

St. Mary's Church Theydon Bois

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2018

A total of 29 parishioners were present.

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 12th April 2017

These were agreed and signed.

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by: Andrew Tunks

Seconded by: Richard Risdon

Unanimously approved

2. Election of Churchwardens

There had been two nominations for the two places to be filled: Michael Palmer & Mary Gill. Rev. John expressed his sincere thanks for all that they had done as Church Wardens during the year. They were declared elected without the need for a vote.

3. Appointment of Deputy Churchwardens

There had been two volunteers for the two places to be filled: Joy Simmance and Liz Hannibal.

4. Proposal to suspend 6-year rule.

Rev. John explained to parishioners the current rules and suggested that the meeting agree to this special resolution under Section 3 of the Church Wardens Measure 2001.

Acceptance of this was proposed by John Philip and seconded by David Atkinson. 28 were in favour so the motion was carried.

St. Mary's Church Theydon Bois

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2018

Rev. John Fry was in the Chair and a total of 29 parishioners were present.

Apologies had been received from Mike Hannibal, Alan & Heather Higgins, Hugh & Diana Meteyard, Joyce Read, Tony Dawson, Emma & Carl Hannibal Smith & Fran Hutchison.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 12th April 2017

These were agreed and signed by Rev. John.

Approval of Minutes:

Proposed by: Carole Fenton

Seconded by: Liz Douglass

Unanimously approved.

2. Adoption of Electoral Roll and Report from Electoral Roll Officer

The Report of Sally Crone (Electoral Roll Officer) confirmed that as at 31st March 2018 the Roll was as follows:

Roll	215		
Non-Resident	17		
Additions	13	Removed	0

Sally was thanked for her work in compiling the roll.

3. PCC report.

Rev. John reported that 2017 had been one of change and not everything had run as he would have wished. He thanked a whole range of people for all they contributed to the life of the church. He apologised to the meeting for the deterioration of the relationship with Fiona Bradley. All APCM reports had been available on the Church website prior to the meeting and at the back of the church.

4. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council & Deanery Synod.

Andrew Tunks, Hugh Meteyard and David Atkinson had come to the end of their terms of office. Andrew Tunks and Hugh Meteyard were willing to stand for a second term and due to vacancies, John Philip, Samantha Spencer & Douglas Pleasant had been nominated and were duly elected to serve until 2021.

5. Election of CTED Representatives

This role continues to be vacant at present. Beryl Denney was thanked for all her work but had announced her wish to stand down. The PCC and vicar would look to co-opt a representative at a later date.

6. Presentation of Examined Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 and Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Andrew Tunks presented his report and the accounts. He was able to report that it had been a reasonably pleasing year. Receipts were up by £7k, reflecting planned giving and donations. Income from events had also risen and legacies had been received totalling £13k. The Church Hall account was in surplus by £1k. The Parish Purse had been paid in full.

Rev. John thanked Andrew and all his team for their hard work during the year.

Acceptance and Approval of the Accounts:

Proposed by: Sue Palmer

Seconded by: Sam Spencer

Unanimously approved

Andrew announced that Greville Norman was happy to continue as the independent examiner.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Greville Norman

Proposed by: Andrew Tunks

Seconded by: John Philip

Unanimously approved

7. Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church (the Churchwardens report)

As the report had been circulated before the meeting, there were no questions.

8. Report on the Proceedings of Deanery Synod

As above.

9. Questions on reports published prior to the meeting.

Rev. John read out the Church Hall report, which had been received too late to be published.

There were no other questions.

Rev. John Fry closed the meeting at 9pm with prayer.

The Vicar's Annual Report 2018

The vision of the Theydon Parishes continues to **be loving, caring and welcoming congregations who nurture each other to grow in faith together, through quality worship, Bible teaching and prayer, sharing the love of God in Christ with others by example and our activities in the community and wider world.** Making this vision a reality with God's help is an ongoing and long-term project, but as I reflect on 2018, there are moments when I believe we can honestly say we have got somewhere with our vision. I am genuinely proud of and give thanks to God for all that has been done in the parish in Christ's name.

The life we share in the parish is not something which can be attributed to any one individual. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, the church is a body and everyone needs everyone else in order that the whole may thrive. In November, after a period of national advertising, we welcomed Revd. Carol Newnham and her husband Gary to the Benefice, as she joined us as our Associate Priest on a House for Duty basis. It was a joyous evening at St Mary's Stapleford Tawney when the Archdeacon of Harlow licensed her for ministry among us. But, ministry is not just about the clergy; there is a small

army of people who serve in many and varied ways and I am grateful for all the acts of service which take place often unseen. Particular thanks must go to our Churchwardens (Mary Gill and Michael Palmer) for all they have done going often well beyond the call of duty in the service of Christ and His Church. Thank you to all those who prepare the church for worship each week, the sidespeople for the welcome they give, to Liz Hannibal for her faithfulness in continuing to serve as Sacristan, to the cleaning teams led by Clare Leahy and the flower arrangers led by Joanna Miles-McKelvey. I am grateful too to Liz Douglass for arranging the weekly notice sheet and Vicky Rowland for putting together the monthly sheet. Thanks too to the ministry team, to Beryl Denney for her Reader ministry, to Tony Dawson for his ministry as our Authorised Local Preacher, and to all who lead our All Age Worship, and especially for all they have done to develop the services held in the morning of the first Sunday of the month. We have welcomed other clergy to officiate and I am grateful to Revds. Simon Elman, Hugh Taylor, Peter Smith, Joyce Smith and Alexandra Guest for their help. Sarah Bowen continues to be our Benefice Administrator, and her hours of work were increased in the year to take account of the greater workload. Sarah is often the first point of contact with the parish for couples seeking a wedding, or new parents searching for Baptism, and I would like to record my gratitude to her for her professionalism and I am grateful to all the PCC's for making provision for financing the post.

Thanks to the Mission Committee and Events Committee for all they do in drawing our community together and leading us in reaching out beyond the church walls into the wider community and beyond. It was their work that contributed to the continued successes of the Soup Lunches and our programme of social and fundraising events. In 2018, John Eaton stepped back from the leadership of Mission Committee He has served faithfully in that role for many years and I would like to record my thanks to him. We are blessed to be able to put on such a wide programme of events and I am grateful to the army of people who do so many small things in order that these may go well.

Thank you for the generous financial support that many church members gave in 2018, and especially to those who responded to the stewardship campaign which was held in Lent. Regular giving from the congregation continues to be the main income stream, and I am grateful for all that is given and also that St Mary's Theydon Bois continues to pay its parish share to the Diocese in full. Thank you to all those who serve on the stewardship team, to Andrew Tunks, (Treasurer), Sally Crone (Gift Aid officer), Richard Risdon (Chairperson) and Doug Pleasant. We are also indebted to Carole Fenton who, as Verger, faithfully banks cash collections weekly. The Church Hall is a significant resource for the local community and source of regular income. Thank you to Sarah Rochester, and her team who run the hall so efficiently, and in particular to Phil Crombie who continues to take care of practical maintenance of the hall.

Some highlights of the year included welcoming all the pupils and staff of Theydon Bois Primary School to the church for worship at Harvest, and Reception and Key Stage One pupils and parents at Christmas. This was a new tradition for us, and one which I hope

will grow. On Christmas Eve, the Christingle services saw the church full twice over, and I cannot thank enough those who came to make Christingles on December 23rd, even beating last year's record for the time in which the Christingles were made! It was a real team effort to prepare the church for Christmas and Advent, and it would be wrong not to note my appreciation of the way in which Carole Risdon faithfully prepared and tended the Advent wreath. I would also like to record my thanks to Hugh Meteyard and all choir members and our organists who do so much to enhance our worship. Particularly, I would like to thank Hugh for the all he does in assisting me to put together Orders of Service for special occasions, not least our traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Along with the whole Church of England, the Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a key priority. Marion Smith continues to as our Parish Safeguarding Representative, making sure that we are doing all we can to be safe and be seen to be safe. St Mary's has been blessed with a significant number of children in our main Sunday services, and it is important that they are cared for well, and that those who lead the groups are trained, recruited and resourced following Diocesan policies. Over 2018, Sam Lowrie from the Red Balloon Family Foundation, has been leading our groups for children and young people on two Sundays a month. The number of children in the groups was, at the end of the year, regularly over 20 and she and I will be working together in the next year to discern how we may grow this work. Thank you to the team of regular volunteers. I am keen to see our children and young people participating in as many ways as they can, and that is why I am so pleased that we could end the year seeing children in year 3 and above leading our sung worship as choir members and I look forward to seeing that area of our shared life grow.

In addition to our Sunday services, there are two housegroups, one monthly led by Lynne May and one weekly, lead by Alan and Heather Higgins, who with me have prepared candidates for Confirmation. Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday morning and Morning and/or Evening Prayer are said in the church during the week. In the Diocese of Chelmsford, we are continuing with Jesus' help to be a "Transforming Presence", and in 2018 our Benefice formally joined with the Epping and Waltham Abbey teams in forming a Mission and Ministry Unit. The formation of these groupings of neighbouring churches working together is one of the ways in which ministry is being reimagined for the future. This not about changing the Gospel message, but about working out ways in which together we may reach out with the Good News of Jesus, that in Him, is found the way, truth and life. The Great Commission, recorded at the end of Matthew's Gospel, given to Jesus' followers was that from a place of worship they were go to and share the faith. The late Michael Green is recorded as having said that the church has made the Great Commission into the Great Suggestion; my challenge to us in the year ahead, is not to fall into that trap, but to seek to be outward facing in all of our doing.

St Mary's Theydon Bois Churchwardens Report 2019 APCM

Fabric

The items noted for repair arising from the Quinquennial Inspection carried out in 2017 have begun in earnest under the supervision of Alan Bishop. Leaks in the Church roof have been repaired, damaged access ways to the Parish Centre have been repaired, the Church windows have been cleaned and debris removed from behind the protective polycarbonate protectors, to name a few of the jobs that have been completed. Others are underway to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment within the Church and Church grounds.

In the last report, we stated our heating engineer had retired. Since then, we have engaged a new heating firm who have successfully installed a new boiler in the Church, serviced the boiler in the Parish Centre and Church Hall, along with issuing Gas certification for both sites.

The Church clock has been serviced and is keeping good time- despite its age!

We had an instance of fly-tipping last year April. We are in the process of getting lockable gates to control access to the Church car park. We are currently liaising with the DAC and are hopeful the gates will be installed soon to prevent any recurrence.

Pastoral

As your Church Wardens we would like to put on public record our thanks to; Sarah Bowen, Benefice Administrator, who has managed the implementation of the mammoth GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations. Sarah's work ensures we as a Church are compliant with the latest set of regulations surrounding the protection of data.

Marion Smith, the Parish Safeguarding Representative, who also trains other Safeguarding Representatives. We as a Church need to ensure everyone is safe.

Sally Crone has published the St Mary's electoral roll for the last time. She will be stepping down from her role of St Mary's Electoral Roll Registrar. During her time in this role, Sally has given us the valuable benefit of her professional expertise in this role and on PCC. We thank Sally as Wardens and on behalf of the Church family, for all her time and diligent effort in fulfilling this role and other tasks where she has contributed, that make up the life of the Church.

Jill Ford (Stewart), Historic Burials, continues her work documenting Church burial records and collating all the information on computer. As mentioned before, this work will help us as a Church to answer burial enquiries more efficiently.

We are blessed in the Benefice to have our Vicar, Reverend John Fry, who is now ably assisted by our 'new' Associate Priest, Carol Newnham. Our clergy is further supported by a team consisting of; Reverend Simon Elman, Beryl Denney, Martin Lockwood, Tony Dawson and the All Age Worship Group serving us here at St Mary's.

We thank them all for their dedication and commitment.

Along with every service, we are very aware of a small army of people ably assisting with the smooth running of each Church service. So, a huge "thank you" to:

Our Sides People, who should be known as our Welcome Mission team. They welcome new attendees and our regular Church family each week;

Our Choir, who guide our choral worship;

Our team of Readers, which now includes Parents and Children who read from scripture helping to deliver God's holy word;

Every Sunday our team of Intercessors delivering prayers for us all to contemplate;

Our Eucharistic Assistants who assist with the chalice at our Communion Worship;

Our Sacristan, Liz Hannibal, who maintains the liturgical adornments throughout the year and is a key component to our Communion worship proceeding each week;

The Refreshments teams who provide biscuits, teas and coffees, along with drinks for the children after our 10.30 services;

Last but not least, beautiful floral arrangements provided by the team of florists who beautify our Church.

So, what is Church? Sometimes it is simply referred to as the building we are currently within, but more importantly, Church is the coming together of God's people. It is on that note that we, as Church Wardens, would like to thank you all for your contributions throughout the year; no matter how great or small, every contribution makes a difference. The baby who cries in the middle of a service or the children who are a little boisterous in the pew may well cause the parents some concern, but it must be acknowledged that contribution shows the future of our Church is alive.

With that thought in mind, we pray that God will bless each and every member of His family today and every day.

St Mary's Churchwardens

Mrs Mary Gill & Mr Michael Palmer

St Mary's Church 2019 AGM

Events committee report

Membership summary

Phil and Amanda continue to co-chair the committee. We have had no new joiners, nor leavers.

As a result, the current committee membership is as follows:

- Phil Simmance (co-chair)
- Amanda Simmance (co-chair)
- Liz Hannibal (minutes secretary)
- John Fry
- Joy Simmance
- Carole Fenton
- Karen Obeney
- Jacqui Abbott
- Fiona Sagoo
- Caroline Carroll
- Sarah Eaton

Past events

We held the following events over the last year:

- **Plant Sale** on 19th May 2018 went well, as always, despite being open for a shorter time due to the royal wedding. Special thanks go to Joy Simmance for arranging this event.
- **May Fayre** on Monday 28th May 2018. A good profit was made and the event was enjoyed by all.
- **Donkey Derby** on Sunday 9th July 2018. We ran the Sea Angler which was a very busy day and made a good profit.
- **Music and General Knowledge Quiz** on 10th November 2018. This was jointly run by John Powell and Phil Simmance in the Church Hall. A good profit was made and a great night was had by all. Lesson learnt was too many people and too few chairs! We will host the next one in the Village Hall.
- **Christmas Fayre** on 1st December 2018 was a successful event and raised a good profit. We had several outside stalls and these along with the advertising boards helped towards the profit and, in the case of the boards, added publicity for the event.

Upcoming events

We have another exciting year planned which we hope will cater for all tastes. Some of the upcoming events are:

- **Plant sale** from 9.30am – 12pm on Saturday 25th May 2019 at the Church Hall. Further details available from Joy Simmance.
- **St Mary's Summer Fete and Festival of Crowns** on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2019. More details to follow. All offers of help welcome!
- **Donkey Derby** on 14th July 2019. Volunteers will be needed to help run our stall.

- **Music and General Knowledge Quiz** on 9th November 2019 at The Village Hall. Tickets will be £12.50 each including a Fish and Chip supper.
- **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 30th November 2019 in the Church Hall.
- **Christmas wreath making.** Details TBA.
- **Curry night at The Indian Ocean** in September 2019.

Please do try to support as many of our events as you possibly can. We hope that everyone's default is to attend events unless they have a reason not to. Any ideas for events are always gladly received.

Other news and Final thoughts

- New tents have been purchased for use at outdoor events (May Fayre, Flower Festival etc). These cost £500 which was taken from the May Fayre profits.
- Also, a gazebo was purchased together with the Baptist Church for the Donkey Derby prayer tent, which we can always make use of.
- We would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work throughout the last year, as well as all of our church members for their generous support. These events play a crucial part in keeping the fellowship of our church alive, and in contributing to our financial security, raising a significant amount towards church funds over the last year.
- Any (other) new members, or ideas for new events, are very welcome!

Respectfully submitted

Phil & Amanda Simmance
Joint chairs of St Mary's Church Events Committee

The Churchyard Working party continues to shrink in numbers but fortunately we have a few hardworking young members who make up for this.

Trees continue to be at the top of the worry list. A very large white poplar came down, thankfully not causing any structural damage although we had to appease the owner of the school development to ensure the fallen trunk could not roll towards his garden.

Given the development of the school into two expensive houses and their close proximity to the large trees just inside our boundary with the school, we will need to be vigilant in monitoring the health of these trees, all of which are the subject of tree preservation orders.

I have embarked on a programme of raising the bottom of the canopies of the yew trees which have been stripped of leaves by the deer and left broken with sharp broken ends capable of causing nasty gouges in flesh which I can vouch are painful. My concern was

for the children who run around the old churchyard area which is the most affected area. I would hate it for one of them to receive a nasty scratched face or worse lose an eye.

There are just a few primroses this year, another casualty of the deer, such a shame.

We can always do with some more help because at the moment all we can manage do is a firefighting operation.

John Eaton

Electoral Roll as at 2 April 2019 (2018 figures in brackets)

Roll	142	(215)
(Of these) Non-Resident	12	(17)

Sally Crone
Electoral Roll Officer

Report to the 2019 APCM

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Members of the Group -

Vicar, Mike Palmer, Mary Gill, Hugh Meteyard, Jenna Given, Richard Risdon.

(1) The Communications Working Group was authorised by the PCC and had its first meeting on 6th June 2018.

(2) If we are to be successful, it will be essential that we can convince people that good communications are important to the life of the Church.

(3) In the absence of a Communications Officer, the Group has struggled, but we have been able to review in some depth all the regular St Mary's publications, and made some analysis of our IT presence.

(a) Weekly NoticeBoard - a number of definite improvements have been indicated, but some only possible if the PCC and congregation make contributions. This should increase interest and reduce repetition. More work needed.

(b) Monthly Newsletter - Group members' support has been confirmed by wider consumer opinions

Quality of print and the photograph have changed the dimension. As to content, there is too little space to widen contributions, but return to the fuller quarterly editions considered impractical.

(c) Website - limited comments received from the congregation, but Group members concerned at weak aspects (some already addressed). Important for the Church's mission. Essential up to date.

(d) Social Media - A person needed to oversee this whole area, which was of increasing concern to the Church.

(e) PCC Information - Studies indicated lack of knowledge about PCC affairs. Publication of minutes favoured, combined with photographic record. Better publicity concerning APCM.

(4) Need for a Communications Officer was clear. Approaches made but no volunteers. A new initiative was imperative, to take this whole area forward.

RER/8 4 19

Report to the 2019 APCM

STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP

Members of the Group -

Vicar, Sally Crone, Andrew Tunks, Douglas Pleasant, Richard Risdon

1. The PCC accepted the Group's recommendation to hold a Stewardship Campaign in Lent 2018.
2. Our aim was to maintain 'Committed Giving' on the present basis, but not to attempt any major new initiative i.e. a 'steady as you go' approach. Nevertheless, it was hoped that the result would achieve some additional interest, and an increase of income. The Group needed to 'balance the books' on current account, which would mean achieving an extra £8,000 in the second year

3. It was decided that a direct personal approach to members of our Congregations would not be appropriate at this time. We would rely on appeal documentation handed out in Church, although those who were existing contributors would get a personally addressed envelope.

4. Very detailed consideration was given to the Vicar's letter, the Statement of aims and financial facts, and the Response Form. but no attempt was made to suggest any possible percentage contribution related to total income (or 'disposable income'). It had already been decided by the Group that the drive should be for financial contribution, and the documentation would not carry any appeal for a 'Time and Talents' exercise.

5. In the event, it was reported that just 30 Response forms were returned, 11 of which wished to remain at their present levels of giving, and the increases promised were relatively small. A review of the overall result indicated that the number of Gift Aid donors had reduced markedly, and this was of course the life blood of the Parish's finances.

6. An analysis of reasons for the disappointing result included an ongoing view that somehow the wider Church was still 'well off'! It was agreed that it would be helpful if locally we could put-over things that needed doing and to point-up the considerable benefits that St Mary's brought to the community. We had to emphasise that it was not maintenance of the buildings that was important, but a personal commitment to God and His work, expressed through committed giving.

7. The Group also agreed that additional work should be carried out on 'Easy Fundraising', a legacy policy, and a Friends of St Mary's Scheme.

RER/ April 19

APCM Deanery Synod Report 2019

The Epping Forest and Ongar Deanery Synod met three times during 2018, in February, Jun, and November.

In 2018, The Theydon Parishes joined with the churches of Epping and Waltham Abbey to become the newly formed Epping Forest North Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU). This is the means by which the Bishop of Chelmsford would like churches to share best practice and resources to serve our wider community and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Diocesan Synod Elections also took place, and our own Rev John Fry is now one of the clergy representatives.

Throughout the year, several speakers gave presentations to Synod, including Inspector Tom Mitchell, West LPA Epping Forest and Brentwood, Essex Police, who spoke of the challenges within Community Policing in the Epping Forest and Brentwood areas which he represented, among some of which are: Anti-Social behaviour –including exploitation, burglaries, Youth disorders. He spoke about police involvement with the Epping Forest Community Safety team and joint meetings with other forces locally to this area in order to tackle crime and anti-social/youth disorder and asked us to pray for all victims and the officers who deal with them.

We also heard from Joel Gowen, Director of Church Planting Projects in the Diocese of Chelmsford, who spoke about their vision to grow new organically reproducing Christian communities which are a transforming presence across Essex and East London.

Finally, Canon Robert Hammond, a member of General Synod, presented a report from the Archbishops Council called 'Setting God's People Free', which offers a programme for change to enable the whole people of God to live out the good news of Jesus confidently in all of life, Sunday to Saturday.

Liz Douglass

Mother's Union Report 2019

We had 31 members for the year 2018 with an approx. attendance at our monthly afternoon meetings of 12. We have shared food together at our Summer lunch at The Bull and at Christmas at the Toby Carvery in Buckhurst Hill with Rev. John and Rev. Carol also attending.

At the beginning of November, we provided the teas for the service for those we have loved. During the year, we had many interesting speakers: Diana & High Meteyard gave a talk on Burma; Fran Hutchison showed us how to make birthday cards; Mary & Roger Onions talked about living in Japan; Vicky & Barry Smeaton discussed their travels abroad; Eric Doig played and talked about hymns and carols and lastly, our usual strawberry tea afternoon. This raised £40 from donations and was sent to the MU Summer Appeal.

We enrolled 1 new member this year and we look forward to 2019 with a full programme of speakers.

Carole Fenton

