

Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone.
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held in the Church on 25th October, 2020, at 11.45 a.m.

(These meetings were live-streamed and members of the congregation unable to come to church were able to watch online.)

Present:

Fr N D Bryson (Chairman), Mrs E Bryson, Mrs J O'Sullivan, Mr M Elvers, Mrs H Elvers, Mr M Coates, Mr M Nash, Mr R Baldock, Mr J Ardley, Mrs F Callaghan, Miss S Dray, Mrs I Horton, Mrs A Ponter, Mr G James, Dr T Samuelson, Mrs J Digby-Baker, Mrs M Gatehouse, Mrs K Svarts, Mrs S Sayers, Dr E Relle (Secretary).

Annual Parochial Meeting.

Election of Churchwardens:

Chairman expressed appreciation of the hard work of Mrs J O'Sullivan, who had now retired from office.

Mr M Elvers, nominated by Dr E Relle, seconded by Mr M Nash, was standing for election. There being no other candidates, Mr Elvers was **elected unanimously** by show of hands.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

1. Apologies received from: Miss V Stickland and Mrs D Tester

2. The Minutes of the APCM of 2019, previously displayed, were **accepted unanimously**.

3. Matters Arising: There were no questions on the reports (displayed on the parish website) that were not listed on the Agenda. These included reports on Anna Chaplaincy and Care Home Ministry, Belfry, Catering Corps, Forward in Faith, Flowers, Links with Families, Schools and Children, Mothers' Union, Ecumenical Links, Safeguarding and GDPR, and the Walsingham Pilgrimage.

4. Electoral Roll: Dr T Samuelson (Electoral Roll Officer) had updated the Electoral Roll and handed a copy to the Chairman. He reported that the Roll had fallen from 54 in 2019 to 47 in 2020; there had been 5 deaths, 6 removals, and 4 new members. Of the 2020 Roll, 20 members were resident and 27 non-resident.

5. Vicar's Report: Chairman reported on particular highlights of the year - notably the Confirmation of 5 candidates by the Bishop of Richborough, followed by their First Communion, and the Licensing by the Bishop at Lambeth of Mrs Bryson as a pioneer Anna Chaplain in this diocese. Since 2016, St Michael's had experienced a 54% improvement in attendance. A serious fall of plaster from the church ceiling had meant that the congregation had had to worship in the parish hall, and this had been followed by the Covid pandemic – with the result that only recently had the congregation been able once more to use the church building. He expressed particular appreciation to Mr M. Elvers, whose technical gifts were enabling people still at home to participate in a live-streamed Mass. Despite the challenges of this abnormal year, new people were still joining the congregation. He concluded with thanks to the recently retired Churchwarden, the Extended Ministry Team and the 2019 PCC.

6. PCC and Activities Report: Secretary briefly pointed out the extraordinary changes that

had taken place since the previous APCM, but mentioned the promising recent achievements of Heritage Open Day and Harvest Thanksgiving as signs of a growing “can-do” approach to present difficulties. Mission and outreach still figured in every PCC agenda, and the pandemic was creating new mission opportunities that should be recognised and used.

7 and 8. Financial Report and Trustees' Report: These had been displayed in church and on the website, and sent to the Diocese by the required date. They were unanimously **accepted**.

9. Churchwarden's Report: The report from Mrs J O'Sullivan, who had recently retired as churchwarden, focused mainly on the fabric of the church and halls, including the provision of the new WC for disabled users in the Vestry Hall, repairs to the drains of the Parish Hall, attention to the guttering and pointing of the Ascension Chapel, and work remaining to be done on the tower and the Parish Hall roof. Mrs O'Sullivan was arranging, at her own expense, for artificial grass to be laid in the area between the Vestry and Parish Halls. Those present expressed by a round of applause their **thanks** to Mrs O'Sullivan for all she had done for St Michael's during her years as Churchwarden.

10. Deanery Synod Report: This had been previously displayed and there were no questions.

11. Deanery Synod Elections: Dr E Relle, as a member of the Diocesan Synod, was now an *ex officio* member of the Deanery Synod. This meant that the parish was entitled to elect 2 further members to the Deanery Synod. Mrs E Bryson was duly elected (having previously attended meetings as a representative of Deanery Mission and Ministry, but without voting rights). There was no other candidate.

12. Election of PCC Members: Resignations had been received from Mrs F Callaghan, Mr M Coates and Mrs I Horton. The following were duly elected: Miss S Dray, Mrs M Gatehouse and Mrs K Svarts.

13. Election of Sidespersons: There was general agreement that this could be deferred until the role of sidespersons on Sunday mornings returned to normal.