

AGENDA

2018 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PURBROOK,
SUNDAY 24th March 2019 11.15am
In the Church Hall

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS:

- Election of Churchwardens

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

- Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Apologies
- Minutes of the last APCM
- Electoral Roll
- Election of PCC
- PCC Report
- Comments on reports from Church Groups
- Examined Accounts for 2018
- PCC Election Results
- Election of Deanery Synod
- Appointment of Sidespersons
- Your Say in 30 seconds
- Reverend Andy, Closing remarks
- Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Sunday 29th April 2018 in the Church Hall

Election of Churchwardens

This meeting was attended by 32 people.

The Revd Connie Sherman thanked Bill Jeffery for his enormously hard work as Church Warden in the last year.

Bill is happy to continue as Church Warden for a further year and was proposed and seconded as follows:

Proposed by Joan Robertson and Seconded by Marion Pegg.

Everyone present gave unanimous agreement for Bill to continue in his role.

Although a second position is vacant, there have been no other interested candidates. The vacancy will therefore remain unfilled.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 29th April 2018 in the Church Hall

The meeting was opened by the Revd Connie Sherman with a welcome and an opening prayer.

The meeting was attended by 30 members of the electoral roll and by 2 non-voting guests.

Apologies: Mr Philip Hill and Mrs Margaret Selby.

Minutes of the last ACPM: These were adopted and unanimously accepted by all in attendance.

Electoral Roll: The roll was reported as having 73 members.

It was highlighted that being on the electoral roll allows individuals to include emergency contact details enabling contact to be made in the event of an emergency at a service etc. It was further confirmed that the Roll is kept secure and is only available to the Incumbent and Church Warden/Electoral Roll Officer. Meeting attendees were encouraged to make contact with Bill Jeffery if they need to make changes/updates to this information.

The electoral roll is renewed every five years (and in 2018, there are a further 2 years before renewal is necessary).

Election of PCC: The Revd Connie advised that there were two vacancies on the PCC following Yvette Tipping's decision to step down, and also as a result of the conclusion of Philip Summers' term of office.

Philip Summers has applied to stand again but no other candidates have been forthcoming.

All present were in agreement for Philip to stand again and congratulations were expressed to him, together with thanks to the PCC for all that they do.

The PCC Report and Reports from Church Groups: All present were asked if they had any questions or comments regarding any of the reports which had been presented within the Annual Report. Clarification was made regarding the comment made in the Warden's Report – that 'our electoral roll has just 27 members from the 8,500 souls that live in the parish' i.e. of the 73 members on the electoral roll, only 27 live in the parish.

The Revd Connie commented on the large number of Church Groups which exist and thanked all the Groups for the reports they had submitted, expressing thanks for the wonderful commitment from each of the Group Leaders.

Examined Accounts for 2017: The accounts were presented by Philip Summers.

Philip shared that the Independent Examiner had commented on how well presented the accounts were and also on how easy to follow they were. Mrs Maureen Francis was thanked for the wonderful job she does.

Philip presented a high level overview of the accounts (as presented within the Annual Report). The parish share is consistently paid each month, gift aid donations are increasing as too are sundry receipts and donations. Whilst it was noted that the Broadways Coffee Shop income had slightly reduced, it was also highlighted how important the Coffee Shop is within the Purbrook community and how popular it is.

The Revd Connie then shared her comments. She thanked Philip and Maureen for their continued hard work in keeping the finances up to date. Thanks were also expressed to Bill Jeffery for his 'Warden's Initiative' which allowed St John's to recover financially following the unfortunate incident at the end of 2017. Enormous thanks were also expressed to everyone for their wonderful financial support to St John's.

The Revd Connie confirmed that a risk assessment following the 2017 incident, had resulted in the production and introduction of Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the managing of the church finances. She also highlighted that the 'Viability Focus Review' (VFR) document had been updated and copies were available for perusal.

Gift Aid (and 'small collection' amounts i.e. under £20.00) was discussed and the fact that St John's is always looking for new initiatives for the benefit of the Church. The Revd Connie also commented that it is important to be realistic. There is a cost for mission – the Coffee Shop is safe, gives individual's company and a wonderful place for a chat.

It was highlighted that the Church Hall income is an important element of our total revenue. The hall is a wonderful asset which many churches do not have and an asset which should be cherished.

The Revd Connie then shared that, sadly, Mrs Maureen Francis has decided to step down from her role as Assistant Treasurer with effect from the 2019 APCM. Maureen was thanked for her professionalism and how perfect she has been. As a Church community, Revd Connie advised that deep thought and prayer are required regarding our next steps in relation to this role. Both Maureen and the PCC are already in thought, and comments from the Church community are very welcome.

The Revd Connie also shared that Janet Dover, St John's organist, is also sadly stepping down in August 2018 and a new organist will need to be sought.

GDPR: The Revd Connie explained that changes to General Data Protection Rules effective from 25th May 2018, necessitates St John's Church inviting everyone to complete an appropriate Data Protection form, allowing the Church to keep in contact with everyone after

25th May. St John's forms were introduced to all meeting attendees and will be gradually shared with all regular Church attendees and interested people over the next few weeks and months. Retention of existing Church documents is still to be investigated in conjunction with Church of England and GDPR guidelines.

Election of Deanery Synod: Roger Gregg and Diane Coulson-Bisiker continue in their roles. No election is necessary this year.

Appointment of Sidesmen: thanks were extended to all our Sidesmen (Appendix 1 attached shares the names of the current team).

The current team of 9 are all happy to be re-appointed. Thanks were given to Mrs Peggy Thomson and Miss Barbara Stebbings who have decided to step down from their roles but whose support as sidesmen has been so appreciated.

Your Say in 30 seconds:

Ted Harfield: Thanked everyone who gives so generously to the Food Bank. (And thanks were also expressed to Ted and Sarah for all they do in coordinating the Food Bank items).

Margaret Ludford: On behalf of St John's Little Lambs, Margaret shared that income received from those attending only covers half of the costs of the hire of Deverill Hall with the outstanding balance being covered by team members. Margaret enquired whether support from St John's PCC could be gained to make up the shortfall? To be discussed at the next PCC meeting in June 2018.

Marion Pegg: Thanked Bill and Val Jeffery and Pat and Alfie Wootten for all that they do for St John's.

Pat Wootten: Highlighted the work of the 'Open the Book' team at Purbrook Infants School and shared that cakes are made for the teachers on the occasions that the team visit the school. Pat asked for some regular volunteers to help support the making of the cakes (for 20), which are only required on a monthly basis.

Val Jeffery: Highlighted that it would be wonderful to support 2 other schools in the Parish i.e. Purbrook Junior School and Crookhorn College, with cakes i.e. to show them that the Church is thinking about them and praying for them.

Paul Ludford: Shared that he had volunteered as a performer within the 'Open the Book' team and was enjoying the experience very much. "Just looking at the children's faces – they love it". But more volunteers to help as part of the team would be so appreciated.

Paul Ludford: Confirmed that from the 'Everyone Welcome' initiative, an evening House Group had been successfully formed in the last year. Paul welcomed the opportunity for an afternoon House Group to be formed, to grow spiritually and as part of the body of the Church.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.20pm.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Monday 4th June at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

Vicar's Report

2018 was another year of change for St John's, as Revd Connie Sherman moved on in July to take up a position as Chaplain to the University of Portsmouth. Connie was at St John's for five years and we are grateful to her for her ministry here. Connie sought to build upon links with the schools and to develop the ministry on the Berewood estate. She was a good colleague in the Portsdown Cluster.

Then, at the end of the year, Revd Julie Jones stood down from her ministry as Associate Priest. Julie's ministry at St John's had been limited by ill health, but we are grateful for what she had been able to do here.

I was delighted that the Bishop asked me to come to Purbrook as Priest-in-Charge. In some ways it is quite daunting adding an additional church to my existing responsibility as Vicar of Christ Church Portsdown, and during 2019 we will need to look at ways of working more efficiently across the two churches. I hope that this will not only make this more manageable for me but will also benefit both parishes as they learn from each other and grow together.

I am grateful for those who worked so hard during the vacancy to keep things going, and especially to Bill Jeffery, whose duties as the sole churchwarden have stretched way beyond what should be expected of one person.

Jacqui and I are also grateful for the warm welcome that we have received at St John's and we are enjoying living in Purbrook.

This is a critical time for St John's. The next couple of years will determine whether we thrive and grow or fade away into obscurity. I am praying fervently that it will be the former.

Revd Andy Wilson
Priest-in-Charge

Warden's Report

My greatest concern in 2018 was the departure of Revd. Connie, a great loss to our church, our congregation and our parish, and a very personal loss to many of us. Connie will be very sadly missed but we can't live in the past, we must look forward and consider this as a kairos moment (remember Kairos?), a critical and opportune time for action, a time for growth and a time for improvement!

It is inevitable that, as last year, this year's report will be influenced by thoughts and ideas brought to mind by my additional roles as Electoral Roll Officer, member of the PCC, member of the Finance and Standing Committee; part time vergger; part time sacristan; acting hall manager; member of our fabric team; chorister and member of our Viability Focus Team.

The number of people on our electoral roll was reasonably static throughout the year but it's very sad that it includes the names of just thirty or so people who live in the parish, just thirty of the 8,500 souls available to us, surely we can do better than that? It's this lack of people that affects our viability, but more of that later

Attendance at our Sunday services dropped again in 2018, Revd. Connie's departure probably had some affect so we should see a dramatic improvement in 2019 when we again have a resident incumbent. We also experienced a slight reduction in the number of Weddings and Baptisms, but again that was to be expected.

This seems a good place to recognise and express our gratitude to the visiting clergy who served us so well during the interregnum. **Thank you to all those who gave their time and talents so readily!** Overall the 2018 interregnum was much easier to deal with than others we've experienced and I'm sure that it was partly due to having our Area Dean and Vicar-in-waiting right on our doorstep. Thank you Andy.

The year started with much consternation regarding the scammed loss from our church funds of £10,500 but with the overwhelming response to our Warden's Initiative appeal we received donations that not only mitigated but exceeded the sum originally lost. Do you remember this from 2 Corinthians? *In the midst of a very severe trial they gave as much as they were able Entirely on their own, And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.* How true!

Our VFM team met intermittently during the year and prepared for a close-out meeting with Archdeacon Joanne and members of the Diocesan staff that was to take place in June but that was cancelled as a result of Revd Connie's departure. The team reviewed their work to date (June and August 2018) and agreed that whilst many of the initiatives had been successfully implemented others were yet to be addressed and it is hoped that the team can be reformed later in 2019.

The Suspension to the Right of Presentation expires in June 2019 and will be reviewed by Bishop Christopher but, subsequent to Revd. Andy's appointment, it is unlikely to immediately affect our church or parish.

Our family space has proved to be a great success and is used each Sunday morning and most Sunday evenings, it has also proved to be a popular attraction at wedding and funerals. We still hope to improve the heating to the area and apply coloured wood dye to the whitewood furniture so 'watch that space'.

Second to the church, our church hall is our most valuable asset and is very well used to the benefit of our congregation and our parish. Happy Hearts preschool use the hall every weekday, the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides each meet there one evening a week and Singing for Fun use it most Thursday evenings. Various church groups also make frequent use of the hall and our Open the Book team use the upper room for rehearsals. There were about a dozen casual hires in 2018 providing an income of about £900.

Each private user subsidises use of the hall by our church organisations. They pay our cleaner, they buy our gas and electricity and they help pay our Parish Share. Their use ensures the building is always warm and dry. **Without them our church expenditure would exceed our income.** They are an asset we should value and cherish

The hall is also our second most expensive asset, particularly with regard to the cost of time. There are occasional hires to arrange and manage, Happy Hearts deserve a weekly visit and a quarterly review, Bev, our cleaner, deserves far more support and assistance than she presently receives, we need to reappoint 'champions' to each user group.

It goes without saying that we desperately need a person to take ownership of our hall and the many groups it hosts and to arrange and manage our casual hirers.

We need a hall manager.

Can you help?

Have I ever told you that we need a vergger? We need someone to manage the inside of the church and its furniture & fittings; someone to visit Saturday mornings and show the church

some TLC, to help maintain the altar frontals and drapes, perhaps sweep the footpaths and keep the tower tidy.

We need a verger.

Can you help?

Guess what? We also need a sacristan. Someone to look after our communion linen, to help with the altar frontals and drapes, to look after the ministers' robes and make sure they're and always clean and pressed.

We need a sacristan.

Can you help?

We were very sad to lose the skills of Janet our organist in August and after her five years of very faithful service it came as quite a shock. We have since enjoyed Pat Wootten's expertise but still need to identify and appoint a replacement for Janet.

We need an organist.

Can you help?

Finally I would like to thank all those who contribute towards the smooth running of our church and our church services. PCC members, brass cleaners, servers, after-service-coffee-makers, flower arrangers, caretakers and cleaners (particularly Bev, who keeps our hall so clean), stewards and sides people, readers, intercessors, bell ringers, our rest home communion team, lay assistants, youth leaders, toddler group leaders, servers, gardeners, coffee shop workers, the magazine contributors, editors, printers and delivery team., those who organize our social and fund raising events. The team from the New Blendworth Centre deserve a special mention for keeping the church yard so tidy.

When we needed help.

You were there, thank you!

I must again thank Revd. Julie and Revd Connie for their ministry at Purbrook. Julie provided much needed support to Connie and Connie was an inspiration to us all. A gifted leader, and an inspirational preacher who guided us through a very difficult period of change.

Thank you Connie, we shall miss you.

And now we look forward to a new beginning, and a time to welcome and support Revd. Andy as our Priest-in-Charge, a time for spiritual growth and a time to identify fresh opportunities to develop our Christian presence in the community.

I close on a sombre note: It is imperative that we recognise we are at a critical point in the life of St. John's, that the number of people prepared to take responsibility for the proper operation of our church is falling below that critical mass necessary for viability and survival. Unless we attract and appoint people to the key roles that are presently vacant, **St. John's will fail.**

Thank you for granting me the privilege as serving as your churchwarden, it's been a joy and a pleasure.

Bill Jeffery

Open The Book

The Open the Book team continue to take the assembly at Purbrook Infant School once a month in term time. We have enormous fun doing something really worth-while. Open the Book is the brainchild of The Bible Society. We read stories from The Storyteller Bible and involve the children in acting the stories out. Our team is only four strong at present - if anyone would be happy making a complete idiot of him or herself in a very good cause, we

would be VERY glad of your help. The children really enjoy these assemblies, and when they meet us outside of school say things like, Oh, I know you. You're in The Bible! Which makes us feel a little old, but who cares.

Two of us, as a spin-off from OTB, go into the school on Monday afternoons to help some of the children with reading, which is hugely appreciated by the school. And some of our lovely St John's people make cakes for us to take in to the staff on alternate visits, an initiative called Praybake,

We do our storytelling on a Wednesday. We meet on the two previous Tuesdays to run through the story and how we'll present it. Everyone deserves a medal, but special thanks to June who quietly and efficiently produce as if by magic all the props we need - often very complex ones. Thank you June. Thank you all. Please think, is this something YOU too could do??

Marion Pegg

St. John`s Christian Giving Scheme

We currently have 35 contributing subscribers of which 5 are married couples.

Weekly Envelopes 14 members (we claim Gift Aid on 9)

Monthly Direct Debits 5 members (we claim Gift Aid on 4).

Quarterly Direct Debit 1 (we claim Gift Aid).

Gift Aid allows us to claim from a tax payer's donation, 25p for every one pound given.

We have now used the Parish Giving Scheme for two years and it has proved very popular. It saves a lot of administration work and time. Contributors pay by direct debit on the first of the month to the Church of England central account in Gloucester. We then receive the total amount given by contributors and tax claimed on the tenth of the month. Hence we have a constant known income each month. With in-house standard gift aid, it is claimed quarterly and involves form filling and being sent to The Diocese of Portsmouth, who then claim for every parish in the diocese, our payment is then received a couple of months later.

We have lost quite a few members during the past year, but hope that new members will come forward to help sustain our church.

Christopher

Stitch Up Craft Group

We continue to meet at the Coffee Shop on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3.30pm. Our numbers vary from 6 to about 10. You don't have to knit - you can do anything vaguely crafty - but mostly we knit. People either work on their own projects or knit bonding squares for very tiny babies and their mums, or jumpers for various charities working in very poor countries, or knit baptism shawls for babies baptised at St John's and prayer shawls which can be offered to bereaved families. (When you feel you can't pray, the people of St John's will be praying for you.) We have loads of fun and choc bics and tea. Some of our number definitely come more for the company, chat and laughter than for the knitting! You don't have

to be an expert - there's plenty of help and advice on hand. Anyone can join us - please just come along

Marion Pegg

Young People in St Johns

The creation of the children's area within the church building in 2017 proved very welcome and useful for families attending our church services. The new furniture added in 2018 made this area look most welcoming. This allows families to attend in a more 'user friendly space' which can be configured to suit the age range of children attending. The Kidzone provision was discontinued in 2018 as there was not a core number of younger children who attended on a regular basis. There are however several families who attend with children 8 years and under on an infrequent basis. Quiet toys and colouring activities are always available for use during the church service and lectionary-based craft activities are provided on an ad-hoc basis depending on resources and people available.

Children are encouraged to take part in 10am service whenever possible or appropriate; including bible readings, intersessional prayer reading, presenting the elements for Eucharist or taking the offering.

Breakfast church in 2018 continued to be a success with one being held every couple of months. Topics included Candlemas, Palm Sunday, Trinity Sunday and Harvest. These are well supported by the congregation and often attended by families who are bringing their child for baptism.

Lorna Hill

Broadways Coffee Shop

We have had a busy and interesting year. Takings have increased, partly due to our hard working and dedicated staff. The year has not been without extra expenses, a new Jura Coffee Machine had to be purchased (partly paid for by very generous customers) and the staff trained by the engineer on the various functions (setting up and closing down, daily: descaling and tablet cleaning every 10 days).

Repairs were also required to the roof and walls, plus small plumbing replacements, and the shop front painted.

We have been inspected by the Senior Environmental Health Officer for Havant and proudly retain our 5 stars, the coffee shop is run to Food Agency Standards.

We have hosted the Macmillan Coffee Morning raising £430.00 in three hours. Also the Gideon's annual open afternoon.

We raised £890.00 from the sale of produce given to us.

The shop is used out of hours:

Monday evening once a month, The W.I. Games Evening.

Tuesday afternoons, spinning.

Wednesday evening 1st& 3rd of the month, Vestry Hour

Wednesday evening, Bible study.

Wednesday afternoon, Occasionally The 3c`s.(Cancer, Chat, Coffee), when room not available at QA hospital.

Thursday afternoon Stitch Up.

Thursday evenings quarterly The Gideon's.

Friday evening Ukulele Group.

We would always welcome new volunteers and any offer of help, to join our happy band, as there is lots of behind the scene work to do to keep the shop running

Christopher

Bible Study Group

We are now back to meeting on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 to 9pm in the Coffee Shop. We are usually about 8 in number. This is a lovely little close knit supportive group of followers of The Way. We mainly use the York Study courses produced by the C of E.as we find them interesting, challenging, very well researched and relevant to our everyday lives as Christians. Each section of text in the study booklet is surrounded by bullet point boxes with pertinent reflections from fellow pilgrims such as David Suchet, Judi Dench and Barak Obama. We are in splendid company!

When we have finished a course of study we have a games evening. Anyone unfortunate enough to arrive for the first time on a games evening is brave indeed if they keep coming, considering the fiercely competitive Bingo which takes place!

The group is ably led by Keith Scutt, everyone's opinion is heard and respected, anything personal is kept totally confidential...

EVERYONE is welcome. We have added several new members during the year and also lost a couple .Please do come and study God's word (and have fun) with us.

Marion Pegg

Social Team

Events organised in 2018:

Lent Hunger Lunches

A Summer Fete - £1,300 raised

Coach Trip to Brownsea Island - £37 over

Tea Party at Windsor Court

Open Day at Paul & Margaret's - £340 raised

Quiz night with Fish & Chips £100 raised

Christmas Market - £951 raised

Christmas Concert - £252 raised

Christmas Tree Festival

Bric-a-Brac Sale - £112 raised

Total raised: £3,092.

We are also grateful to Jane and David Tull for organising another successful Pancake Party on 2nd March

The Social Team would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year, and we hope that you will continue to support us in 2019.

Events planned for 2019:

18th May - Cream Tea at Paul & Margaret's house

29th June - Summer Fete & Model Engineering exhibition

7th September - Coach trip to Hampton Court

Pat Wootten

Youth Group

The Youth Emmaus Course continues to run in the Upper room one Sunday a month.

We have up to seven young people who attend; the age range is 12-16 yrs.

We start the session with a small breakfast whilst we have a 'catch up' on any news/concerns from the young people. The course was preparation for Hannah's Confirmation last year.

We have covered various topics including Prayer, The Holy Spirit, Jesus - his death and resurrection and a session called 'hot potatoes' which dealt with some of the more tricky theological questions that arise around our Christian Faith.

I am assisted by Mel and it never ceases to amaze us the level of maturity of discussion from the young people. All attend Oaklands catholic school and we are very impressed with the knowledge that the young people demonstrate through their spiritual discussion.

Mel and I both feel we have learnt so much from the Youth and it is an absolute privilege to deliver this course.

Lesley Moore.

St John's Ukulele Band

We have a good strong band now of about 20 people who can play most types of music and will perform almost anywhere for a donation to Church funds.

Band practise is on Friday nights in the Broadways Coffee Shop from 7pm- 8.30pm.

On 28th April we played at the Pompulele Festival at the Students Union in Portsmouth.

Our latest concert was at the Acorn Centre Wecock Farm, to about 30 people, for a Valentine's lunch.

We hope to play at the Summer fete as well this year. We also have our own web site "St John's Ukulele band Purbrook" which shows our songs, photos, and lots of other information.

Alfie Wootten

Little Lambs

The St John's Little Lambs Toddler Group celebrated its first birthday in May and we are pleased to report that it is still providing a much needed service to parents and grandparents who like to meet up with others as their toddlers learn and have fun through play.

We continue to meet in the Deverell Hall on Thursday afternoons during term time and are supported by a dedicated and enthusiastic team. We take this opportunity to thank the team members for all their hard work which is very much appreciated. At the same time we welcome any other church members who would like to get involved in this worthwhile outreach initiative within our local community.

At the time of writing we have seventeen toddlers on our books although with it being an afternoon group unpredictable toddler naps tend to keep attending numbers somewhat lower than we would prefer. The unfortunate result of this is that the weekly subscriptions are insufficient to cover the rent of the hall. Acknowledging the importance of this mission opportunity the PCC have agreed that the shortfall will continue to be subsidised for the time being.

At Easter time we held an Easter Bonnet Party and during the Christmas party each toddler received a small gift. Once again the St John's Ukulele Group entertained us all during both parties. We are pleased to report that two of the parents have occasionally attended both the 10.00am service and Breakfast Church. We ensure that all church events are promoted within the group and this has resulted in a number attending some of our social events.

Please continue to support this group through your encouragement and prayers.

Margaret & Paul Ludford

Bell Ringers

We continue to ring for Sunday Service each week, we try to ring all six bells but struggle sometimes when ringers are away or sick. We hope that you all enjoy the ringing as much as we enjoy our time in the tower. Hopefully we are doing our job of reminding people to come to church.

We are always on the lookout for new recruits and this year we have two new ringers from the Ringing Remembers campaign, they are doing very well and one has just started to ring for Sunday Service which is a great achievement. If anyone hears of a person who says "I'd quite like a go at that" please send them to the tower on a Wednesday evening – we practice from seven till nine with the first thirty minutes dedicated to the learners to enable them to learn just a bit faster.

Some training days for ringers in the Portsmouth District have been held at the church and they are very grateful to St Johns for allowing this – this improves the ringing throughout the district.

We have also had requests from both Scouts and Beavers to visit to see the bells and chime them, when we have done this in the past we have managed to recruit so feel it's a worthwhile event.

We are still very happy to dedicate Sunday ringing and supply a certificate, for a special occasion (Birthday – Anniversary - or just for you!!) All we ask is that whoever requests this makes a donation into Church funds (not the Tower) in return please.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Jan Allnutt