

PARISH OF ST MARGARET, UNDERRIVER
Annual Meeting of Parishioners to Elect Churchwardens
on Thursday 6th April 2017 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Welcome: Mrs A. Pierce (Church Warden) and opening prayer

Present: Mrs A. Pierce (Churchwarden), Mr T. Pierce (Treasurer), Miss J. Graydon (Secretary), Mrs G.Wakeham (Lay Reader), Mrs J. Fair, Dr M. Martineau, Mr P.Payne, Mr J. Clemence, Mr A. Rucker, Mrs J. Rucker, Mr R.Shirtcliff, Mrs E.Shirtcliff, Mrs J.Scott, Mrs J.Martineau

Apologies: Mr & Mrs G Clark, Mr R.Wells, Mr C.Thornton, Mrs C.Thornton, Dr J. Hurion, Mrs S.Owen,

2. Election of Churchwarden

Andrea Pierce was proposed by Arthur Rucker, Seconded by Michael Martineau. It was agreed unanimously. The PCC recognises the burden held by Andrea Pierce in this period of interregnum. We are very grateful for all the responsibility she bears.

3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017

The Minutes were agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

It was agreed that the church and churchyard are in a very good condition following a number of updates: lighting, pew cushions, graves, the porch and the newly planted daffodils. We are very grateful to all those who worked hard to improve the church environment. We also appreciate those who regularly clean the church and brass, display the flowers and prepare the church for our services. Our thanks to all those involved in playing the organ and singing in the choir.

5. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2016

The Annual Report: The report reviewed the activities and aims of the church over the past year. The average Sunday attendance has remained stable (21 adults & 1 child). St Lawrence with St Margaret are now a Joint Benefice. The report was accepted unanimously.

The Financial Report: The balance at the end of December 2016 stands at £52,672 (2015: £57,072). Our charitable donations were £3,639; running costs of Ministry remain the same, whilst church running costs are lower. The generous donation towards the churchyard has greatly improved the environment. The treasurer is mindful of the future needs of St Margaret's Church and suggests members be encouraged to increase their donations. Gretel Wakeham spoke of the gift day held at St Lawrence; it usually provides a significant amount to support the income of the church. Fund raising events are being discussed: a Bridge Drive, a Memorial Concert for Heather Clemence and the Second Wind Band.

6. Election of Examiner

The PCC agreed that Tim Pierce should have the authority to appoint the next Examiner.

REFRESHMENTS

7. Electoral Roll for 2017

The total number on the revised roll is 60.

8 Statement by the Churchwarden on the fabrics, goods and ornaments of the Church

The churchwarden expressed her gratitude to the many volunteers who keep our Church and Churchyard clean and in good order. We are particularly grateful for John & Heather Clemence for looking after our linen. A very few discrepancies were found in the numbers of hymn and prayer

books. The new pew cushions are the result of a generous legacy from Neil Fair. The church clock has undergone major repairs.

9. Report on the Proceedings of the Sevenoaks Deanery Synod for 2016

Christopher Thornton prepared a detailed report on the meetings of the Sevenoaks Deanery Synod. The two meetings, attended by Jennifer Fair & Christopher Thornton covered issues relating to the need of more clergy, the stance on Human Sexuality, the appointment of a new Bishop of Tonbridge, the induction of Martin Booth as Rural Dean. The Synod gave a presentation of the Diocesan Strategic Framework 'Our Conversation; Our Future which seeks to cater for future population growth in our Diocese. The document asks three questions: 1. What may the Holy Spirit be saying to us about our area? 2. What do we currently spend our resources on? 3. How do we need to change about who we are and what we do?

10. Election of:

a. Representatives of the laity to the PCC

Tim Pierce, Judy Graydon, Judy Hurrion, Michael Martineau, Graham Clark, Phillip Payne, Robert Wells, John Clemence

(Ex-officio: A Pierce, M.Clark; Deanery Synod Representatives: J.Fair & C.Thornton; Reader G Wakeham; Co-opted: A.Rucker & X.Veneziani)

b. Sidesmen/women

The following are willing to stand as sidesmen/women: G.Clark, J.Clemence, J.Fair, C.Honnywill, A. Rucker, J. Scott, C.Thornton, S.Tawney. J.Rucker, A.Rucker

11. Any other business

- Suggestions for a 'gift' to St Margaret's Church celebrating the 150th Anniversary: a plaque which acknowledges those who provided the church; purple/white curtains
- The UVA would like to encourage members to attend a talk by Tim Stanley on 24th May.
- Jennifer Fair will update the Baptismal Board.
- Janet Rucker expressed gratitude for the amount of gifts given to the Loaves & Fishes project.

12. Chairman's remarks

In the absence of a Vicar there are no Chairman's Remarks

15. Closing prayer

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....