

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SMARDEN

EASTER VESTRY MEETING

Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held
on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 8pm
in St. Michael the Archangel, Smarden.

Present:

Rector: Rev'd Alex Bienfait (in the chair),
PCC Members: Thomas Hay, Edward Demery, Michael Barkway, Vivienne Rose,
Stuart Tucker
Treasurer Ewa Loffstadt
Secretary: Tanya Ling
Parishioners: 22 Members

The meeting was opened with a reading and prayers led by Alex Bienfait.

Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting, business was then conducted as follows:

2. **Appointment of Clerk:**

Tanya Ling was appointed as the Clerk. Proposed Annette Haynes and seconded by Stuart Tucker. All in favour.

3. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Marcus and Pat Palmer, Tony and Pat Lush, Alex Demery, Carol Barkway, Miranda Hay, David King

3. **Minutes of Easter Vestry Meeting 2018:**

The minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting held on 24th April 2018 had been circulated. It was proposed by Mike Barkway and seconded by Vivienne Rose that these minutes be approved. All in favour.

4. **Election of Churchwardens:**

Two nominations for the role of Churchwarden had been received, as follows:

- Edward Peter Demery, proposed by Tony Richter and seconded by Jim Carr.
- Thomas Hay, proposed by Brian Bristow and seconded by Tony Richter.

All in favour.

There being no further nominations, Edward Peter Demery and Thomas Hay were duly elected as Churchwardens with a unanimous vote of approval. **Action** Office to check the term dates for both churchwardens.

Alex conveyed his warm thanks to both Edward and Tom for all their support.

There being no further business to be conducted at the Vestry Meeting, the meeting closed at 8.05pm and was immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Signed _____

Dated _____

**St Michael the Archangel Smarden
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th April 2019 in St. Michael the Archangel, Smarden**

Attendance and Apologies were noted as being the same as for the Vestry Meeting and Alex Bienfait chaired this meeting.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th April 2018 had been circulated. It was proposed by Brian Bristow and seconded by Hugh Perrott that the minutes be approved by the Chairman. All in favour.

2. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

3. REPORTS REQUIRED BY LAW

3.1 Electoral Roll

David King, the Electoral Roll Officer could not attend the meeting so Tanya Ling reported that the New Electoral Roll listed 71 persons as currently registered on the Parish's Electoral Roll for 2018/19, which was 2 less than the previous year. Every six years the Church of England requires each parish to create an up to date membership list so this year a new Electoral roll was created. The Electoral Roll Officer contacted those on the previous electoral roll with a new electoral roll form by mail. The Electoral roll enables us to stay in touch with the congregation and gives them the right to vote at our Annual Church Meeting. Alex would like to thank David King for all his work on the Electoral Roll

3.2. Annual Report and Financial Statement year ended 31st December 2018

All reports included in this section, which were the reports required by law, had been circulated with the agenda. This covered a summary of PCC business, a review of achievements and performance, the Secretary's report, Financial statement and accounts and the Deanery Synod report.

Annual Report:

PCC Members report

This is a summary of the aims and purposes of the PCC business for the year. This includes the various meetings throughout the year.

Ministry

It was noted with sadness that Catherine Wilson left in July last year. Also noted the departure of John Lowings who moved away from the village but played a large part in our church work.

Administration

Implementation of the GDPR policy has been done on over the last year to ensure all data is protected.

Active Church

This is now seven years old and continues with attendees from both Biddenden and Smarden. 15-20 adults and 15-20 children are the average attendance.

Walk Church

This new form of worship started last year and highlights the way worship in the church is diversifying, offering a bigger range of opportunities to pray and worship.

Smarden School

We maintain close links with Smarden school and this is shared with Zion Chapel.

Safeguarding

Within the church, this is a growing issue for the care of children and vulnerable adults.

Julie Lupton is the parish disclosure officer and Sian Newman is our Safeguarding Officer

Music and choir

We are hugely grateful to the music and choir group and lucky to have two organists including Jane Whiteley. Alex would like to thank the choir for their work and dedication. It was noted with sadness that Bob Barnes our organist is standing down in May. A card and gift is being organised for him to show our many thanks for all his hard work. Mark Wilson will be stepping up as the organist and will be playing for three Sundays per month and the fourth Sunday will be covered by a rota.

Learning

Study and learning is very important and encourage all to think about prayer. Currently no group in Smarden, consider joining the Biddenden learning group run by Julie Lupton and Martin Giles which runs fortnightly.

Deanery

Deanery covers a large geographical area. Smarden PCC has made a proposal to enable non communicant electoral roll members to be elected to the PCC and this was passed by the Deanery Synod. This will now be debated at General Synod.

Fabric

Thanks were noted to the work done by the FOSC group who raise funds towards the upkeep of the church.

Churchyard

Thank you to Brian Bristow and Marcus Palmer for their work on the upkeep of the churchyard. Thanks were also noted to Stuart Tucker who has joined the mowing group and to Alan and Gaynor Hipkiss for their extra work.

Magazine

A fundamental part of community life within Smarden village and thank you to Alan for all his work on this.

St. Michaels Guild

Alex would like to thank all the work that the Sacristan team do as the standard is very high and hugely appreciated.

Flower Arrangers

Thank you to all the team and all the work that they do. It was noted that it is lovely that Pat Palmer manages so well to welcome all people who are not part of the worshipping community as part of the team.

Bell ringers

Two new members to the bell ringer team and grateful for all their work.

Financial

Ewa Loffstadt is our Treasurer and Stephen Crowe, carried out an examination of the accounts. There was a query on the Austen legacy of £14K, as what the restriction are. It is restricted to the Building and Fabric costs. It was noted that this legacy gave a distorted view to the 2018 accounts as they would not have been as healthy in its absence. Thank you to Ewa for all her hard work this year and thank you to Stephen.

4. ELECTIONS

4.a PCC Members

Stuart Tucker was co-opted onto the PCC since last APCM and now proposed by Edward Demery and seconded by Tom Hay. All in favour.

No further nominations. New members always welcome.

4.b Deanery Synod Representatives

Currently we do not have a representative for the Deanery Synod. No nominations were made.

4.c Sidespersons:

The following were nominated en bloc, proposed by x and seconded by x. All in favour.

Alex Demery, Valerie Newing, Marcus Palmer, John Hardy, Brian Bristow, Terry Sherman, Annette Haynes, Joan Mortley, Hugh Perrott, David King, Edward Demery, Carol Barkway, Mike Barkway. Tom and Edward expressed their thanks to the sidespersons for their hard work.

4.d. Independent Examiner:

Stephen Crowe has kindly offered to continue as Independent Examiner. He is willing to act without charge. The meeting expressed their gratitude to Stephen. Proposed by Brian Bristow and seconded by A. Haynes. All in favour.

5. Rector's Remarks

Alex commented how proud and pleased he was that the church community does great work outside of the church and have a great concern for all those around us. Alex conveyed his thanks to Tom and Edward for all their continued hard work and support as churchwardens.

Vivienne and Edward would like to thank Alex who does a great deal for the church and works exceptionally hard with great enthusiasm.

Brian would like to thank for those who help to fly the church flag and to the Smarden History group who help to show the church. It is lovely to see people outside of Smarden admiring the church.

6. DATE OF NEXT APCM: To be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting was finished with a prayer and closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Dated.....