

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Hellingly

held in church on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

THE MINUTES of the APCM held in April 2015 were previously circulated and read well in advance of the meeting and there now being no amendments, the Vicar proposed that they be adopted which Mallord Turner seconded and which were then carried unanimously.

### PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts having also been previously circulated and read, the Treasurer explained that last year the Church had lost money and this year there would also be a loss in view of the extra expense involved in having a church office, the administrator and the increase in the Parish Donation; she had had to cash in the Stroud Fund to cover expenses, for example, £800 had to be paid to the Church Architect. However, the numbers of the congregation are increasing steadily and it is encouraging to know that the vast majority of the congregation who donate regularly do so by the Parish Scheme which makes the recovery of income tax simpler. A request was made that more Gift Aid envelopes should be available for visitors to the church. The Vicar pointed out that as a charity, we must make sure we spend money. Graham Bragg reported on the fabric that some lead had been stolen off the kitchen roof, some tiles needed replacing but the condition of some of the windows was the most serious of future repairs.

The Treasurer concluded by saying that she would like to thank Olive Lewis publicly for helping her to count the money each week and also, as she was stepping down, to thank Pip Piper for taking over as Treasurer.

The Vicar then proposed a colossal vote of thanks to Margaret Bloomfield for all her work over the years as Treasurer which was heartily endorsed by everyone present.

The Vicar then warmly thanked the fund raisers, the catering committee, the flower arrangers, the brass cleaners, Trish for cleaning the church, Brian Hesselgrave for winding the clock, the members of the PCC for their help and everyone who takes part to ensure the smooth running of the church.

Josephine Brown said she thought that Pat and John Blake should be thanked for all the times they had been responsible for locking and unlocking the church during her absences and the Vicar added that Josephine herself was owed a huge debt of gratitude for all the many years during which she had daily undertaken this task. These proposals were unanimously agreed and would receive action.

### APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This year the accounts had again been audited by John Males, a professional accountant of Watson Associates, and Margaret Bloomfield proposed that he should be adopted again next year. This was seconded by Graham Bragg and passed with no abstentions.

### REPORTS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The reports from the Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Vicar, the PCC and the Deanery Synod were all accepted without comment. In addition there were reports from the

Mothers' Union, the Bell-ringers, Music for Minis and the Choir. All these reports, having been previously circulated and read, were unanimously accepted

The Vicar said at this juncture that he thought there was something fantastic about Hellingly Church with their enthusiasm, willingness to help each other and their embrace of new ideas to forward Mission.

#### ELECTION TO THE PCC

The Vicar said at the last count there were 189 people on the Electoral Roll and that there were further vacancies on the PCC. Five nominations had been received, namely for Margaret Bloomfield, Nicky Twort, Margaret Thorp, Alison Sylvester and Sylvia Skinner, all of whom, having been officially proposed and seconded, were duly appointed and welcomed.

#### NOTING OF SIDESPERSONS

All the current sidespersons had agreed to stand again with the exception of Peggy Ireland who is retiring and whose role Jean Smart said she would fulfil. Peggy would be thanked for the valuable contribution she had made over the years. The Vicar stressed what an important role the sidespersons play in Mission by welcoming people with a friendly smile and also by helping newcomers feel at home, especially those who are hesitant about where they should sit; he iterated how grateful he is to 'the team'.

#### ITEMS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST

The Vicar said that he had just come back from a seminar at Church House on School Worship and Assemblies and how particularly impressed he had been on hearing about "Open Book" which involved going into primary schools and acting out simple little dramas illustrating Biblical stories, usually by two people using minimal but effective props. He said he was very keen to explore this further as it is clearly a very effective tool for Mission.

Margaret Thorp said that the choir would like to thank everyone who had given donations towards the memorial plaque for Marion Nicholls which had recently been installed and dedicated by the Revd. Ronald Chatwin.

The memorial plaque had shared a faculty with the aumbry, which the Vicar said would shortly be commissioned.

The Vicar then said that last year had been a very positive one for the Church with a number of new initiatives, for example, "Music for Minis" which takes place in church on Wednesday afternoons, where Mums (and Dads and Grandfathers!) can bring their babies and little children or grandchildren up to the age of 4 to enact nursery rhymes with musical instruments.

The Food Bank has also been established with a recent move from the church to the "Bunny Run" in Roebuck Park, being closer to the place of need.

The Vicar said that Wedding Fairs were now a growth industry and a church presence has been welcomed and now established with those fairs held at Blackstock Farm, who offer a stall free of charge. The Vicar said these fairs provided an opportunity to show prospective wedding couples and their families a friendly, smiling face and also to encourage and eliminate fears of the unknown felt by those couples thinking about a church wedding; a link has also been made with Boship Farm where a church stall will also be given free of charge, and more venues will be explored.

The Vicar said that there was a need to reach out to godparents with regard to baptisms and that most families expect the church to maintain contact after the child or children have been christened. He said how successful the Advent Party which is held annually in November for families with children who have been christened during the year has been. The Vicar would like to give the Welcome and Candle at the Family Service after the christening to help to strengthen the link.

Lynne Evans said she would like to thank everyone – and especially Rosemary Still - who knits a teddy bear which is given as a gift from the MU to every newly baptised baby and is much prized by the recipient!

Sylvia Skinner followed Lynne's thanks by saying that she felt confident that everyone would like to express their thanks and gratitude to the Vicar for his tireless and inspirational leadership which received unanimous applause and agreement.

Barbara Moore, as chairperson of the fund-raising committee, said she would like to draw attention to "Spring Time Serenade" – a Musical Act – on 21<sup>st</sup> May in church and tickets for this were now available.

The meeting closed at 9.31 with the Grace.