregation. Churches across the country are re-thinking their approach to this group and he reflected on statistics on national church attendance and numbers of people who consider themselves affiliated in any way to a C of E church. Our generation is a link in the chain of Christianity in England and he and the PCC were conscious of the legacy they in turn will leave and responsibility not to see the chain broken under their stewardship. To this end meetings will take place throughout the summer, and advice sought from various sources leading to a major re-launch to these groups in September.

He left a number of questions for those at the meeting to ponder and pray about.

1. **Electoral Roll**

Helen Vonka, the Electoral Roll Officer, had provided an updated list for June 2021 which was displayed at the back of the Church. Since September 2020:-

For Knowl Hill the number on roll remained at 21

For Wargrave the number on roll had fallen from 233 to 229

Giving a total for the Parish of 250 names.

1. **Financial Report for the year 2020**

Jane Wills gave an overview of the Parish finances for 2020

She described a very unusual year which had seen an increase in donations following the COVID appeal, and a decrease in expenditure on maintenance, expenses, heating, etc. due to the closure of Churches for several months. This had helped keep finances in a better place over a period when there was no income from events, collections or even funeral fees (as most of these had been held at crematoriums).

As more than half the Parish income is needed to pay the Parish Share, and other fixed commitments account for a further large proportion of monies, the budget prepared for 2021 shows a deficit. This is because activity within the Church will increase at a time when there is a level of “giver fatigue” within the population. Currently Church income is heavily reliant on donations from the older members of the congregation and it is hoped that the next stage of rollout of the Parish Giving Scheme will result in a greater involvement from younger families in the Parish.

Sean Sutcliffe is heading the process of developing the Parish Giving Scheme, and any questions on how to make regular donations should be addressed to him or Jane Wills. The scheme allows 100% of money donated to come to the Parish, whilst removing the onerous administration burden of collecting Gift Aid which is done by the Diocese and passed over on a regular monthly basis which eases cash flow.

In answer to a question from Christine Walker, Jane Wills announced the next task for Sean Sutcliffe will be to encourage people to consider leaving a Legacy to the Church. Both the Parish Giving Scheme and the subject of Legacies will appear as articles in the Parish Magazine.

Jane Wills then clarified the position of the Parish in relation to funds for Mill Green and the Chalkpit Cemetery whereby she acts as the collecting agent for these, but they are operated by the Friends of Mill Green and the Friends of the Cemetery which are not connected with the Church.

Ruth Howse, supported by the all members of the congregation, warmly thanked Jane for her clear explanation of the state of the Parish Finances; and John Cook prayed for Jane and the work she undertakes in her role as Parish Treasurer.

**6. ­** ­**Independent Examiner**

The appointment of Paul Worthington as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Christine Walker, seconded by Doug Clark and approved *nem con.*

**7. Parish Reports**

The statutory parish report, which is bound with the accounts, gives a full account of the membership of the PCC and an overview of its work during the year.

Reports of the activities and plans of the Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod were also included in the Parish Reports document.

There were no questions on these reports which were received by the meeting.

**8. Elections and Appointments**

**Election of Deanery Synod Representatives**

The 3 named individuals had been elected in 2020 and had a further 2 years to serve

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sue Griffiths | Karen Lloyd | Sheila Williams |  |  |

Christine Walker was proposed by Sheila Williams, seconded by Ruth Howse and elected nem com to take one of the two remaining vacancies as a Deanery Synod Representative

8. **Election of Parochial Church Council (16 lay members for Wargrave, and 2 for Knowl Hill)**

With only 11 Nomination Papers received for Wargrave and 1 Nomination Paper for Knowl Hill, it was agreed that Co-Options could take place at the subsequent PCC meetings.

**For Wargrave: Nominations Forms Received for**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Mike Buckland | Doug Clark | Rosie Creedon | Andy Ferguson | Helen Gradon |
|  Peter Mayes | Jane Wills | Sue Witney | Sarah Whiteside |  |

**Knowl Hill and Warren Row: Nomination Form Received for**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Karen Larkins |  |  |  |  |

The election of the above were approved *nem con.*

**Appointment of Sidesmen**

**Wargrave:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bob Austen | Jane Austen | Tessa Baird | Chris Bookless | Heather Carver |
| Michael Carver | John Coombes | Gavin Dunbar | Julia Freeman | Helen Gradon |
| Peter Mayes | Tessa McEwan | Lesley McClure-Fisher |  Nigel Pearce | Matt Perowne |
| Neill Pitcher | Michael Pope | Lloyd Scrivener | Graham Trolley | Christine Walker |
| Jane Wills | Ann Woodward |  |  |  |

Approved *nem con.*

**Knowl Hill and Warren Row:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Jim Hadden |  Karen Larkins |  |  |  |

Approved *nem con.*

**9. COG’s Reports**

The COG’s reports are included in the published Parish Reports document; the work of these teams and their regular undertaking of detailed topics on behalf of the PCC were noted.

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Bob Austen announced his retirement from the Leadership of the Celebrating COG after many years’ service – and enjoyment.

Mike Buckland, Leader of the Stewarding COG, informed the meeting of the Eco Church initiative involving some 3,000 churches. In joining this movement, the Parish had seen many developments over the past years resulting in the Parish receiving a number of awards; and further developments were planned.

Peter Dart addressed the congregation regarding the role of the Music Group over the past year, and he recorded his appreciation of the contribution made by the restricted choirs and virtual singers to the services during the Pandemic Period.

There were no other questions and the reports were received *nem con*.

**10. Safeguarding Report**

The report from Lesley Turville, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, is included in the Parish Reports document. On behalf of the Parish, Camilla Cook thanked Lesley for her efficient control of this important area of Church Life.

There were no questions on her report which was received *nem con.*

**11. Any Other Business**

 No other items had been notified.

**12. Closing Prayer**

Steve Turville thanked God for giving a Servant Heart to so many in the Parish, and he prayed that the PCC had ears to hear so that they can serve the Parish to His Glory.

Sheila Williams

*Secretary to the PCC*