

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING  
AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, CHELSFIELD  
HELD ON SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 6.30PM  
FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE**

Those present:

Rev'd John Tranter (Chairman), Rev'd Ruth Murfitt  
Norman Bailey, John Barnes, Karen Barter, Ann Blatcher,  
Gwen Bowen, Ivy Clarke, Margaret Coppard, Eunice Doe,  
Margaret Durrant, Barry Foale, Sarah Ford, Richard George,  
Paul Gosling, Anne Green, Mary Haines, David Herridge, Brian Kemp  
Ken L'Anson, Anne Ireland, Jackie McCann, Steve McCann,  
Marion Mills, Chris Mead, Jim Nicol. Marjorie Nicol,  
Jim Rooke, Philippa Rooke, Ann Sargent, Edward Sargent,  
Graham Sawyer, Janice Sawyer, Parita Sheth, Terry Sparkes,  
Mary Tozer, Janet Tranter, Anthony Vernon, Gillian Vernon.

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

**1.& 2.** Following a shortened Evensong, the Rector opened the meeting.

**3. Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Sue Bennett, Margaret Coppard, Alice George, Val Hemmings, Gordon Ireland  
John Squirrel and Gerry Walker

**4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on 15th April 2018 were approved**

**5.** There were no matters arising

**6.. Election of Two Churchwardens**

Nominations had been received from:

Steve McCann proposed by Jackie McCann and seconded by Mary Tozer

Philippa Rooke proposed by Steve McCann and seconded by Jackie McCann.

All agreed and the two newly appointed Wardens were greeted with loud applause

Norman Bailey our retiring Warden also given rousing applause and

the Rector thanked him for his devotion to the Church and his Warden's duties and for looking after the upkeep of the church buildings.

**The Rector declared the Vestry meeting closed**

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, CHELSFIELD  
HELD ON SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019  
FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting declared open**

**7. Election and Appointments**

a) Election to PCC following the completed three year tenure of four members.  
by four more since the Electoral roll shows more than 100 members  
Two nominations had already been received and another received during the meeting:  
**Valerie Hemmings** proposed by Jonathan Sargant and seconded by Steve McCann  
**Graham Sawyer** proposed by Anne Ireland and seconded by Gordon Ireland  
**Terry Sparkes** was then proposed by Brian Kemp and seconded by Ann Blatcher

**b) Appointment of Sidesmen**

8 am Communion:

Margaret Coppard, Jim Rooke, Stephen Curry and Paul Venton

10 am Family Service:

Paul Gramman, Jean Pemberton, Janet Tranter, Norman Bailey

6.30pm Evensong:

Tony Vernon, Eileen Vassie, Colin Heyes, John Barnes, Jackie McCann

Steve McCann thanked all those people who greet the congregation at the door

There were no further volunteers

**c) Deanery Synod Representatives** have another year to serve:

Current Representatives are: Ken l'Anson, Steve McCann and Mary Tozer

**8. Annual Report from the PCC:**

**a) The Electoral Roll**

Gillian Vernon, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that 95 people had enrolled by 31 March  
and several more since taking the total to over 100.

The Rector thanked her for compiling the new Roll and she agreed to continue in this  
position for the coming year

**b) The Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC**

This is a summary of the last year's activities. No questions were raised

**c) Financial Statements of the Council for the Year ended 31/12/18**

Barry Foale as Church Treasurer reported on the summary of Accounts

There were no questions to the Treasurer about these accounts

The Rector had reminded people that only those on the Electoral Roll could vote.

Philippa Rooke proposed that Accounts be adopted, all agreed with no abstentions

The Rector expressed his thanks to Barry Foale and also to other senior church officers who  
were familiar with accounting.

**Presentation of the Church Log Book and Terrier /Inventory** These records are all up to  
date and can be viewed at any time by arrangement

### **e) Report of the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

Thanks were expressed to the three representatives.

The next meeting is on 6th June St Francis, Petts Wood, and Carolyn Clark will speak on Human Slavery and Trafficking. The Meeting is open to all although only reps can vote

## **9. Other Annual Reports**

### **a) Churchwardens Report**

Steve McCann reported that the Book of Remembrance had recently been updated, he would like suggestions about where it could be sited in the church to greater advantage

The Choir Vestry floor had recently been repaired and the Clergy Vestry is shortly to be repaired and polished .

He spoke of the Deanery Development plan and working with St Mary's Green St Green and All Souls Pratts Bottom as the Reverend Ruth Murfitt retires in the Summer

The Parish Profile has been added to the advertisement for her replacement and interviews proposed later in the summer when Steve McCann will be part of the panel. It is a full time post for the two parishes with another priest to be employed for St Martin's when the Rector retires next year. It is hoped that there will not be too long an interregnum as it is becoming more difficult to cover Communion services

There were no matters arising or questions

### **b) Well Hill Mission Church**

Gerry Walker was not present at meeting due to is wife's ill health .

Rev'd Ruth Murfitt asked if she could have a guided tour of Well Hill as she did not know the whereabouts of the church

### **c) Secretary's Report** No questions were raised

## **10. Group Reports**

These reports come from all associated groups within the church.

The Housemartins Group which was first initiated by Anne Mead and then lead by Ruth Cox can no longer sustain regular meetings and sadly is unable to continue after April 2019 Though financially sound its accounts are independent of the church as it had not been officially affiliated to St Martin's for the past 11 years. A farewell lunch had been organised for many past and present helpers and members and any residue of funds sent to their chosen charity of Kent Air Ambulance. The final accounts will be drawn up

## **11. Rector's Report for Annual Parochial Meeting held in 2019**

Last year I used as the theme for my review the Diocesan 'Called Together' initiative with its three core themes; 'Growing disciples', 'Resourcing mission and ministry', and 'Enriching our Communities' and reminding us that:

**'we are called together to enhance and steward our resources for the work of God, to enrich with Christian value and character the places where we are, to grow in numbers and in spiritual vigour disciples who will be both faithful and fruitful'**

This year sees the development of the second phase 'Called to Grow' which is introduced as follows:

'When he describes the Kingdom of God, one of the comparisons Jesus uses is that of a mustard seed; so small as to seem insignificant, yet which grows into a tree where life flourishes.'

A small village and its church might well be seen in our busy modern world as insignificant, yet we of course know that this is not the case. The church of St Martin of Tours has stood here for over 900years, its walls

are steeped in the prayers of multitude of worshippers, its churchyard the resting place of many local families, its traditional patterns of worship summoned by bells and led by a proud choral tradition continue. The church is still a focus of social life too, both for its members and the wider community. Children are still baptised here, couples marry, the departed are commemorated at funeral services and often laid to rest in the churchyard (one of the few still open for burials today!).

This work is made possible by the dedication of a team of wonderful people who serve in various capacities, from churchwardens and PCC members to those who just turn up to help on special occasions. The upkeep of the church building and grounds; the supervision of our finances; the management of our social programme; and the provision of prayer, ministry and pastoral care are all in good hands. Without the support and commitment of those who support the life and worship of St Martin's life for the minister would be much more difficult, and I thank you all – there are too many to name individually.

Yet there are issues that remain of concern, we are still an aging congregation, some of us (including the 'Rector') are slowing down or not able to do as much as we once could. Our church building we know still has some major repairs needed to spire and roof sometime in the next few years. Though our finances are strong at present the increase in costs threatens to overtake our ability to raise income. The recent revision of the electoral roll has seen a large drop in membership numbers as folk have moved away, or gone to glory, though we have added in excess of 20 new names to the roll. The involvement of the church in pastoral offices has declined – baptism and funeral numbers are reducing, and though we have a good number of weddings for 2019, we only have one beyond that.

These are not just local problems, In the Deanery, Diocese and indeed across much of the Nation the Parish Church is in decline:

- Congregations are dwindling
- Finances are increasingly challenged
- People no longer see the church as the place to commemorate birth, marriage, or the end of life

Research has been commissioned by the Archbishops council which explored what it was that made churches grow.

- a focus on mission and evangelism, beyond Sunday worship
- a culture of personal and corporate discipleship
- laypeople on leadership
- redirection of clergy time from management & admin to service & evangelism
- discerning, nurturing and equipping future ministry
- co-operation and collaboration with other churches (anglican & ecumenically)

These points are what led to the development of the 'Called to Grow' programme, and the call to all churches to engage in producing a parish growth plan for mission and ministry.

"It is our prayer that we will encounter the Holy Spirit working in all sorts of unexpected ways as we pray and ponder, prioritise and plan." Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

Called to Grow is a five step process developed as part of Called Together, to encourage and equip us to consider the whole life of our church community, and what God may be asking of us. It is underpinned by prayer and adaptable to any setting. A toolkit will be provided to help the church through the process.

As we move forward we need to explore this both as the Parish of Chelsfield and more widely with our brothers and sisters in the Parish of Green St Green with Pratt's Bottom. The process of working more closely together has already begun and needs to be explored as we look at how we might minister more effectively together.

The last year has seen a tremendous growth in ecumenical working in Orpington and beyond. 'Churches Together' and 'Transform Bromley Borough' offer the chance to partner other churches and denominations in Acts of prayer and witness. The London-wide mission 'The Turning' later this year could be exciting. I still believe we could make more of our relationship with 'Small Pilgrim Places'.

Opportunities to share in different groups and worship across current boundaries will challenge us, but I believe we need to be less parochial in future if the church is to achieve growth and see people return to the Lord in future years.

I close as always by once more expressing my gratitude to all those who give generously of their time, talents and treasures to maintain the fabric, worship and life of our church. Janet and I are grateful for your love and support.

I close with the 'Called Together' prayer:

'God the Creator of all, **grow** your church in faith;  
God the Son, who saves the world, **enrich** us with your presence;  
God the Spirit of wisdom and understanding **resource** us for your mission and ministry;  
that we may be a blessing throughout and beyond this Diocese,  
for we are **called together** to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Revd John, your 'Rector'

**The Meeting concluded with a final Hymn and the Grace**

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## **Section 4**

### **Electoral Roll Report**

The Electoral Roll was completely revised in April 2019.

The total number of the Roll on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was 104. The number anticipated as being on the Roll on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 is 103. This takes into account 3 deaths and several who submitted late applications during the year.

There are 30 residing within the Parish Boundary.

Gillian Vernon  
February 2020

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