**PARISH OF DENTON WITH SOUTH HEIGHTON AND TARRING NEVILLE**

**Sunday 23rd April 2023**

**1. Annual vestry meeting: Sunday 23rd April 2023**

This year’s Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in the church building directly after the morning praise service.

i) Apologies received – see below. Meeting Attended by 26 adults.

ii) The Minutes of the Vestry and APCM meetings held on 24th April 2022 were reviewed. A week prior to the meeting these were circulated on the church website and hard copies were made available to the congregation. No questions were received regarding these minutes, therefore the motion to approve them was proposed by Anne Saunders, seconded by Mike Smith. There were no abstentions and no one declined to vote, therefore a unanimous vote was received to accept these minutes as a true record. The minutes were duly approved and signed by the current chair of the PCC, Ann Anderson due to the Parish being in an interregnum at this APCM.

iii) The PCC Chair gave thanks to the Churchwardens – Maria Greco and Nicky Still - for all their ongoing hard work and continued service in 2022, particularly since August when our previous rector Louis Wilson left so we were in interregnum during August-December. The ladies have worked tirelessly to ensure there was no disruption to our services during this time, and it is much appreciated. It is a blessing that both Maria and Nicky are willing to stand for re-election again for another year. Maria has been proposed by Vicki Blann, seconded by Geraldine Hawes, and Nicky has been proposed by Mia Balkham, seconded by Ann Anderson. Nomination forms available on request. The congregation voted unanimously for both, therefore they were duly re-elected.

**2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. ***Apologies*:** David & Ruth Reynolds, Natasha Sheppard, Gill & Nick Beasley, Kerry Reading and Liz Kinning.
2. ***Minutes of previous APCM****.* As above, these were circulated, and approved for signature, along with the Annual Vestry meeting minutes.
3. ***Electoral Roll Report***: Stuart Still has been our electoral roll officer since 2021. Stuart confirmed that 2022 was another interim year when the Electoral Roll just had to be updated. Therefore, as at the 31st of December 2022 there were 84 people on the electoral roll, 25 of whom are non-residents of the Parish.
4. ***PCC Report:*** Ann Anderson advised that we started 2022 with 13 members on the PCC, and ended with 11, due to the departure of both Louis Wilson and our curate Jez Lowries. During the period 01st January-31st December 2022 the PCC held 7 meetings, all face to face in the Church Hall due to no more Covid restrictions. 6 of these were our regular meetings and we held one joint meeting in the autumn with St Michaels PCC, along with Archdeacon Martin and James Hollingsworth, our Rural Dean to discuss the possibility of a union between the 2 churches. No formal decision has yet been agreed by either PCC. There was almost full attendance at all meetings. The 2022 APCM was attended by 66 regular church members from the electoral roll. At that APCM 3 people stepped down (Paul Giles, Katy Lowries and Joan Parish), and we thank them all for their service. 3 people joined (Sean Beckett, Mia Balkham and Stewart Kinning) and 3 PCC members were re-elected for a further 3 years (Katy Hildersley, David Reynolds and Ann Anderson). Ann also agreed to stay on as Secretary for the 7th year; however, following Louis’s departure in August 2022 Ann Anderson was elected to be the interim Chair of the PCC meetings so Mia kindly agreed to be the interim Secretary during the period of interregnum. A list of the current PCC members is displayed in the porch.

1. ***Treasurer’s Report:*** Paul Giles is currently our interim Treasurer, having stepped down from the role at the 2022 APCM however his replacement sadly didn’t work out so Paul has agreed to do the accounts until a more permanent replacement can be found. The PCC has agreed to co-opt Paul for this purpose until the APCM in 2024 in the hope that a replacement can be found before then. We are very grateful to Paul for his continued support and assistance. If anyone has a few hours a week to spare, and an interest in the role of Treasurer, please speak to Paul, Nicky or Ann.
2. ***Churchwardens’ Reports:*** Nicky Still read out the Churchwardens report, as it is in the Trustees Annual Report. There was nothing further to add.
3. ***SQP (Simple Quality Protects)* *and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service/Safeguarding):*** Ruth Reynolds continues to be our Safeguarding officer; and she is co-opted onto the PCC so that she can give an update at each meeting. Ann Anderson read Ruth’s report on her behalf as she had kindly volunteered to look after the children in the church hall during the meeting. The report was read as it is in the Trustees Annual Report. Thanks were given for Ruth as we are very grateful for all her due digilience in the work that she does in this important area.
4. ***Rectors/Youth Report***

Ann Anderson advised that Louis Wilson wrote a report for us detailing the activities of the church during January – August 2022, the highlights of which are as follows;

* + 5 small groups for Bible study and fellowship were re-started in January 2022 and are still ongoing
  + With thanks for his ministry, we said farewell to Jez in February as the family moved to Peacehaven
  + A giant Easter egg hunt took place involving nearly 50 houses displaying eggs to find the words
  + In April, a new informal, lay led praise evening was started once a month on a Sunday evening in the church hall.
  + Children’s groups all continued until August – Bumps and Babies, Little Fishes, Frogs (Yrs 4,5,6), Sparks (Yr 7-11). All groups were almost entirely run by committed teams of volunteers. We also received visits from Denton School to the church for RE lessons
  + June saw us taking part in the Denton Platinum Jubilee celebrations and also the Denton Community Challenge for its 10th year. This is our main fundraising activity and is well supported by many regular volunteers from the congregation (same again this year please !)
  + Denton Church hosted the Sussex Gospel Partnership Saturday morning Bible Training Course for the 2nd time which ended in July.
  + The Wilsons then left in August for their move to North Essex.

Sara Alexander, the shared youth worker with St Michael’s, runs youth work predominantly in Newhaven under the umbrella of Newhaven Youth for Christ. Sara continues to lead a Sunday school group once a month for some of our young people at Denton.

1. ***Questions:***One question was submitted in advance by Liz Kinning – “I would like to know please who the Trustees are” Answer: All the individual PCC members are the trustees.
2. ***Approval of the Trustee’s Annual Report:* T**he motion to approve the 2022 Trustees Annual Report, including the financial accounts was then proposed by Stuart Still, seconded by Rachel Smith. There were no abstentions and no one declined to vote, therefore the congregation voted unanimously in favour to accept this report.
3. ***2023 Elections:*** According to Church Representation Rules each PCC member has to be elected for 3 years on a rolling basis so that not all members retire at the same time. This means instead of re-electing all members every year we only need to elect certain committee members at a time. This year Sue McKay has reached the end of her 3 year term and has agreed to be re-elected to the PCC. All relevant nomination papers have been completed, available on request.
4. ***Deanery Synod reps:*** A new 3 year term begins in July 2023 for Deanery Synod reps also. According to our electoral roll number we are entitled to 3 Deanery Synod reps. Sue McKay and Maria Greco have agreed to become our Deanery Synod reps for the next 3 year term from 2023 – 2026, and have completed the relevant nomination forms which are available on request. Ann Anderson advised we still have one vacancy; you don’t need to be a member of the PCC to be a Deanery Synod rep and it involves attending approximately 4 meetings a year. Maria advised it is an interesting role, as you get to meet people from other Parishes and share news and ideas across the Diocese. So, if anyone is interested in filling this space, please speak to Ann, Maria or Sue.

All Parishioners voted unanimously in favour of these elections for both PCC and Deanery Synod.

1. Lastly, Nicky, Churchwarden then thanked everyone who plays a part in church life in any way, however small it may seem. From PowerPoint operators, to flower arranging, readers, coffee makers, photocopying, emailing, prayers, rota’s – we all play a part in the running of church life so she gave thanks for us all. Ann Anderson said we should be proud of ourselves for pulling together in the way that we have during the interregnum, and we have been rewarded by the arrival of a new incumbent in June 2023. Nicky also thanked Ann for everything that she has done to help and support them during her time as Interim Chair of the PCC.

The meeting closed at 11.32am.

Signed..................................................................................... Date........................................................