

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BIDDENDEN

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS
Monday 25th March 2019 at All Saints Church
7:00pm for 7.30pm

Opening Worship

Easter Vestry Meeting Agenda

1. Appointment of Clerk
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting 2018
4. Appointment of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda

1. Minutes of APCM 2018
2. Matters arising
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
4. Annual report and financial statements of the PCC (Required by law)

This includes:-

- (a) Summary of PCC business
- (b) Review of achievements and performance
- (c) Fabric Report
- (d) Financial Statement and accounts
5. Other Reports
6. Reading of Bequests
7. Elections
 - (a) Lay Persons to Deanery Synod
 - (b) PCC Members
 - (c) Sidespersons
 - (d) Electoral Roll Officer
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Presentation of the Terrier
10. Rector's Remarks
11. Discussion
12. Closing Prayers

Following this meeting there will be a brief meeting of the new PCC.

From the Churchwarden

We have had a busy and productive year.

Our church attendance has been pretty stable and it has been lovely to welcome some new members.

Our services have seen some changes due to Catherine moving from the benefice, with good support from Pearl and other visiting clergy. Our new Breakfast Church is proving popular, especially moving the service to the choir stalls, where the atmosphere and sense of belonging has really resonated with people.

Christmas saw many people coming into church, with the Christingle service being a real highlight. The ability to keep the church open all day has proved to be popular, with visitor numbers increasing, especially over the Remembrance weekend, which saw hundreds of people coming to the village to look at the stunning displays that were produced by many members of the village, culminating with a Remembrance service that was standing room only.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the running of the church – the PCC, fund raisers, sacristans, choir, organist, flower arrangers, bellringers, and FAB, who have raised money so that this beautiful church remains open and functional.

Thank you to Alex, who has been our spiritual guide and support.

Lastly, as usual a big thank you to Peter, Abi and Emma for support of me and helping wherever it is needed.

All Saints' Church remains the centre of the village and I look forward to another good year.

Ann Courtness

Annual report and financial statements

All Saints Biddenden Parochial Church Council 2018.

Administrative Information

Address: All Saints Church, Biddenden, High Street, Biddenden. The parish is a joint benefice with St. Michael the Archangel Smarden. As of 1st February 2012 it became formally part of a Group Ministry with the parishes of Bethersden, High Halden and Woodchurch, within the Diocese of Canterbury, Church of England.

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Alexander Bienfait, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of All Saints Church, Biddenden.

Objectives and Activities

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The PCC objectives and activities are guided by our Church plan.

We want our Church first and foremost to be a community of Christian Action.

Our Vision

- We will grow a Church that is open to all
- We will develop and display confidence as Christians
- We will seek to serve the community

Our Mission

- To provide a warm welcome
- To support each other in our spiritual growth
- To be visible, capable and available as Christian helpers in our community
- To encourage the spiritual development of young people

PCC Membership:

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2018 to the date on which this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Reverend Alex Bienfait.
Assistant Curate:	Reverend Catherine Wilson (up to July 2018)
Churchwarden:	Ann Courtness (appointed in 2014)
Representative to Deanery Synod:	No appointment made in 2018
PCC Members:	Paul Webster (1 st term, from April 2016)
	Colin Steere (up to 7 th April 2018)
	Peter Cutts (from December 2017)
	Joanna Winston (from May 2017)
	Julie Lupton (from May 2017)

During 2018, the PCC met on 9 occasions, and 2 times in conjunction with Smarden PCC. Attendance was 85%

PCC business - main topics covered:

Combined PCCs

- Benefice, Group Ministry and Deanery matters
- Safeguarding
- Stewardship in 2018
- GDPR data protection, and the newly drafted privacy and data policy
- New Church Plan for 2019

Biddenden PCC

- Deanery matters
- Maintenance of church fabric
- Churchyard maintenance and improvement
- Health & Safety
- Mission Plan
- Worship patterns
- Pastoral care
- Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy
- Parish Safeguarding Policy
- Finance, Budgets,
- Charitable giving
- Fund-raising and social events
- Stewardship
- Parish Magazine
- John Mayne School
- Friends of All Saints Biddenden

Achievement and Performance 2017

(Demonstration of public benefit)

Ministry is led by the **Rev'd Alexander Bienfait**, Priest in Charge. **All Saints Biddenden** has a **lay worship team** consisting of **Ann Courtness, Martin Giles, and Julie Lupton**. We also enjoy the valued support of the **Rev'd Pearl Anderson**, a retired priest living in Headcorn. Up to July 2018 we had the ministry of **Rev'd Catherine Wilson**, part time stipendiary Assistant Curate, who was appointed June 2014. In July 2018 Catherine moved to the Diocese of St. Albans to take up a full time title post.

Administration

The Benefice office operates from a 20m² timber cabin constructed in December 2014, located in the front garden of Biddenden Rectory. The cabin, which was financed jointly by the Diocese and the Benefice, provides a separate work base for the part-time Benefice Administrator Tanya Ling, Alex Bienfait, and a Benefice meeting venue.

We are in the process of implementing our GDPR policy. All computer records are password protected. All paper records are stored in locked offices.

Our Church Plan (Mission Plan)

The PCC's main priorities for 2018, arising out of the Church Plan, were:

- *To continue to address the financial situation*
- *Develop the use of the "In Need fund"*
- *Increase the Opening of the Church*
- *The availability of spaces in the grave yard*

Good progress is being made on most of the items. It is gratifying to see the improvement in our financial situation. The ongoing financial support of the Friends of All Saints Biddenden and a successful Stewardship campaign in 2018, both contributed significantly to this positive position.

Statistics for Biddenden Parish	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Baptisms	7	8	15	9	5	9	10
Weddings & Blessings	2	7	6	4	7	2	5
Funerals	17	19	11	5	10	16	13
Estimated Usual Sunday Attendance	33	37	45	44	44	44	43
Electoral roll	59	80	83	82	82	82	81

The service and rota planning team

A service and rota planning team formed of licensed ministers, representatives of the PCC and choir and the organist meets about four times year. Its principle task, is to plan and review the worship rota.

Worship

We aim to offer a range of worship to suit different ages and preferences for worship. The scope of worship at All Saints includes Sunday morning Parish Eucharist using Common Worship (CW), 8am Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and Lay-led Morning Worship (third Sunday of the month). BCP Evensong is offered on the third Sunday of the month. During 2018, we reluctantly dropped our bi-monthly all-age services, attendance was disappointing, but it was also very much harder to sustain following the departure of Catherine Wilson.

During 2018 it was decided to reconfigure the monthly lay led service of Morning Worship to include Breakfast before worship. This has now been renamed **Breakfast Church**, and been re-timed to start at 9.30am. Initial indications show these changes to be popular.

Active Church (launched in April 2012) is a monthly "Messy Church" style of service that takes place in Smarden. Sessions start with activities, all of which are designed to link in with the theme of the day. Everybody comes together at the end, for a summary and retelling of the main theme/story. The average congregation is 15-20 adults, and 15-20 children, drawn from both Biddenden and Smarden.

During 2018 Alex initiated a new experimental monthly outdoor service or gathering called **Walk Church**. Walk church might be described as a kind of rambler's church. Gatherings take place over a relatively wide geographic area, within the Diocese of Canterbury. This has now successfully built up a core congregation. Numbers attending range from 20 to 6. It is estimated about a third of those who come are not involved in any other worship.

Children and Young People

The Church continues to maintain close links with John Mayne School; Alex, Catherine and Julie Lupton were joined by Lindi Harman in taking the weekly 'Church' assemblies. The children come to church for special events and festivals, and is always a pleasure to welcome them, the staff, and the parents who support these events. See the note regarding Active Church in the 'Worship' section above.

Music and choir

Organist duties at All Saints and St Michael's are led by Bob Barnes, with Mark Wilson covering one Sunday a month. Jane Whiteley is a very welcome proficient back-up on the few occasions when Bob or Mark are not available.

A small choir lead help lead music in worship. There are eight regular choir members over the two churches, with family members and others helping out during academic holidays and for special

occasions. As far as possible the choirs combine to support the monthly sung evensong in both churches, also mattins at St Michael's on the first Sunday each month. Thanks are due to the eight stalwarts who have turned out throughout the year to lead the singing at most of the Sunday Common Worship services, Mattins, and Evensong.

With the combined resources of Smarden and Biddenden, helped by family members (special thanks to Emma Courtness) they can muster enough singers to perform moderately challenging anthems at Christmas and Easter. However fielding a choir of at least six choristers for weddings and funerals has been problematic.

Choir practices take place weekly on most Friday evenings at 1900 in Biddenden and once a month in Smarden. Anyone interested in joining us is most welcome to come along.

Biddenden Bell ringers

We have had a good year with an increase in the number of people ringing at the church and on Thursday practice nights. We now have 12 regular ringers. We have visited other towers during the year, with a day out on the Marsh and an outing to Goudhurst where we rung before the Christmas dinner. We are still ringing on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday's but are hoping to ring on all Sundays soon. Two peels have been rung, one was for remembrance of the First World War; in two bell ringers died in that war. A number of quarter peels have been rung including for the Flower festival and carol service. Peter Courtness – Tower Captain.

Sidespeople

We are very lucky at All Saints in having been able to keep the same eight valuable Sidespeople for the past few years. These eight permanent men and women, plus one reserve and extra volunteers for larger occasions attend at each service.

They carry out a diverse set of duties before and following services such as placing the hymn numbers on the boards, ensuring lighting and sound systems are correctly running etc, as well as welcoming everyone into the church and handing them service leaflets and hymn books. To aid church officials with auditing, it is also necessary to count attendees. However, their most important duty is the carrying of the elements to the altar for the celebration of mass. Appreciative thanks to them all. Joanna Winston (Sidesmen Co-ordinator)

Learning

The Home Study Group has met twice monthly throughout the year on Wednesday evenings from 8-10pm. Numbers have remained constant with 13 people attending regularly. We generally follow a series of Bible studies on a particular book or theme. During Lent we share the leadership of the chosen 6 week course, often based on a film, and our group forms the backbone of the Lent Group with a few welcome additions. Through our regular meetings in one another's homes we continue to deepen our understanding of our faith through joint study, discussion, prayer and fellowship. We also enjoy two social events: a summer barbecue and a Christmas bring and share meal. This group welcomes all newcomers including any from Smarden. Julie Lupton and Martin Giles (Study group facilitators)

Children and Vulnerable Adults' Protection - Safeguarding

This PCC takes seriously the responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults. Diocesan guidelines on the protection for both are strictly followed. Each year the PCC adopts the Safeguarding Policy and ensures it is prominently displayed in the church along with other statutory notices of important contact numbers. These also appear on the church website alongside copies of the safeguarding statement and policies.

Training: During 2018 a number of people completed online safeguarding training. The Church of England has now produced two online training courses, C0 and, C1. The people who are

expected to undertake this training have been notified and once the training is complete, the Safeguarding Officer updates the parish safeguarding training file. This file is kept electronically and is password protected.

Disclosure and Barring Service checks are carried out on everyone who is in a position of responsibility according to Diocesan guidelines. The diocese updates the PDO as to when checks need to be renewed. The renewal of all disclosures issued 5 years ago is now complete. There are currently no outstanding disclosures to be processed.

If you would like any more information relating to our policies please contact the person/ people below:

- The Parish Disclosure Officer, Julie Lupton, also processes DBS checks for Smarden.
- The Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer for Biddenden is Julie Lupton.

Collaboration: Other Churches and the Community

The Benefice of Biddenden and Smarden is part of a Group ministry which also includes the parishes of Bethersden, High Halden and Woodchurch. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month we hold a group service and encourage the congregations to worship together, visiting a different parish within the group each month.

In 2018, as in previous years, a Marriage Preparation Morning was organised to which all couples getting married in any of the Group churches are invited.

There is a level of collaboration with Zion Baptist Church in Smarden this year, as we worked together on a number of events including Palm Sunday. Smarden and Biddenden churches are members of Churches Together in Tenterden and District, and contribute to the food collections taken to Ashford Foodbank.

Deanery

All Saints Biddenden is part of the Romney and Tenterden Deanery. Deanery Synod representatives vote at Deanery Synod meetings, and also vote to elect representatives to General Synod of the Church of England. Currently the parish does not have a Deanery Synod Representative.

Diocesan Synod has sent on a motion to the General Synod of the Church of England, a motion originally proposed by Smarden PCC and passed by the Deanery Synod. The motion seeks a change to the church representation rules, to enable non communicant, electoral roll members to be elected to the PCC, and calls for the design of the Electoral Roll application form to be overhauled.

Fund-raising and Events

The Events committee met 3 times in 2018, in January, April and September. These meetings are held in order to ensure there is a reasonably well spaced out programme of events each year. While each separate event has its own organiser or team of organisers, the committee oversees the diary, supports the organisers if need be and offers feedback to the PCC on all Events.

In 2018 the following events contributed towards Church Funds and to the nominated charities.

- Candlemas supper (£348.60)
- Lent lunches (Raised £174.31 towards Lent offering for Mission Aviation Fellowship)
- Christian Aid week (£555.28 before Gift Aid)
- Flower Festival (£3,316.78)
- Fete (£1120.70).
- The Tractorfest (BEST donated £1000 to church funds and £350 to the Flower Account)
- The Big Biddenden Breakfast (£918.40).

- The Gift stall/ shop raises funds for the church. As it's an unmanned stall and as we can't guarantee where people put their money, it's not possible to give an accurate figure for sales. The estimated profit after stocktaking and expenses is approximately £389.45

Liz Rickwood, Jeannette Oatway, Gillian Burtenshaw, Sally Giles and Julie Lupton were on the committee in 2018. Julie Lupton (on behalf of the Events Committee)

Gift Stall Report

Julie Lupton has continued to look after the shop during 2018.

A stocktake was completed in February 2019. Total income in the year 2018 amounted to £437.45. The purchase of copies of Biddenden in Pictures from the History Society cost a total of £48.00. The total profit from sales was therefore £389.45.

Some stock moves very slowly. We have large numbers of some items in stock: tea towels, postcards, brasses booklets and the church history. If anyone is interested in taking on the responsibility for the Shop, please talk to Julie Lupton who will gladly pass on the job.

Julie Lupton

Thursday Coffee Call-in

Coffee Call-in takes place every Thursday morning throughout the year, 10:00 am to 11:15am, for tea, coffee, and chat. It remains popular with an average of ten people every week.

As from January 2019 we have welcomed four pupils from John Mayne School, who have hosted the morning and chatted to us all and help clear up. This hopefully will be a regular occurrence, the first Thursday of the month. Sally Giles.

Homemakers

Our year started with a lunch at the Weald of Kent Golf Club; well attended by our members. Talks have been varied, with a very interesting talk and slides on Canterbury Cathedral by Pam Waite. We also had interesting talks on "Edith Cavell", "The Suffragettes", "Bother on the Hover" and "Quilting" with many samples to look at. We also had a talk on "Gin and Chocolate Truffles" and were able to sample them – very good they were too! Our BBQ at Barn Cottage was also well attended in the summer and in September we treated ourselves to tea at Ye Maydes – we were very well looked after by Sheila and her staff. Our visit to Boldshave Garden on a lovely evening, was greatly enjoyed by all and a guided tour by the owner was very interesting. The year ended with our AGM followed by a Quiz and John Aldington playing his guitar and singing his own songs. Liz Rickwood

Keeping the church open

This has been a new and interesting experimental year for church Welcoming, as in October 2018 CCTV was introduced into the church, and the church was kept open during day light hours. This meant that visitors could enter from early morning until dusk in the evening. Hence our auditing of visitor numbers has altered. We are only able to count those who visit us when a Welcomer is present.

In November we had an extraordinary & marvellous influx of visitors due to our World War 1 Remembrance activities & poppy displays inside & outside the church. On Nov 9th & 10th alone there were 589. On the 11th. & all the following week there were far too many to count.

Our annual Flower Festival saw 1098 people visit the church. From March to September we welcomed 765 people. Last year we counted in 673. This coming year we will have a fewer volunteers, 13, as opposed to 16 in 2018, but look forward to many more guests who will benefit from and enjoy our longer opening hours.

Joanna Winston

Church flowers

Once again, our talented team of arrangers have worked hard throughout the year to ensure that your personal dedications were completed as requested. The team not only spends hours arranging the flowers but also removing the arrangements. Sadly we have lost a number of dedicated arrangers in 2018. In order to retain a flower rota, we are in need of extra volunteers to assist with these tasks and someone to coordinate the rota. We would welcome anyone who has time to spare.

There are still some free slots on this year's flower rota. If you would like to remember a loved one or mark a special occasion, then please contact Jeanette. Once again the church looked really beautiful at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, the flowers really were stunning- and the posies for Mothering Sunday were welcomed by the recipients. We also decorated the church for Dame Jane Whiteley's piano concert. Many thanks to everyone who helped to do all these arrangements, make tea or clear up; it is really appreciated.

Thanks are also due to Chris Cox and Jim for once again erecting the Christmas tree and lights and to Mr & Mrs Penfold for the donation of another stunning Christmas tree. The generous donation from The Tractorfest was much appreciated and will be put towards new metal trays and a new metal holder for the Pascal candle, (to replace the current one that is corroded). Many thanks to the Committee of the Tractorfest

With Christmas now past, our thoughts once again start to focus on the Flower Festival which takes place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend. This year the theme is "Memories are made of this!!" and will be an opportunity to display special memories of a personal, national or religious nature. Last year's event was a huge success both financially and socially, it has clearly become a "must see" event on the Kent social calendar. The festival can only survive if there are enough volunteers so if you can help, please contact Jeanette.

Jeanette Oatway

Magazine

The magazine remains a key channel of communication for the village. It is made up of material connected with the church, news and other items about the village and the wider area, along with articles and photos that people send in, based on their own experience, interests or expertise. Thank you, all contributors!

The subscriber base is steady, meaning that we reach over a third of households. The quarterly issues go to about 1260 addresses, a figure which constantly creeps upward as more houses are built.

The magazine continues to be of benefit to church funds. Biddenden Parish Council pays the costs of printing for the quarterly issues, as it has for many years, and we have an advertising income which dwarfs the money we raise from sales. In recent months we have successfully introduced online payments.

As ever, sincere thanks are due to my wife Anne, who works tirelessly on the advertising, the "bagging up" of magazines and the delivery of some of them, to Simon Burgess, who does a great job keeping track of the circulation and subscription payments, to Peter Cutts and Brian Bennewith for processing those payments, to Sharon Clark, for helping to coordinate the large team of distributors, to those distributors themselves, and last but not least to Gillian Burtenshaw, who does a huge job running the delivery of the quarterly issues.

Paul Webster – Magazine editor.

Website

The website gets about 20-25 visits per day. Day to day management of the website is carried out by church administrator, Tanya Ling and Alex Bienfait. In the past year Stephanie has added a Paypal button to enable Biddenden's parish magazine subscribers to renew online and this has been very popular. Walk Church blog posts continue to appear regularly.
Stephanie Boucher

Fabric Report:

During 2018 the Fabric team ensured the following annual inspections were carried out:

- Fire extinguishers £71.11
- Organ tuning £205.80
- Clock service £304.80
- Gas boiler service £357.82
- Portable appliance testing £69
- Piano tuning Donated by Friends of All Saints.
- Regular testing of emergency exit lighting.
- Risk assessments prior to all events were completed and lodged with Mark Clixby,

The following repairs were carried out:

- The water heater beneath the kitchen sink was repaired in July at a cost of £60. After some months, it broke again so we had the element replaced at a cost of £288. This included buying a thermostat which was not required but which is now in stock in case we do need it in due course.
- Remedial electrical work carried out by CES electrical to meet current regulations. £570
- Following the Electrical upgrade, the PCC approved the purchase of spare lightbulbs for the chandeliers. Lightbulbs cost £73 for 40. The cost of converting all the lighting to LED was investigated and is currently considered to be prohibitive.
- Replacement lightbulb and fitting underneath lychgate. £100.
- The Gas boiler developed a leak and the condensation traps were replaced at a cost of £314.45. The PCC considered the cost of service and repairs to the boiler to be very high and undertook to get new quotations for this in 2019.
- Replacement of loose slates on church roof, discovered during the Poppy Installation project. No payment made in 2018 as further work to be included in 2019.
- The Lychgate base and base timbers were replaced and the height raised by a few centimetres to allow for better headroom. This project was completed in time for the Poppy Installation at a cost of £5,360.02 plus planning application fees and architect's fees. Thanks go Friends of All Saints and to Neil Bell as well as to the general public for contributing towards the cost of this project.

The following matters are being investigated and were still on-going at the end of 2018.

- The crack in the eastern wall of the Tylden-Pattenson Chapel re-opened once more towards the end of 2018. This time the movement was more severe with plaster falling from the ceiling of the north aisle and cracks appearing in and above windows in the north aisle. The heave in the floor in the chapel also increased. The church Architect has been monitoring this crack for many years now and has again alerted the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and formally requested a visit from Morton Partnership, the Diocesan Structural Engineers. At the end of 2018 this visit had not taken place.
- The window at the east end of the Tylden Pattenson is still badly warped as a result of movement. While there continues to be movement in that area, no permanent solution has been found.
- In 2017 the architect tried to find a builder willing to open up the roof above the Tylden Pattenson chapel to enable him to carry out an inspection of the condition of the beams. This work has still not been done because of the warrantee on the roofing material.

- A roofer has been engaged to continue the work on replacing loose tiles on the roof and on repairing the loose tiles on the lychgate. PCC approved the cost of £425 for this work to be done. It was not completed in 2018 but will be carried forward to 2019.
- Plans were drawn up to create a permanent ramp at the church door on the south side. This was costed and a contractor appointed subject to the granting of a Faculty and Ashford Borough Planning permission. The latter was still pending at the end of 2018 owing to administrative difficulties. It is now seen as a matter of some urgency as the old wooden ramp is in poor repair.
- Removal of vegetation from the external walls of the tower and turret. A contract has been awarded to Tim Cole, of Sublimitas Ltd to carry out the removal of plants growing in the tower walls. The contractor will remove all growth and replace the mortar accordingly. This contract is on a day to day basis and due to be carried out in February 2019. The architect has been advised, as have the church's insurers.
- There is concern over the state of the walls in the Lady chapel. The PCC authorised the Fabric team to get quotations for removing the cement externally and using lime mortar instead and then to make good the walls inside and to repair the windowsill.
- Concern has been expressed about the state of the floodlights and the need, at some point, to convert them to LED lightbulbs. PCC agreed this could be costed in due course. Currently the lights all work but the timer switch is cumbersome to use.
- The Carpark area outside the lychgate is clearly the responsibility of Kent County Council. The Parish Council is now working with KCC getting plans approved and costed to change the surface beneath the lychgate and in the car parking area. This will not cost the church anything at all as it is not church land.
- Broken windows in the tower: responsibility for getting these repaired was handed over to the Tower Captain.
- Brasses: Responsibility for the brasses was handed over to the church warden in 2017.

The Fabric team met with the church warden and a PCC member to put together a prioritised list of work to be carried out on the church building over the next few years. This is a helpful guide and was requested by The Friends of All Saints to help with planning.

Mark Clixby carries out the Health and Safety inspection and his report is much appreciated as it helps us to put all the required checks into place with a system to monitor them.

Julie Lupton

Churchyard

The churchyard has been kept in reasonable condition thanks to the work of our seven volunteers. Michael Palmer has again cut the hedges well, for no charge. The eleven year old ALKO mower failed in July and the PCC kindly authorised the purchase of the new mower. The Biddenden Community Fund again donated £500 towards the churchyard upkeep.

During 2018 action has been taken to ensure families maintain graves to the strict adherence of the Churchyard regulations. All families seeking a burial are asked to commit to keeping these rules prior to any burial.

Space for burial at the bottom of the Church yard is now down to 5 or 6 plots. The PCC will seek a faculty to be allowed to carry out burial in other parts of the church yard that are free from gravestones.

Chris Cox & Alex Bienfait.

Health and Safety

2018 has been another busy year for the church and it is good to see a number of the requested actions being implemented from previous years. It should be noted that Health and Safety

guidelines and requirements continually change and the church and PCC should be minded to keep up to date with current good practice. I believe there is still some outstanding work to be completed to make sure the Fire Risk Assessments are up to date and relevant for the church and PCC.

Accidents

There were three reported accidents related to the church. One was a general fall and another a small scissor cut - no action required. The third was a skeletal issue caused by moving the portable access ramp. This ramp has been inspected and should now be considered a safety issue. The timber is in poor condition and the tape is loose and a potential trip hazard. I strongly recommend that the ramp is replaced by a permanent tarmac access ramp into the porch as quickly as possible. The ramp into the church has been fitted with more visible yellow/black tape to the edges.

Safety Inspections

The H&S inspection report from Jan was presented to the PCC for discussion and action. The main actions are as follows:-

- Fire Risk Assessments - please can the PCC confirm if the requested actions have been carried out.
- A new generic RA will be completed by March 2019 to cover all generic risks associated with the building, COSHH, tower and churchyard.
- 2 First Aid boxes still require new items as out of date.
- Open church - it is good to see the church now open more and some areas locked. However, I recommend a review of the tower base as still open and accessible. I suggest this too is locked when the church is open and not manned.
- It was impossible to check the book in the cupboard and check that the emergency lighting, fire equipment and fire escapes are checked on a regular basis. Consideration could be given to keeping these records away from the church and more accessible.

General observations

It is good to see that a number of 2017 items have been actioned and that the church is being kept clean and tidy. During the inspection it was noted that there were no trip hazards or other issues. The key items for 2019 would be a new access ramp to porch, completion of the Fire risk assessment items and the generic risk assessment. Please can all who complete event risk assessments be thanked.

Mark Clixby (Health and Safety officer)

2018 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Financial Review

Although the Church's cash account balance ended 2018 with surplus of £5,877, it has not been plain sailing through the year, and at times, the financial position has been precarious. However, thanks to (i) the Church's valiant fundraising efforts, (ii) a legacy received in November (restricted for church fabric only), and (iii) support from the Friends of All Saints Biddenden (The Friends), we have weathered the storms.

Through 2018, total receipts into the Church's bank accounts were £87,046. Of these, £25,741 represented restricted funds. £4,966 were recovered as Gift Aid from taxpayer donations. In 2017, by comparison, total receipts were £68,854, although Gift Aid receipts were a bit higher at £5,629.

Planned giving and collections through 2018 were a bit higher than those received in 2017, some of this increase a consequence of the Stewardship campaign run in March. To cover insurance and help with church maintenance projects, almost £16,000 was provided by The Friends in 2018. This invaluable support, which has been recorded as sundry donations in these accounts, is the main reason that receipts in 2018 were higher than in 2017 and indeed is why the Church accounts have ended the year in a reasonably healthy state.

Total payments in 2018 were £83,155, compared with £68,465 in 2017. This significant difference was caused by more spending on the Church fabric, mainly the lychgate repairs (£5,360) but also some stonemason work (£960 - completed in 2017, but paid for in 2018). Also, a new mower costing £1,048 was purchased in July and Church cleaning costs were nearly £1,400 more than for the previous year. Mission giving was much higher in 2018 primarily due to the donation made to the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka (£2,089 – direct fundraising in 2017) and also a donation to the Apollos Trust (£1,000 – for Christian school worker at Homewood School).

As usual, the largest outgoing was the Parish Quota, at £38,871 (a 3% increase on 2017) and representing 47% of all the Church's outgoings in 2018.

In conclusion, the Church has ended the year on an even keel (apologies for the sailing references). We were crucially reliant on the terrific fundraising activities organised by the PCC and others, involving many dedicated hours. However, without the timely financial support of The Friends, we would have been significantly in deficit at the end of year. We are immensely grateful for this support. It is also worth noting that, on a monthly basis, the Church's normal regular income does not cover current fixed expenses (Parish Quota, utilities, insurance), let alone any extraordinary expenses. We have managed to avoid dipping into investment reserves for the past two years, but this may become necessary sooner rather than later.

Reserves Policy

It is the current PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equivalent to around three months of unrestricted payments. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet potential emergencies. The average for a three-month period of unrestricted payments in 2018 been around £16,000, while the PCC cash balance of unrestricted funds at year-end was around £8,500. However, in a future emergency, the Church could draw on its investment assets, currently worth around £43,000.

Financial Statements for Year Ending 31 December 2018

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts :						
Planned giving		18,588	2,400	-	20,988	20,619
Collections at services		5,602	-	-	5,602	3,924
All other giving	8a	6,773	21,074	-	27,846	8,881
Gift Aid Recovered		4,278	688	-	4,966	5,629
		35,240	24,161	-	59,402	39,053
Fundraising activities	8b	8,680	-	-	8,680	6,971
Investment income	8c	1,456	-	-	1,456	1,425
Church activities	8d	15,929	1,580	-	17,509	21,405
Total receipts		61,305	25,741	-	87,046	68,854
PAYMENTS						
Church activities :						
Parish Share and fees	9a	40,302	1,000	-	41,302	40,516
Clergy and staffing costs	9b	7,241	-	-	7,241	7,271
Church running expenses	9c	7,227	15,156	-	22,383	13,623
Mission giving and donation	9d	1,789	4,301	-	6,090	1,694
		56,559	20,457	-	77,015	63,105
Cost of generating funds	9e	6,140	-	-	6,140	5,361
Total Payments		62,698	20,457	-	83,155	68,465
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(1,393)	5,284	-	3,891	389
Adjustments						
Cheques recorded in 2017 but cashed in 2018		(44)	-	-	(44)	(393)
Cheques recorded in 2018 but cashed in 2019		2,192	-	-	2,192	44
Receipts from 2017 but banked in 2018		934	-	-	934	(934)
Receipts from 2018 but banked in 2019		(1,096)	-	-	(1,096)	-
		1,986	-	-	1,986	(1,283)
Excess of receipts over payments - adjusted		593	5,284	-	5,877	(895)
Cash in bank and at hand at 01 January		7,892	9,246	-	17,138	18,032
Cash in bank and at hand at 31 December		8,485	14,530	-	23,015	17,138

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Cash funds						
Bank current account balance		8,485	12,807	-	21,292	15,468
Flower account balance		-	1,723	-	1,723	1,669
Other		-	-	-	-	-
		8,485	14,530	-	23,015	17,138
Other Monetary Assets						
Gift Aid recoverable	4	1,526	-	-	1,526	807
Other		-	-	-	-	-
		1,526	-	-	1,526	807
Investment Assets						
PCC General Investment Fund	5	41,063	-	-	41,063	41,685
Mrs Agate Memorial Fund		2,079	-	-	2,079	2,110
		43,142	-	-	43,142	43,795
Assets retained for Church use						
Churchyard upkeep equipment	6	1,188	-	-	1,188	825
Other		-	-	-	-	-
		1,188	-	-	1,188	825
Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		54,341	14,530	-	68,871	62,565

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared, with the exception of some minor adjustments, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis, and is the method recommended by the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF) for accounts of this type.
- The format of these accounts follows, as far as possible, recent guidance from CDBF. The Receipts and Payments statement presented here is a simple record of monies received and payments made in calendar year 2018 and a reconciliation to bank account statements. It is not an accounting profit and loss statement. Similarly, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not a true accounting balance sheet.
- The Financial Statements presented here reflect cash movements in (i) the All Saints PCC General Fund bank account, (ii) the Flower Account and (iii) the CCLA Investment Fund account.
- Gift Aid recoverable represents outstanding claims for tax-payer donations made in the months of September through to December 2018. The delay is due to an unfortunate backlog of claims being processed by CDBF.
- The performance of the Church's investment assets reflects global market movements over the year and show a capital value decrease of around 1.5%. This has been offset by the dividend income of £1,456 over the year.

- Churchyard upkeep equipment comprises primarily mowers and strimmers. These have been depreciated at an assumed 20% per annum. A new Honda mower was purchased for £1,048 in July 2018.
- Movements and balances for restricted and designated funds during 2018 are summarised in the table below:

Restricted Funds	Bal. b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal. c/fwd
	£	£	£	£
Church Fabric & Upkeep	1,312	6,000	2,565	4,747
Churchyard Upkeep	-	1,048	1,048	-
Insurance	16	8,686	4,317	4,385
Benefice and Choir	1,323	475	-	1,798
Tower and Bells	1,046	-	60	986
In Need!	2,290	30	1,600	720
Church Quota	-	1,000	1,000	-
Utilities	-	-	-	-
Floodlighting	-	755	585	170
Church Flowers	1,669	1,275	1,221	1,723
MAF	-	613	613	-
Lychgate Repair Project	-	5,360	5,360	-
Sri Lanka Appeal	1,589	500	2,089	-
Total	9,246	25,741	20,457	14,530

The Church Fabric & Upkeep fund include a legacy of £5,000, received in November 2018.

The Churchyard Upkeep fund receipt represents a £500 donation from the Parish Council and a donation of £548 from The Friends. These donations have covered the cost of the new Honda mower.

The Insurance fund receipt represents donations from the Friends of All Saints Biddenden.

The In Need! Fund provided (i) a donation of £1000 to the Apollos Trust, and (ii) a donation of £600 to the John Mayne School representing a hardship payment to be used in 2019.

MAF is Mission Aviation Fellowship, the chosen charity for 2018.

Receipts for the Lychgate repair fund comprised £500 from generous parishioners and a further much appreciated donation from the Friends of All Saints Biddenden of £4,860. These donations covered the repair bill of £5,360.

The Sri Lanka Appeal fund was mainly collected in 2017. Donations of £500 from St Michael Smarden were added in March 2018 and in May, a donation of £2,089 was finally made to the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka.

- Further break-down of Receipts:

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
a) All other giving					
Sundry Donations*	5,271	19,799	-	25,070	6,257
Flower Account	-	1,275	-	1,275	1,391
General Fund	1,122	-	-	1,122	967
Preservation Fund	380	-	-	380	265
	6,773	21,074	-	27,846	8,881
b) Fundraising activities					
Candlemas Supper	393	-	-	393	117
Flower Festival	4,567	-	-	4,567	3,151
Church Fete	1,198	-	-	1,198	1,342
Ride and Stride	278	-	-	278	380
Big Breakfast	1,245	-	-	1,245	981
Tractorfest Donation	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Other	-	-	-	-	-
	8,680	-	-	8,680	6,971
c) Investment income					
Transfer from investment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends from investment funds	1,456	-	-	1,456	1,425
	1,456	-	-	1,456	1,425
d) Church activities					
Book Stall	437	-	-	437	265
Parish Magazine	9,629	-	-	9,629	8,821
Weddings / Funerals / Memorials	5,594	-	-	5,594	8,827
Charity Appeals	49	1,025	-	1,074	2,988
Votive Candles	149	-	-	149	50
Floodlighting	-	555	-	555	455
Other	71	-	-	71	-
	15,929	1,580	-	17,509	21,405

Of Sundry Donations in 2018, £15,939 represent donations from the Friends of All Saints Biddenden (FAB) to help the funding of lych-gate repairs, other fabric costs, a new mower and church insurance.

- Further break-down of Payments:

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
a) Parish Share and Fees					
Diocesan quota	37,871	1,000	-	38,871	37,741
CDBF Statutory Fees	2,431	-	-	2,431	2,775
	40,302	1,000	-	41,302	40,516
b) Clergy and staffing costs					
Benefice Joint Account Contribution	7,200	-	-	7,200	7,200
Admin. / Support Costs	41	-	-	41	71
	7,241	-	-	7,241	7,271
c) Church running expenses					
Flower Account	-	1,221	-	1,221	1,812
Cleaning Costs	1,560	-	-	1,560	180
Church Upkeep	1,791	7,925	-	9,716	2,797
Insurance	-	4,317	-	4,317	4,340
Utilities	1,534	585	-	2,119	2,640
Services Upkeep	1,864	60	-	1,924	1,144
Churchyard Upkeep	478	1,048	-	1,526	711
	7,227	15,156	-	22,383	13,623
d) Mission giving and donation					
Royal British Legion - collection	1,120	-	-	1,120	226
Apollos Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Bishop's Advent Appeal	318	-	-	318	312
Children's Society (Christingle)	351	-	-	351	272
John Mayne School	-	600	-	600	-
Sri Lanka Appeal	-	2,089	-	2,089	-
Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)	-	613	-	613	680
Other	-	-	-	-	205
	1,789	4,301	-	6,090	1,694
e) Cost of generating funds					
Parish Magazine Costs	4,362	-	-	4,362	3,874
Fundraising	1,730	-	-	1,730	1,487
Bookstall / Gen. Trading	48	-	-	48	-
	6,140	-	-	6,140	5,361

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BIDDENDEN

EASTER VESTRY MEETING Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held On Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.30pm in All Saints Church

Present:

Rector: Rev'd Alex Bienfait (in the chair)
Curate: Rev'd Catherine Wilson
Churchwarden: Ann Courtness
Secretary: Tanya Ling
Parishioners: 21 Members

Alex welcomed all to the meeting and opened with a prayer.

Business was then conducted as follows:

1. **Appointment of Clerk:**
Tanya Ling proposed as Clerk by Peter Cutts. seconded by Simon Burgess. All in favour.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Mary Spry, Anne Webster, Martin Giles, Richard Carr, Chris Hautot, Brian Bennewith, Jeanette Oatway.
3. **Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting 2017:**
The minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2017 had been circulated. It was proposed by Joanna Winston and seconded by Julie Lupton that the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman. All in favour.
4. **Appointment of Churchwardens**
One nomination for Churchwarden had been received, as follows:
 - Ann Courtness, proposed by Peter Cutts and seconded by Simon Burgess. (Ann was first appointed in 2014)
All in favour.

There being no further nominations, Ann Courtness was elected as Churchwarden. Alex said many thanks for all her hard work this year which was followed by a round of applause. Ann said thank you to all those who help her in her role as Churchwarden.

There being no further business to be conducted at the Vestry Meeting, the meeting closed at 7.40pm and was immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Signed _____

Dated _____

**All Saints Church Biddenden
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Tuesday 17th April 2018**

Attendance and Apologies were noted as being the same as for the Vestry Meeting.

1. Minutes of All Saints APCM Meeting 2017

The minutes of the All Saints APCM meeting held on 28th March 2017 had been circulated. There were no corrections or amendments raised and it was proposed by Peter Cutts and seconded by Peter Whitestone that these minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record. All in favour.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th March 2017.

3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

A copy of the Electoral Roll has been on the board at the back of the church for the past 10 days. Tanya Ling is our Electoral Roll officer who confirmed that there are 79 on the electoral roll which is 1 down from last year.

4. Annual Report and Financial Statement

All reports included in this section, which were the reports required by law, had been circulated with the agenda. These covered a summary of objectives and activities, a summary of PCC business, a review of achievements and performance, financial statements and accounts and the fabric report.

Individual reports from the Churchwardens, and those responsible for or leaders of the many groups that support the worship and activities of the church had also been circulated, i.e. the Choir, Coffee Call-in, the Gift Stall, Fundraising and Events Committee, Health and Safety, Homemakers, Bellringers, Churchyard Maintenance, the Magazine, Website and Welcomers.

Matters discussed and noted, and comments:

- Administrative Information, Objectives, PCC members, achievements, .
Alex noted some omissions in the Ministry section - the support of David Stuart- Smith and the support of Lay Worship team (Ann Courtness, Julie Lupton, Martin Giles, Peter Whitestone, John Lowings and Tony Richter). Alex conveyed his many thanks to both David and the Lay Worship team for their contributions to the parish this year. Thank you to Ann Giles, Sharon Muskett, Moira Eastwick and Ann Webster and the Sacristan team for all their hard work.
A query was raised on the Statistics for Biddenden parish as the Usual Sunday Attendance figure has dropped since last year. This can vary a great deal year on year but it was acknowledged that numbers generally are lower. Active Church congregation numbers are not represented in these numbers.
- Services and Rota Planning: Alex confirmed that these are planned on a quarterly basis - a team from the choir and the PCC work with Alex and Catherine Wilson (curate) on the details of this planning. We seek to offer a diverse selection of services from Active Church to BCP services.
- Music & Choir: Alex confirmed that we are very fortunate to have three organists who support us. We were saddened by the move from the area of Kate and Peter Whapham and this was felt very much last year. We have a dedicated choir group and are very grateful for their work at Christmas and Easter and all the services that they attend. Also noted the death of Andrew Littlewood who was a very important part of both the choir and the community.
- Sidespeople: Joanna gave thanks to the welcomers team who put so much hard work into their roles, organising things for the service. Always looking for more volunteers for sidespeople.
- Learning : the Biddenden home study group meets twice a month and during Lent and Easter, the study group meets weekly. Thank you to Julie Lupton and Martin Giles who are the co-ordinators for this group. New members are always welcome. Jean Lingwood and David Stuart Smith have recently joined the group.

- Children and Young People: we are thankful for the close links we have with John Mayne school. Julie Lupton and Linda Harman regularly come to take assemblies and we were very sorry to lose Andrew Littlewood from the rota. Generally, every week the school has an assembly provided by the church. We are delighted to welcome the school into the church for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. Active Church in Smarden continues to receive lots of focus and is very much a benefice event. We also have bi-monthly All Age services in Biddenden though attendance is patchy but significant.
- Child and Vulnerable Adults' protection: safeguarding is taken very seriously by the church. The Church of England has been rolling out training nationally for this. Thank you to Julie Lupton for helping to organise the training for the relevant persons in the parish.
- Collaboration: we work in a group ministry which is most visible on Group Sundays. We also organise a Marriage Preparation morning between the churches. We are also developing more contact with the pastor of the Church of the Weald, (Carl Maidment), who lives in the parish. We also support a Food Bank which is based in Ashford. Many thanks for all those who make donations to this.
- Deanery: currently Biddenden does not have a Deanery representative. No new volunteers were noted. Smarden PCC put forward a proposal to the Deanery Synod to change the rules governing PCC membership to allow non-communicant members to be part of a PCC. This motion has been accepted by the Deanery, debated by the Diocesan Synod and will now be debated at General Synod.
- Fundraising and events: from our financial accounts, we can see the significance of fundraising and convey many thanks for the huge effort that is involved in this.
- Gift Stall: Julie Lupton now manages this and if anyone is happy to take over, it would be most appreciated.
- Coffee Call in: an important part of the weekly calendar. A core number of 4-8 people attend each week. Pam Brown sadly died but was a regular member of the coffee call in.
- Homemakers: Elizabeth Rickwood spoke about the regular talks that are given and well received by the group.
- Keeping the church open: thank you for all the help to maintain the regular opening of the church. Now we can let people welcome on their own (previously they needed to work in pairs) and Joanna Winston would like to thank all those who help with this. Their plans for a welcoming table and new ideas to make the experience more interesting for visitors.
- Fabric: we are very grateful for Julie Lupton for all her hard work and the detailed report that she has written. Any further volunteers to join the Fabric team would be appreciated. A question was raised with respect to painting the interior of the church to make it look brighter. This is not currently allowed due to DAC restrictions. There are issues with damp parts of the walls which we may be allowed to look at.
- Churchyard: this is well looked after by Chris Cox and his team and we are enormously grateful for all their hard work. Six mowers are on a rota and Chris is very grateful for their help. A round of applause was given.
- Bellringers: a great improvement since last year and they have expanded to 13 people who regularly ring. They meet to practise on Thursdays. They are looking to ring at every service. They have rung at special services such as the Remembrance service. All going very well and new members are always welcome.

- Church flowers: the Annual Flower Festival is organised by the church flower team led by Jeanette Oatway. This is the single biggest fundraiser for the church each year and thanks were conveyed for all their hard work. They are always looking for new volunteers.
- Magazine: currently is the single biggest contributor to parish funds at the moment and thanks were given to Paul and Anne Webster for their hard work on this. A round of applause was given. Simon Burgess and Julian Burtenshaw were also thanked for their hard work in the distribution of the magazine.
- Website – working very well and being used regularly. It was a great communication tool when Alex was in Sri Lanka to keep in touch with the parish.
- Health and Safety: still looked after by Mark Clixby who has given a full report. There are issues that need to be attended to which may be difficult, such as the ramp area. Thank you to Mark for his work and support.

Financial Statement

Peter Cutts, the treasurer, stated that the report should be relatively consistent with last year. It may be slightly difficult to reconcile to last year's report as the flower account was not incorporated into the Payments & Receipts statement. 2017 has been a good year financially for Biddenden as the income has more or less balanced the payments. The Friends of All Saints Biddenden have given £4.5K for the insurance this year, and the Parish Council have also made contributions for which we are very grateful. Cleaning costs have not been incurred last year and we also need to make some backdated payments to the Apollos Trust which may affect 2018 figures. The Sri Lanka funds raised will need to come out of the 2018 budget. The Stewardship campaign that has been run this year looks optimistic and so planned giving should increase. Peter would like to thank Brian Bennewith for all his hard work as well as Jeanette Oatway and David Spry for their hard work. A round of applause was given.

5. Other reports

The Friends of All Saints Biddenden is a separate charity to the PCC. Colin Daly would like to thank Paul Webster for his hard work and Paul thanked Colin for his work.

6. Reading of Bequests. Read by Tanya Ling (as attached)

Peter Whitestone asked if the graves were inspected and looked after. Chris Cox confirmed that they were in a good order.

Elections

7.a Lay Person to Deanery Synod:

Currently have no representation on the Deanery Synod and Alex stressed how important this body was. There were no nominations.

7.b PCC Members

Colin Steere is sadly standing down and many warm thanks were given for his contributions.

No new PCC member nominations were raised.

Alex would like to give his thanks for all the time and work that the PCC members give to the parish.

7.c Sidpersons:

The following were appointed en bloc, proposed by Ann Courtness and seconded by Julie Lupton. All in favour:

Denise Bennewith, John Betts, Chris Hautot, Elizabeth Rickwood, Sally Whitestone, Joanna Winston, Colin Steere, Simon Burgess, Pam Littlewood

7.d Electoral Roll Officer:

Tanya Ling

Proposed by Stephanie Boucher, Seconded by Peter Whitestone. All in favour.

8. Independent Examiner:

David Spry has kindly volunteered to be the Independent Examiner for next year. Proposed by Colin Daley and seconded by Simon Burgess. Warm thanks and a round of applause were given.

9. Church Terrier & Inventory

The Church Terrier & Inventory summarises all the fittings that the church owns. An ongoing list of work is kept on the fabric of the church. Thanks to Julie for keeping it up to date this year and thanks to Linda and Tony Webb who ensured this was brought up to date when Linda was churchwarden. It has been signed by Ann Courtness.

10. Rectors Remarks

Thanks were given to Sharon Muskett, Ann Giles Moira Eastwick, and Anne Webster for their work on keeping the linen fresh and clean.

Amy Sinclair has been an important welcomer and verger for funerals and weddings and has been doing it for over twenty years. We are very grateful to her for her work and are saddened to hear of her bad health.

We would like to remember the following people who sadly died last year – Tim Kitchin and Andrew Littlewood.

Looking ahead, there is great change as Catherine Wilson will be leaving us as her curacy comes to an end in June so a farewell service will be given on the 8th July (tbc).

The PCC have plans for the coming year which include experimenting keeping the church open by implementing CCTV with a trial period at weekends to see how this works,. There are also discussions around the possibility of a phone mast being placed in the church tower which would be a revenue stream for the church. The PCC have appointed an agent who will liaise with Vodafone. As yet, no correspondence has been received from Vodafone. This is ongoing and we cannot assume it will go ahead.

There are challenges ahead which include the Benefice team being reduced, congregation numbers declining and the need for more young people to attend church. We will be welcoming a large number of new families due to the new homes being built and we need to consider how we can welcome these new people.

The churchyard has had some issues where churchyard regulations have been broken with some memorials to recent burials. This is a very sensitive subject and we are hoping for a peaceful resolution for this problem. Alex asked everyone to keep this in their prayers. We are running out of space in the churchyard and the PCC are looking at alternative Places for burial

Many thanks were conveyed to Ian Rickwood who has been a server at our church for over twenty years and has now stepped down from doing this. A round of applause was given. Ian would like to thank the PCC for their kind gift.

Ann Courtness thanked Alex and Catherine for all their work and guidance. Catherine will be greatly missed and thank you for her work during Alex's sabbatical. Ann would like to thank all the church family who help look after the church.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with prayers at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

All Saints Church Biddenden
Minutes of the new All Saints PCC meeting
Held on Tuesday 17th April 2017 at 9pm

Attendance: Alex Bienfait, Catherine Wilson, Ann Courtness, Tanya Ling, Peter Cutts, Paul Webster, Joanna Winston, Julie Lupton

Appointment of Secretary: Tanya Ling was proposed by Ann Courtness and seconded by Joanna Winston. All in favour.

Appointment of Treasurer: Peter Cutts proposed by Joanna Winston and seconded by Julie Lupton. All in favour.

Agenda

- Electricity proposal – Peter has spoken with EON and SSE to sort out our annual electricity contract. Peter is going to cancel the EON contract as they are more expensive and we can then look at SSE or another company for a cheaper deal.
All in favour.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 8^h May at 730pm at the Cabin.

BEQUESTS

Mrs Elizabeth Ellen Hall, deceased

Received of the Executors of the Will of the above-named deceased the sum of one hundred pounds bequeathed to us upon Trusts declared in the following terms:

“I wish to be buried in the churchyard of All Saints' Church, Biddenden aforesaid in the same grave as my late husband, Charles Henry Edward Hall, if this is in the opinion of my Trustees be practicable and convenient and I give to the Churchwardens of the said Church and their successors the sum of £100 in trust to invest the same in any investment hereby authorised and to apply the income thereof in or towards keeping the said Churchyard in good order and repair and I request that they will keep the said grave (which is numbered 72 and 73) and the tombstone or monument thereon in good order and condition and I declare that if the grave or monument shall at any time in the opinion of my Trustees be not so kept in good order and condition then the said trust fund and the income thereof shall thereupon rest in and become transferable and payable to the British Red Cross Society for the general purposes of the said organisation”.

Signed

Churchwardens, All Saints' Church

December 1954.

Biddenden

Dence Bequest

1. That it should be recorded in the Minute Book that the money invested, in the names of the Wardens for the time being and the Parochial Church Council, in £2,100 worth of 2½% Consols, and the annual interest thereon shall not be used for any other purpose than the maintenance and beautifying of the Churchyard and the grave of Mrs Dence in accordance with the conditions of a bequest from the late Mr A.H. Dence in May 1950.
2. That a similar record be placed in the Churchyard Account Book.
3. That this resolution should be read at all future Annual Parochial Church Meetings for the guidance of newly elected Officials and Council Members.

Note from Jenny Aers re: 3rd Bequest:

With regard to the Reading of Bequests (in the last wallet of this section) I have included the detail of the Bequests for Hall and Dence but I don't have the wording for the new Bequest i.e. for Grace Marjory Smith. The referring minute 01/43.4 reads: “£5000 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard and in particular her grave in perpetuity”.