

**THE PARISH OF WINCHELSEA  
ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY MARTYR**

**Saturday, 25th March 2017  
at 10.30 a.m. in the Church**

**A. VESTRY MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS**

PRESENT: John Rodley (Churchwarden) in the Chair and 40 members.

The Chairman opened the meeting by mentioning the recent death of David Fawcett, Chapel Warden of St. Richards, member of the PCC and a much valued member of the community. Today's meeting would be dedicated to his memory.

**1. Apologies**

Ann Dawson, John Lusk, Ellen, Sandra and Jennifer Smith, Annie Spencer.

**2. Election of Churchwardens**

The Chairman explained that at the last Annual Meeting he had been the only Churchwarden nominated. Happily Charlotte Beecroft had been nominated shortly afterwards and there had been a special Vestry Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at which she had been elected. Now both he, John Frederick Rodley, and Charlotte Beecroft had agreed to stand for re-election and appropriate nomination forms had been completed. There were no other candidates. Their election for a further year was proposed by John Spencer and seconded by Stewart Elms. Agreed unanimously.

**3. Application of s. 3 of the 2001 Churchwarden's Measure**

The Chairman explained that in order to comply with s. 3, when a Churchwarden has served for longer than 6 years it is necessary to pass a resolution each year. He suggested that to give flexibility to the new incumbent we should agree to suspend this rule. It could always be reintroduced at a future time. This was proposed by John Jessup and seconded by Sue Taberer. Carried unanimously.

**B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING** held on 19th March 2016 had been circulated. Their adoption was proposed by Sue Taberer and seconded by Deborah Rodley, with a minor amendment being made retarding lay training.. All in favour. The Chairman said that in future the minutes would be available on the website.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were none. The Chairman said that the Confirmation had in the event been a success. The number of those coming forward for confirmation had increased and it had been a very rewarding and well attended service.

### 3. PCC ANNUAL STATUTORY REPORTS

#### a) Accounts

The Annual Report and Financial Statement had been circulated. The Treasurer had hoped that our Independent Examiner Keith Luck of Gibbons Mannington & Phipps would have been able to attend the meeting but unfortunately he had failed to turn up. The Treasurer went through some of the most important items and added her explanation. The Chairman pointed out that the increased surplus was due mainly to grants that had been received (the main item being for the roof repairs). He expressed the thanks of the PCC to the Treasurer for all her invaluable work and also to David Jefferies for dealing with gift aid, as well as St. Richard's accounts.

Alan McKinna asked why the planned giving was down. It was explained that this was due to donations being put in different categories. It was hoped that in their altered format the accounts were now more transparent.

The Chairman concluded that the Church had made an operating surplus of £8,000 for 2016. Next year there could be a loss due to the expense of the roof repairs.

The accounts had been approved and adopted at a special meeting of the PCC and they had also been approved by the Accountant. Adoption of the accounts was moved by Tony Wesson and seconded by Stephen King. All in favour. The accounts were duly adopted.

#### b) Fabric

A report was included in the Annual Report. The Chairman summarised noting that work on the churchyard walls had been undertaken, including all health and safety issues. A stained glass window had been repaired in the Church and new carpets had been fitted in the vestry. Emergency lighting had been installed to aid evacuation of the building. The tapestry was currently undergoing restoration and the cleaning of the War Memorial would shortly be taking place. Generally St. Thomas' was in a good state but the main concern was St. Richard's. The tower had serious structural problems which had been caused by subsidence. It was not unsafe and further investigation into the cause of this would be carried out shortly.

#### c) Rector and Churchwardens' Report

This was incorporated in the Rector's Report in the Annual Report. The Chairman added that:

[ he had recently received a letter from the Guild of All Souls confirming that the possible candidate for the incumbency was still interested in the position. He had had health issues but was recovering well and hoped to be able to arrange an interview towards the end of April. This would be a full time stipendiary though it was thought he would also have a role in Diocesan administration.

[ Michael McFadyean was retiring from his lay leadership. The Chairman recorded thanks on behalf of the PCC for all that he had done over many

years and also for his ongoing support. He was currently running the Lent course.

- [ the average congregation size was 8% up on last year
- [ 20 charities had been supported by St. Thomas' and St. Richard's
- [ 16 concerts had taken place in the Church
- [ 20 educational visits had been made to the Church.

He concluded that, in his view, the Church had discharged its duty for the public benefit in 2016.

**d) Electoral Roll**

James Payne announced that the total number on the roll was 140 of which 22 were non-residents

**4. NON-STATUTORY REPORTS**

**a) School**

A report had been circulated. This was unanimously accepted. Stephen King, Chairman of Governors, announced that Carol Gardiner had been appointed Headteacher of St. Thomas' School.

**b) Deanery Synod**

A report had been circulated. This was unanimously accepted. The Secretary added that the importance of the Deanery Synod was for representatives to make contact with the rest of the Deanery and report back to their PCCs with news of what was happening in the other parishes. It also kept parishes in touch with the Diocese.

**c) St. Richard's**

A report had been circulated. This was unanimously accepted.

**d) Music and Choir**

A report had been circulated. This was unanimously accepted. Marion Lovell added that she hoped there would be a good attendance at the Cross of Christ service at Icklesham on Palm Sunday. The Chairman thanked Marion Lovell for all the wonderful work she does with the Choir and for that which David Birchenough does with our music. This was warmly endorsed by all.

**5. ELECTIONS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Secretary read out the names of the candidates for whom appropriate nomination forms had been completed. This number being fewer than the maximum allowed under the Church Representation Rules, their election was proposed en bloc by Stephen King and seconded by Alice Kenyon. The following were unanimously elected: Sara Baker, Alice Bolton, Stewart Elms,

Anna Hargreaves, David Jefferies, Pamela Jefferies, Celia King, Tessa Potts and Susan Taberer. The Chairman thanked them for standing for office and also thanked retiring members Tom Ashmore, Sue Chetwood and Michael McFadyean for their support of the PCC, in some cases over many years and he also marked the very real contribution of David Fawcett.

**6. ELECTIONS TO DEANERY SYNOD**

The current representatives – Marion Lovell, Deborah Rodley and Angela Hill had all agreed to stand for re-election and had been duly nominated. This was proposed by Pamela Jefferies and seconded by Tessa Potts. They were unanimously elected for a 3-year period.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

The Treasurer said that she always found Keith Luck very helpful and that she recommended that Gibbons Mannington & Phipps be re-appointed. This was moved by Alan McKinna and seconded by Stephen King and was unanimously approved.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF SIDESPEOPLE**

Charlotte Beecroft as Churchwarden said that there were now 15 Sidespeople and 3 on a reserve list. She noted that last year the Annual Meeting had delegated the appointment of Sidespeople as and when necessary to the Churchwardens. She asked that this practice be continued and this was unanimously approved. She expressed her thanks to all those who undertake this important role to help ensure the smooth running of our services

**8. A.O.B.**

John Jessup asked about the state of the organ. The Chairman explained that following the organ builders’ report the Diocesan Organ Advisor had been consulted and also an Independent Advisor. There were 3 ways forward:

- [ a new organ, which would cost around £500,000
- [ an electric organ costing approximately £30,000
- [ giving the existing organ a thorough clean and re-wiring of the console etc. which would cost in the region of £100,000

Raising money for this had been started already and the next step would be for the PCC to look at the options.

The Chairman ended the meeting by thanking the Churchwardens of Icklesham for attending and thanked all attendees for their time and attention.

**Signed** .....

**Dated** .....