

Draft subject to confirmation

THE PARISH OF CHIDHAM

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Chidham held in St Wilfrid's Church and Hall, Broad Road, Chidham on Thursday 15th April 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Father David Pain, Chairman, Harry Bates*, Roy Kennedy*, Rodney Duggua, Carol Vigor, Alyzn Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Jackie Cooper, Alan Allcock, Graham Fielder, Nita Fielder, June Lewis, Graham Underdown, Karyn Richardson, June Phillips, Marlene Whalen, Tracey Mc Eachran, Don Hall, Gwen Ambrose, Audrey Anderson, Maureen Lloyd, Joyce Woods, Paula Smith, Nina Bates, Steve Clark, Simon Williams, Cliff Archer, Delph Archer, Tony Probert, Juliet Probert, Adrian Matthews, Shirley Chrystall, Don Rogers, Anne Rogers, Glenys Ginger.

* Not present for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect Churchwardens

Apologies for absence

Pam Kennedy, Penny Allcock, Jackie Duggua, Roger Hayles, Gini Hayles, Steve Foye, Sarah Foye, Grace Archer, Chris Chrystall, Liz Wilson and Betty Hunter.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

The purpose of this meeting was to elect Churchwardens.

Nominations had been received in respect of Harry Bates and Roy Kennedy.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Harry Bates and Roy Kennedy be appointed Churchwardens for the forthcoming year.

Harry and Roy joined the meeting at this point and thanked those present for their support.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes

The minutes of the APCM held on 23rd April 2009, were approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments: -

- The year of the meeting, namely '2009' being include after the date
- A reference to the report of the work of the Friends of Chidham Churches
- Father David's surname being spelt correctly ie 'Pain'

2. Report of the work of the PCC

This report had been circulated and the following issues were dealt with:-

Secretary's Report

This outlined the formal responsibilities of the PCC and summarised the work done by the PCC during the past year.

It was noted that the Secretary would continue to pursue the Diocese as respects training for members of PCC's.

Copies of the minutes of the PCC would, in future, be on display at St Mary's and St Wilfrid's.

Vacancies to the PCC would be dealt with later in the meeting.

Fabric Review

Harry Bates had circulated a comprehensive report on this subject.

As to St Mary's there were no more cracks in the stonework surrounding the St Mary's chancel windows to report.

A major item related to the new stained glass windows in St Cuthman's Chapel. Harry reported upon the work done by the designer, Mel Howes and the steps that had to be taken to obtain the necessary approvals. Work was on track for the windows to be installed by mid June in time for the Flower Festival (2-4 July 2010).

Overall the general condition of St. Mary's was assessed as 'good'.

In the autumn of 2010 both St. Wilfrid's and St. Mary's were scheduled for electrical and quinquennial structural inspections. Also St. Mary's was scheduled for a lightning conductor inspection. The total cost of these will be in the region of £1,500 + VAT.

The long awaited works of refurbishment of St. Wilfrid's Church and Hall were completed in June 2009. However, additional work had been required to replace rotten timber and window frames. The total cost was £18,445, some £5000 over budget.

Chichester District Council had given approval for the metal storage container to remain on site until June 2014.

As to the resurfacing of the car park of St Wilfrid's, an estimate to level, compact it, lay down a membrane and tarmac the area, would cost approximately £15,000 plus VAT. However, an alternative option was to

purchase 20 tons of scalplings at an approximate cost of £400 plus VAT and for them to be spread by parishioners. Overall, bearing in mind that St Wilfrid's was over 40 years old and of timber frame construction, the general condition was assessed as 'satisfactory'.

Harry took the opportunity to thank Jackie North for cleaning both churches and Joyce Woods for polishing the lectern and candlesticks in St. Mary's.

He also thanked fellow churchwarden Roy Kennedy for much practical 'DIY' work carried out by him during the year.

Harry thanked the 13 parishioners who did a splendid work in St. Mary's churchyard on a morning in July 2009. A similar graveyard slot would be agreed in late June, prior to the Flower Festival.

In closing on a humorous note, Harry referred to the item in his report about the importance of National Gutters Day i.e. the last Friday in November each year.

Church Electoral Roll

Alyzn Johnson, Electoral Roll Officer reported that there were 176 people on the Electoral Roll, 75 of those persons lived outside the Parish.

Church Attendance

The average attendance on a 'normal' Sunday ie not a major festival or in a major holiday period was 71 adults and 18 children. These figures obviously increased at Festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

Westbourne Deanery Synod

St Mary's was represented on the Deanery Synod by Cliff Archer, Graham Fielder and Adrian Matthews. Graham had submitted to the APCM a very comprehensive and interesting written report upon the meetings of the Deanery Synod, for which he was thanked.

Friends of Chidham Churches

Stephen Johnson thanked the Committee for the tremendous amount of work they had done to realise a very interesting and varied programme of events for the Chidham 800 celebrations.

As far as 2009 was concerned:-

The Kiev singers from the Ukraine made an interesting alternative to the Russian musicians, and raised £249.

The Fruit and Fizz event in the Vicarage Gardens was very popular and raised £716.

Rod Starr's Organ Recital was well supported and raised £234.

'Wine Women and Song', with Harpist and Soprano went down very well and raised £286.

In particular, Stephen Johnson paid tribute to Garry Vigor who had continued to make an enormous and generous contribution to many of our events by providing wonderful interval refreshments.

Membership had been neglected and not many renewals were completed. This was a task that needed more attention. There were 33 renewals and a number of new members in 2009

Plans for the celebration in 2010 of 800 years of worship in St Mary's occupied the committee. The celebrations had made a good start with the visit of the Bishop of Chichester, the History evening, the Cookery demonstration, Chidham in WW2, and the Concert. Ticket prices have been pitched at modest levels in order to attract maximum support from the community.

To promote the Friends and the celebration year, banners have been erected outside St Mary's and St Wilfrid's, and a 'Pop up' banner has been purchased.

Stephen Johnson thanked the committee for all their commitment and hard work.

Worship Committee

It was reported that the Worship Committee had met twice in 2009, attended by Father David, Jan Wells, Delph Archer, Anne Rogers, Rod Starr and Kate Matthews representing the Sunday Club.

Services from the previous 6 months and forthcoming services had been discussed. Dates had been confirmed for future services and events and changes deemed necessary were put forward and actioned. Matters for discussion at future PCC meetings are noted.

These meetings represented an opportunity to discuss many issues relating to our services, their format, music and other events. Many new ideas had been actioned from these meetings such as the children's pew slip prayers, ordering new robes for the servers, tray gardens etc.

Youth Group

Carol Vigor wished to thank a number of people for their help in Youth Group without whose assistance the Youth Group would not be the success it had been over the past 12 months.

2009 was a hectic but enjoyable year for the Youth Group. Members of the Youth Group are drawn from our congregation and met together socially once a month, but a number of other activities were held during the year.

The Youth Group regularly had 30+ at meetings, with a current age range of 8 – 14 year olds. The highlight of the year was the residential trip to the New Forest in May when 31 adults and children stayed in the Youth Hostel at Burley. The weekend commenced with a trip to Hengistbury Head where everyone walked through the nature reserve, followed by playing games on the beach. Other places visited were the Otter and Owl Sanctuary and Moors Valley Country Park as well as staging the now obligatory 'Our Room's Got Talent' competition. On the way back on the Monday there was a stop in the Forest for a giant game of rounders.

It was pleasing to receive favourable compliments from the Hostel Staff about the behaviour of the young people and the fantastic organisation of the weekend.

Other meetings throughout the year included an evening of board games, icing Christmas cakes, ten pin bowling, the now legendary Beetle Drive, playing indoor games at Cobnor Barns, making sweets and cakes to sell in aid of the New Forest trip and a walk up to Kingley Vale. The Group also organised and led the Mothering Sunday and Harvest services in St Mary's church.

Gift Aid

Graham Fielder, Gift Aid Secretary reported that money reclaimed from Gift Aided contributions to church finances was a very important source of income for the PCC and, in recent years, has resulted in nearly £6000 being recovered annually.

The claim to HMRC was made following the end of the PCC's financial year. Therefore, reclaimed tax received in 2009 will have been based on Gift Aided receipts for 2008.

Gift Aided contributions came from bank standing order payments (33 contributors) and money received in orange collection envelopes. Over half had set up standing orders and many also made regular additional contributions through the orange envelopes.

Although receipts from the collection envelopes in 2009 were slightly up on the previous year this was offset by the reduction in regular payments received from standing orders. In consequence, the tax recovered in 2009 on the 2008 contributions was slightly down on the previous year.

With the demands on parish finances increasing, Graham emphasised the ability to recover tax from Gift Aided contributions becomes increasingly important.

Mission Action Plan

Father David paid tribute to the work by the MAP group; June Lewis had now taken the lead on this following the departure of Ron Crank. The following was noted:-

a. A new Service of Compline and a Youth Service for our Church.

Due to the Lay Reader moving to a new Diocese and also due to poor weather and dark nights it was agreed that Compline was to be suspended.

b. Bible Reading Classes and Quiet Mornings

A successful Lent course had been undertaken, up to 11 people attended one session.

Sister Rita Margaret had also attended some mornings this last year.

c. Family Service Review

The Worship Committee was reviewing this matter. Services had been well attended.

d. Sunday School Review

This was underway with Claire Smith leading.

e. Youth Group Activities

See separate previous item.

f. Stewardship and Giving.

See report of Gift Aid Secretary.

g. Establish a Lay Reader

Ron Crank had been the Lay Reader since September 2008 but had now moved to Hampshire.

h. Church Training Courses

Much activity had been planned for the past and ensuing year with the 800 years celebrations. Training is one facet that would need some attention over the next twelve months.

i. Further development of Programme initiated in Youth and Children's Activities

A definitive programme was underway with visits, weekend camps and other structured activities planned or underway as outlined in the Youth Group report above.

j. Celebration of 800 years of St. Mary's Church

Major programme had been planned and was being implemented. This commenced with the Bishop of Chichester's visit and many activities planned in 2010.

k. Permanent Monument to celebrate 800 years of St. Mary's Church

Stained Glass windows - this was dealt with in the Fabric Report.

l. School Celebration of 100 years in 2010

Ongoing progress being made.

m. Environmental Awareness

Diana Taylor Beale and others had done a sterling amount of work in this area. The village boasts of a Sustainability Group and this activity is linked to the Fair Trade activity being implemented.

n. Engagement with the Deanery

New appointees are represented and the Church has hosted a successful Deanery meeting.

o. The Chidham and Hambrook Village Centre

Activity suspended due to lack of funding.

p. Parish Activity

Coupled with the 800-year celebrations many new faces and village residents are being involved with the Church. The choir was growing too, relationships with the new nursing home and other activities are underway.

q. Additional Graveyard Space at St Mary's

To be progressed.

r. Dedicated car parking at St Mary's

A local farmer has given permission for car parking on a small site adjacent to the cottages situated 50 yards west of the church.

Report of Chairman

Father David reported that in 2009 the York Course for our Lenten House Group was again used which was based on the “Lords Prayer” – in praying it, meaning it, living it. The course featured Bishop Kenneth Stevenson of Portsmouth, Canon Margaret Sentamu and Dr David Wilkins. As usual, lively discussion and a good input ensued from those who attended – it had been pleasing to see new faces at this course.

Our Guest Speaker at our Good Friday “Music and Meditation” was Canon Derek Tansell, Chaplain to the Cathedral. Canon Tansell looked in depth at three words from the Cross and the people who attended found the talks thought provoking. The talks were interspersed by anthems sung by the “occasional choir” and Passiontide hymns.

Easter Saturday evening was a moving “Service of Light” which included five baptisms of those preparing for Confirmation. This service was well attended and many of the participants joined the congregation for refreshments in the Vicarage after the service. The Easter Day Family Eucharist was well attended with 102 adults and 53 children. The latter enjoyed hunting for Easter Eggs in the churchyard.

The confirmation this year was held in the Cathedral and the celebrant was the Diocesan Bishop – John Hind. Seven adults and seven young people were presented. The candidates were confirmed standing in front of the Bishop – this is the first time Father David had seen this method.

Four of our congregation joined a pilgrimage to mid-Spain in May where they stayed in Salamanca and Toledo, and followed in the footsteps of St Teresa of Avilla and John of the Cross. Sister Rita Margaret inspired all with her evening devotions before dinner, and they were much appreciated. Altogether there were 30 pilgrims who bonded well together. The next pilgrimage scheduled for June 2011 is a study of the early saints of Northern England (Yorkshire and Northumbria).

Sister Rita Margaret also led a morning of reflection in November which was entitled “Where is God in his world today”. Those who attended found this most helpful before the busy rush of Christmas. The Nine Lessons and Carols Service before Christmas was very well attended and Father David wished to thank, most sincerely, Rod Starr and the Occasional Choir for their hard work in preparation for this moving service. The Christmas services were well supported. For the second year running the Carol Singing on the green outside St Wilfrid’s was a good witness to those living in the area. This was led by a brass quartet from Chichester.

Father David referred to the visit of Bishop John in January 2010 and quoted an extract he had received from the Bishop:-

“... it was for me one of the most wonderful Sunday morning visits I have paid in the Diocese. It really was a wonderful occasion.... and a tribute to what can be achieved in country parishes with a small population. I have scarcely stopped talking about the event and should be grateful if you would pass on my thanks to your Churchwardens and to everybody involved”.

As many of those present were aware, a new stained glass windows for St Cuthman’s Chapel to celebrate the 800 years had been commissioned. The windows will depict St Cuthman who was born in Chidham and St Wilfrid who is associated with the conversion to Christianity of the people of Sussex. It is a most appropriate design for our beautiful village church.

The attendance at our various services had increased slightly during the year. The 10.30 am service of Holy Communion on a Wednesday morning was, on average 15, but 19 squeezed into the chapel on one occasion. During 2009 Ron Crank introduced the service of Compline on a Friday evening. Those who attended found it most helpful for preparation for Sunday worship. Ron’s talks had been thought provoking. During the winter evenings the service was discontinued.

Father David took the opportunity to thank Ron for his assistance as a Reader during the past 18 months. Everyone present joined in wishing Ron and Tracey all the very best in their move to Hampshire.

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009

Carol Vigor, PCC Treasurer had submitted these accounts with the APCM report. Also circulated was the report of the Independent Examiner.

Carol highlighted key areas in her report; she said that she attempted to make the presentation of the accounts as digestible as possible for lay people, bearing in mind uncertainties and confusions over the years.

The situation about investment income being down on previous years was, of course, no different as far as the church was concerned.

In the year ending 2010, our Parish Contribution to the Diocese would rise to £33,603, this was 100% contribution calculated on the basis of Father David's 'light duties' employment.

Carol reported in some detail about the Deanery's financial position and the likely ramifications of that in future years.

She thanked a number of people for their support during the past year.

3. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed to appoint Mrs L Pearson as the Independent Examiner for the year ended 2010.

4. Elections to the PCC for the 3 year period ending in 2013

There were four vacancies to fill and four nominees.

It was agreed that the following be elected to the PCC for the 3 year period ending in 2013 :- Mrs Jackie Cooper, Mrs Paula Smith, Mrs Lorna Turner and Mr Simon Williams.

The Secretary confirmed that the Deputy Churchwardens were ex -officio members of the PCC. This meant that Simon Williams was 'dual hatted' being both ex-officio through his position of Deputy Churchwarden and a member of the elected laity.

5. Sidesmen

Sidesmen for the forthcoming year were re-elected with the addition of Tracey Mc Eachran, Herbie Small and Stuart Edwards.

6. Date of the APCM in 2011

This was agreed for Thursday 7th April 2011 at 7.30pm in St Wilfrid's Church and Hall.

7. Walk/Run on 9th May 2010.

With the permission of Father David, Penny Allcock gave further details of this event and asked for volunteer marshals on the day.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm