**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISHIONERS (VESTRY) MEETING OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NINFIELD, HELD ON SUNDAY, 8 MARCH 2020 AT 10.10 A.M. IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

The meeting was Chaired by the Reverend Paul Frostick. The meeting was attended by 13 Parishioners.

1. **Election of Clerk for the Meeting.** Ann Ringrose was elected unopposed as clerk for the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Jim Hoad, Sarah Frostick, Zoe Jennings, John and Eileen Proctor and June Ive.
3. **The Minutes** of the Vestry Meeting held on 24 March 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were proposed by Jan Wood and seconded by Eileen Frostick as being a true record of the meeting. After a vote they were carried unanimously, agreed and signed by the Reverend Paul Frostick.
4. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
5. **Election of two Churchwardens.** Nominations had been received from Phil Ringrose and Catriona Owen and there being no other nominations they were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year. They are due to be sworn in at Battle on 15 June 2020.

**The meeting closed at 10.20a.m.**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NINFIELD HELD ON SUNDAY, 8 MARCH AT 10.20A.M. IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

**The meeting was chaired by the Reverend Paul Frostick and attended by 13 Parishioners. The Rev Frostick thanked the two Churchwardens for all the work they have carried out during the year.**

**IT WAS NOTED THAT THE PRIEST’S REPORT HAD BEEN LEFT OFF THE AGENDA. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE TAKEN AS ITEM 5 AND ALL OTHER ITEMS MOVED DOWN.**

1. **Apologies for absence.** These were the same as for the Vestry Meeting.
2. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 24 March 2019 previously circulated, were proposed by Catriona Owen and seconded by Jan Wood as being a true record of the proceedings. They were agreed unanimously and signed by the Reverend Paul Frostick.
3. **Matters arising.** A new Pascal Candle has been purchased.
4. **Church attendance.** There are 27 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 9 of whom are not resident within the Parish. Following Church of England rules the electoral roll was renewed in 2019. The average weekly attendance during the year, including the Wednesday service, was 22 adults and 3 children.
5. **Priest’s Report:** Rev Frostick reported that it had been a good year in many ways and numbers had increased slightly even for the Wednesday Eucharist. We are beginning to see the results of being involved in the community. There is good involvement with the school and regular assemblies have been held as well as the church services for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leaver’s service. Although involved in many of the village activities and becoming more well known in the village, it is difficult to make the next step of them coming to church and the church is very much going out into the community rather than waiting for the village to come to the church. A concert was held in the church, which was well attended and the church fete is now being held in the church grounds which has had an impact on people attending the fete and also the fact that the Church building is being used. There are plans this Christmas to take our Carol Service to a marquee on the Recreation Ground linked to an event that the Carnival Committee are holding, but this is very much in the early stages of preparation at the moment. The Flower Festival last year attracted people from a large area including neighbouring villages. Hopefully the Flower Group will want to hold their Festival in the Church again and see it as a mission situation re-establishing the church as part of the centre of the village. Links have also been made with the Scouts and Cubs. Rev Frostick said he was optimistic about the future of St Mary’s but stressed it was a long-term venture. We have a core of dedicated Christian people who work hard to the keep the church going. Although worrying about the future he is also encouraged by the steady growth seen. Rev Frostick’s 3 years’ Licence ends in June this year but he has told the Archdeacon that he would like to continue and will be in contact again when he has spoken to the Bishop. This will need the support of both PCC’s. For some reason Christmas Day service numbers have been very low, even when there has not been the Christmas Eve service. We do circulate details to the school for all Christmas services and this did result in a few more coming to the Carol Service with Christingle. Rev Frostick feels that the glass is certainly half full not half empty. He finished by saying that for the year ahead is onwards and upwards and thanked us all for our continued support for the last 12 months.
6. **Review of the PCC Year.** Phil Ringrose went through the topics covered by the PCC in 2019 as outlined in the report. As explained last year under the Charities Act we have to show that our actions benefit the public at large and not just the Church. Actions undertaken are listed in the Annual Report.
7. **Churchwardens’ Report: Phil Ringrose reported on behalf of the Churchwardens and expanded on the Annual Report as follows:-**

* Maintenance of the churchyard – Mr Ringrose reported that he had received many good comments from parishioners on his visits to the churchyard.
* Toilet – we had a problem in the latter part of the year when we discovered it was being used by drug addicts. We temporarily closed it apart from church services and the problem now seems to have been resolved.
* Flower Festival – three pedestals were purchased.
* Reading Room – Muddy Boots now use this all week and as it takes such a long time to set up and take down their equipment the Reading Room is now only available for hire during school holidays and half terms.
* Chairs in reading room – the old chairs have now been collected by a local scrap dealer.
* In the wet weather it was noticed that the guttering in the north west corner was blocked resulting in water flowing down the wall. This has caused damage to the internal fabric of the west wall. The blocked guttering has now been dealt with and we will be looking to resolve the internal problem once the drier weather occurs. Mrs Wood mentioned that there was also some damp in the altar area and Mr Ringrose agreed that this will be looked at at the same time.
* The path to the south door was in a poor state of repair and this has now been replaced.
* The clock continues to be serviced and this is wound up regularly by a member of the Village Society.
* Methodist Church – we hope to join them in their Birthday Celebrations on 14 June 2020.

1. **Financial report and adoption of accounts.** The Treasurer spoke about the accounts which are fully listed in the Annual Report and made the following points:-

* The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £30,589 up 51% on 2019. This figure was distorted as we received a legacy of £10,257 during the year, without this, income was on a par with 2018.
* Planned giving through envelopes, standing orders and non-tax recoverable giving primarily was on a par with 2018 with a number of new worshippers, although we did lose 4 regular worshippers early in the year when they moved away from the village.
* The Flower Festival raised around £1,250 and was considered a great success, including the playing of the pipe organ and the concert in the evening.
* Total expenditure excluding major works was £22,195, an increase of 6% on 2018. This was primarily as a result of an increase of £600 in our Parish share and an increase of £1,651 in the cost of essential maintenance work in the churchyard to enhance its openness and accessibility.
* The largest expenditure was the sum of £5,100 paid to the Diocese to cover ministry costs, although this only represented 30% of the money due.
* Major works covered the purchase of new pew cushions and 3 flower pedestals, partly paid for by donations at the Flower Festival, with the balance from the legacy.
* The Reading Room is now let to Muddy Boots pre-school for 5 days a week during term time and has resulted in the Reading Room showing a surplus of £851, the first time we have shown a surplus in all the years I have been Treasurer. Total income from Muddy Boots alone is in excess of £3,500 which compared very favourably with our usual total income of around £750 in previous years.
* The contract for service of the photocopier was cancelled saving £240 per year, as it was not cost effective.
* On a day to day basis we had a surplus of £6,556, some of which was transferred to reserves.

**Reserves Policy –** It is PCC policy to maintain on general restricted funds (excluding property) an amount which equates to approximately one year’s worth of unrestricted payments as a contingency against unforeseen circumstances. The closing balance more than covered this. It is the policy of the PCC to invest funds with the CBF Church of England deposit account.

**There were no further questions from the floor and Phil Ringrose proposed that we adopt the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019. This was seconded by Rupert Jennings and all in favour.**

**The Reverend Paul Frostick proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Ringrose for all the hard work he has done over the past year.**

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiner,** Phil Ringrose, Treasurer, said that Glenn Warden was willing to undertake this role again and proposed that Glenn Warden be appointed Independent Examiner. This was seconded by Sally Parry and it was carried unanimously.
2. **Battle and Bexhill Deanery Synod Report and Election of representatives.** Catriona Owen reported a new Dean was now appointed at Battle and a new Priest has been appointed at St Stephens. Therefore there are no vacancies at present in the Deanery. A review is going on regarding the possible reorganisation of the Deanery and a review is being undertaking regarding pastoral care. The Deanery had asked for Parishes to do a profile towards the strategy, size of parish, number in congregation and where the church is i.e. town or rural. Mrs Owen said that she was happy to stand again as our representative and Alison Lambert-Gorwyn may join her in some meetings. **Phil Ringrose proposed that Catriona Owen be appointed Deanery Synod Rep for the coming year. Ann Ringrose seconded this motion and all in favour.**
3. **Election of PCC Members.** The Reverend Frostick, as Priest in Charge, is automatically appointed as Chairperson. The PCC now comprises the Reverend Paul Frostick, Mrs Catriona Owen, Mr Phil Ringrose, Mrs Ann Ringrose, Mrs Eileen Frostick (re-elected) and Mrs Sally Parry (re-elected). Mrs Alison Lambert-Gorwyn was co-opted a PCC member during the year and was elected for a normal term. If anyone would like to become a PCC member during the year they can let the secretary know and that person(s) can become a co-opted member if the full PCC agree.
4. **Election of Sidepersons.** It was agreed that all existing sidespersons be elected. The present system of one named sidesperson plus the Duty Warden would continue,
5. **Election of Churches Together in Bexhill representatives.** Sally Parry reported on the CTiB activities for the year. Pre-election hustings was a success and well attended. Light-up Bexhill was a success and a grant has been promised by Rother Council. Peter Ewan is standing down as CTiB Chairman in June and an appeal has been made via CTiB Bexhill members for new Trustees and a Chairman**.** Simon Earl is standing down from the Executive Committee but remain a Trustee. The Good Friday Walk is in its preparation stage. The Foodbanks are still giving out a good deal of food and donations are holding up. Bexhill has found some temporary warehousing but longer term storage is required. Clergy meetings are an important part of CTiB. Mrs Parry said she was happy to carry on as our CTiB representative.
6. **Social Committee Report.** No report was available.
7. **Any other Business.**

* Mrs Owen thanked the Sacristans for all their work during the year and said she would put up a list of “colours” for the coming year.
* Rev Frostick also thanked the flower ladies, those who cleaned the church and Donald Paine for playing the organ for us.

**A vote of thanks was given to Rev Frostick and all members of the PCC for all their hard work over the year.**

**There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 11.15am.**