



**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 27th SEPTEMBER IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH AT 9.15 A.M.**

33 members of the congregation were present, and a further 15 attended via Zoom.

Meeting for Election of Churchwardens

Sandra Baker had been nominated to serve as Churchwarden for Knowl Hill, and was unanimously re-elected. Peter Mayes had been nominated to serve as Churchwarden for Wargrave, and was unanimously re-elected. Ian Matthews had been nominated to serve as a Churchwarden for Wargrave, and was unanimously elected.

The Vicar thanked the retiring Churchwarden for Wargrave, Helen Gradon for all her work in supporting the life of the church, and presented her with an autumnal bouquet.

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

1. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Due to COVID 19 restrictions some members of the congregation attended via Zoom, and their votes were taken into account alongside those physically voting in Church. Where appropriate, their views were shared electronically with other Zoom attendees and those inside the Church.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sue Griffiths and Karen Larkins

3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7th April 2019

The minutes of last year's meeting were reviewed and, with the addition of Bob Austen to the list of those elected to the PCC and the amendment of the date of the accounts to read 2018, were agreed *nem con*.

4. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report had been published in the Parish Reports.

There were no further questions.

5. Electoral Roll

Helen Vonka, the Electoral Roll Officer, had provided an updated list for April 2020 (the normal date for this to be provided) which was displayed at the back of the Church. Since April 2019:-

For Knowl Hill the number on roll had risen from 19-21

For Wargrave the number on roll had risen from 224-233

Giving a total for the Parish of 254 names.

6. Financial Report for the year 2019

Jane Wills gave an overview of the Parish finances for 2019.

She highlighted the increase in income for Wargrave due to 2019 having been a Village Festival year which had provided fundraising opportunities. The Parish Magazine team were applauded for having successfully sold all the available advertising space in their publication.

A decrease in levels of planned giving was being addressed by Sean Sutcliffe by joining the Parish to the Diocesan central service called Parish Giving. The launch of this initiative had been delayed by the Coronavirus Pandemic, and was now being planned for 2021.

The Parish Share which represented the major outgoing for the Parish had been reduced by £2,500.

The state of the Parish's Restricted Funds were outlined, in particular the monies available for refurbishment work at Knowl Hill, and the fact that the construction of the new Church Centre at St Mary's had been completed.

The Budget which had been set for 2020 had been drastically affected by the cancellations of Church Services during the Pandemic, and Jane Wills thanked everyone who had continued to donate throughout this difficult time to enable the work of the Church to continue.

Chris Perry asked about the high level of reimbursement of expenses given under Note 4. Jane Wills explained that this was because so many of the supplies for the Church were ordered on-line, and as the Church could not have a credit card individuals used their own cards to facilitate these orders. Under Charity Law, the reimbursement of these expenses had to be presented in this way. The actual expenditure was shown in the accounts under the appropriate headings, eg office supplies.

Camilla Cook asked about Mission Giving by the Parish, and Jane Wills explained that a percentage of the Church's income (after payment of the Parish Share) was given to the Mission Action Group every 6 months to allocate to mission work at home and abroad. Their suggestions for the distribution of these monies was presented to the PCC for approval. These amounts have been recorded under the Parish Accounts. However, many members of the congregation also give generously to the work of Mission either personally or by supporting local events such as Brass on the Grass – these amounts are not recorded within the Parish Accounts.

John Cook applauded all donations towards the work of mission, expressing the view that outward giving is a sign of a healthy Church.

Tessa Baird asked about the management of endowments, and Jane Wills informed her that the CCLA manages the investment of Parish funds.

Bob Austen, supported by the members of the congregation, warmly thanked Jane for her clear explanation of the state of the Parish Finances, and for all the work she undertakes in her role as Parish Treasurer.

7. Independent Examiner

The appointment of Paul Worthington as the Independent Examiner was proposed by David Williams, seconded by Mike Buckland and approved *nem con*.

8. 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.

Christine Walker asked about a possible presentation by those responsible for the Archaeological Survey undertaken during the construction of the new Church Centre. Whilst such a presentation had already been to the Local History Society, the final invoice for the work has only just been paid, and the Church is yet to receive a copy of the report. It was hoped that in due course this would be presented to the congregation.

Richard Lloyd drew attention to the 5 Lay Places allocated to the Parish on the Deanery Synod, and the value of attending these meetings, giving the opportunity to meet with members of the Clergy and congregations of 15 Churches in the area. A new Deanery Plan had been finalised and approved in 2019 and included plans for Churches reacting to the huge increase in house building currently taking place around Wokingham. John Cook thanked Richard for his work on Synod over many years.

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

7. Elections and Appointments

Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

The 3 named individuals, having been duly nominated were elected to serve for 3 years *nem con*

Sue Griffiths Karen Lloyd Sheila Williams

As there were no further nominations the Reverend John Cook proposed that any candidates wishing to fill the 2 remaining representative places should speak to him after the meeting.

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

Retiring PCC Members, Amanda Bayley, Mike Carver, Richard Lloyd and Lesley Turville were warmly thanked for the many years service they had given to the Parish.

With only 10 Nomination Papers received for Wargrave and 1 Nomination Paper for Knowl Hill , it was agreed that Co-Options should take place at the November PCC meeting.

For Wargrave: Nominations Forms Received for

Bob Austen	Mike Buckland	Linda Caradine	Doug Clark	Rosie Creedon
Andy Ferguson	Helen Gradon	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	Michael Carver
John Coombes	Gavin Dunbar	Barbara Lloyd	Sue Mackenzie	Peter Mayes
Sue Mayes	Tessa McEwan	Lesley McClure- Fisher	Tony Moul	Nigel Pearce
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.

Referring to the Reaching COG Leader, John Cook announced that Hugh Barne would be leaving the Parish sometime in the next year. John Fryer asked if it was intended to replace Hugh, and John Cook confirmed that the Diocese had agreed to supply a new Curate for the Parish, and in addition, it was hoped, contribute to housing costs for the individual.

John Cook added to the report from the Nurturing COG a particular recognition of the invaluable contribution made by the House Groups in continuing to operate via Zoon when groups could not meet in person.

In addition to the activities described in the Caring Report, Patsy Roynan gained support from the congregation in particularly thanking Camilla Cook and Lesley Turville for the work they have undertaken in supporting members of the community during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Under the Stewarding COG item, Mike Buckland requested that all COG Leaders took time to review the notices at the back of the Church which, due to extended Church closure, needed updating.

Bob Austen assured the meeting that whilst the Celebrating COG team had been necessarily restricted in their activities over recent months they were looking forward with many ideas for the future.

Under the Supporting COG item, John Cook thanked Andy Ferguson for the work he had done in re-ordering the Church Office and expressed thanks to the anonymous donor of the new IT equipment.

As Leader of the Communicating COG, Andy assured Angie Buckland that, in answer to her question, it was the intention to return to the system of giving more advanced warning of reading choices and preaching themes – this would help those writing the intercessions to ensure their prayers were relevant and integrated into the whole service.

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. John Cook thanked her for the important work she undertakes on behalf of the Parish, and asked anyone with any concerns in this area to come to him or Lesley in confidence. There were no questions on her report which was received *nem con*.

11. Any Other Business

Sheila Williams proposed a vote of thanks to the Clergy Team who had continued, throughout the Pandemic, to provide such excellent Sunday Services both electronic and latterly, safely in Church. The effort and professionalism which had resulted in maintaining this ministry to the Parish was really appreciated by the congregation, and those present enthusiastically applauded their work.

12. Closing Prayer

Andy Ferguson, leading the closing prayer, thanked the Lord for being with us, inspiring us, so that with grateful hearts we prayed He would continue to walk with us and show us His truth.

Sheila Williams
Secretary to the PCC