

2020.10.21 Droxford AMP and APCM postponed from March & April 2020 due to pandemic

Present: In Church: Rev. Tony Forrest (Chairman), Rev. Anthony Hulbert, Clive Bryant, Laura Jerosch, John Dryden-Brownlee, Jeff Hooper, Tony Hoile .

On Zoom: Rev. Tony Forrest, Sheila Matthissen, Jill Edmunds, James Matthissen, Ann Symes, John Symes, Ali Pepper, Richard Baxter.

Apologies: Catherine Fabian, Rachael Dean.

Vestry Meeting (Annual Parishioners' Meeting)

There were no nominations for Churchwarden and therefore the meeting was adjourned to Sunday 1st Nov at 1 pm in Church and by Zoom. Tony Forrest thanked the retiring churchwardens (SM and JE) for all they had done. (This was later changed to Saturday 31st October at 10am in church – the last date allowed under current regulations)

Annual Parish Church Meeting

TF said that all those on the Electoral Roll may participate and vote. There were no nominations for representatives to the Deanery Synod and new PCC members are needed to fill the present vacancies and to bring new ideas. Sidesmen and women can be anyone on the Electoral Roll and this has worked well. (All agreed). Jonathan Martell will continue as the Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). The Electoral Roll (in Church porch) was unchanged since it was last published (47 of whom 40 were Droxford residents).

Clive Bryant asked if the Parish Share was calculated on the Electoral Roll, but TF said it depended on numbers attending church services in October.

TF thanked all those who contributed to the running of the church and also to J. Martell as the IFA.

PCC report from Jill Edmunds: A brief summary of PCC activities was followed by members thanks to Tony Forrest, Samantha Martell and all those who help in so many different ways, especially FODC members for the new Annex. TF also thanked them and commented on the success of the café. (Report attached)

Safeguarding report from Ali Pepper: DBS checks are up to date across all parishes and training mainly so. No incidents have been reported and procedures have been clarified. New people need to be made aware of the checks which now have to be carried out.

Financial report from Richard Baxter: The 2019 Financial Report had been approved by the PCC in April. Receipts were greater than payments by £5,000 and the Parish Share had been paid. The 2019 surplus was only because of a gift of £10,000 (which could be used for provision of flexible seating at the rear of the church). There were sufficient funds for the 2020 Parish Share. Giving by the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and Bank Direct Debits was good but receipts from church collections were well down. Stewardship and using the PGS need to be encouraged. John Symes queried FODC gifts and asked about the Reserves Policy to which RB said he would sort it. TF said that RB had presented the accounts in a way that was accessible to all and had done a huge amount of work in accessing funds (e.g. churchyard ones). RB is resigning, so a new Treasurer must be sought – but RB will help the new person. TF expressed his thanks to RB for coping at a complicated time.

Fabric

Churchwarden's report from Sheila Matthissen: Work started on the Annex on 19th Jan 2019 and it was opened at the 2019 Country Fair. The North Chapel was repaired (including the replacement of a ceiling panel) and repainted and – thanks to Bonnie Hamilton and Mel Rankine, filled with beautiful furniture. Some pews at the back of the church have been removed. Lead was stolen from the roof, but was replaced (paid by Insurance). The Quinquennial Report was produced by Julian Livingstone (Churchwarden's Report attached).

Building Officer's report from Clive Bryant: He said he had been in contact (emails and correspondence) with Julian Livingstone relating to the Quinquennial report (QR). John Dryden-Brownlee and Tony Hoile are to recommend how best to address the issues from the QR. CB said that improved external lighting was needed and JDB mentioned floodlighting the church. TF pointed out that the Parish Council and English Heritage would need to be consulted. Ann Symes said that this had been brought up at the 2019 APCM and lighting was important for church security. She also mentioned there is already a Faculty for replacement of pews with chairs and action on this is needed. TF explained that the Chancellor said it is necessary to consult the Victorian Society and that the Churches Building Council is also involved. He explained the difficulty of finding comfortable, stackable chairs which will satisfy all involved. Answering Bonnie Hamilton, he said that improved space around the font is necessary for Baptisms. BH asked if the font could be moved and TF replied that this might be possible in the long term.

Deanery Synod activities from Tony Forrest:

Discussion on the re-organisation of the parishes of Hambledon with Soberton and Newtown.

Wiahso Link: After an inappropriate request for money, a new Archdeacon suggested that small grants could be given and this was agreed.

Hackney Link: Some parts of the parish are much poorer than others and these should benefit e.g. provision of night shelters and holidays for children. TF said he was in favour of continued support for the Link.

Parish Giving Scheme: A short talk on this was given by TF for those interested.

The meeting was then closed.

Postponed Annual Parishioners Meeting 31st October 10 am in church and by Zoom

Present in church: Rev. Tony Forrest, Sheila, Colin and James Matthissen, John Symes, Ali Pepper, Josie Dyson, Laura Jerosch, Bonnie Hamilton, Mel Rankine, Clive Bryant.

Present on Zoom: Jill Edmunds, Ann Symes, Veronica and Stuart Attrill, John Martin.

Tony Forrest said that at this meeting there was better news with nominations received for two candidates for Churchwarden. Clive Bryant (nominated by Ros Collins and Colin Matthissen) and Bonnie Hamilton (nominated by James Matthissen and Margaret Wallace) were both eligible to stand and he therefore had pleasure in the election of the 2020 churchwardens (to be sworn in by the Archdeacon by zoom on 17th November). He congratulated them, wished them well and also thanked Sheila Matthissen and Jill Edmunds for their work as churchwardens in the last year. He thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed.