

## ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 6 September 2020 at St Mary's Church, Easton and via Zoom

Present

In St Mary's: Theo Mezger (Chair), Vanessa Rosewell, Julie Taylor (Secretary), Jill Croft, Phoebe Culshaw, Chris Ellis, Sara Janssen, Penelope Kellie, David Poole, Leon Rosewell,

Via Zoom: Judy Bishop, Frits Janssen, Gail Mann, Judith Mezger, David Swinstead  
Liz & John Platt

1	Welcome	Theo Mezger opened the meeting with a welcome to the committee, present in church, and others joining via zoom.
2	Prayer	Given by Alex Pease
3	Apologies	None
4	Record of previous Meeting	Minutes of the ADCM held 16 March 2019 were accepted.  Proposed: Sara Janssen Seconded: David Poole
5	Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Theo has been appointed a trustee of the Old School Field Trust.</li> <li>b) Sidespersons: With Vanessa's encouragement, the involvement of families to welcome and assist with services has had a good response and will continue.</li> <li>c) Church Officers from other churches within our parish have already helped out, notable Sara Mason as sidesperson; she also heads up the Covid committee. More involvement of this kind across churches is to be encouraged.</li> </ul>
6	Church Wardens' Report 2019/20 [attached]	<p>Theo read through the report, which reflected the information at the time of writing, 11 March 2020 and had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were extracted:</p> <p>Thirty six services have been held in St Mary's during 2019/20, including 3 baptisms with one in the river, a confirmation, 4 weddings, two funerals and two interments of ashes. Exceptional occasions have been Harvest Valley Communion and lunch, a Choral Parish Communion with choir and the Christmas Eve Crib Service. Attendance of the younger generation increases.</p> <p>All Age Worship. A carpet is available and wooden plinth for the band. A proposal to improve our audio and visual needs has been prepared and approved by the PCC and we are in the process of applying for a faculty.</p> <p>He profusely thanked the many volunteers who help run St Mary's (listed in detail in the report) and hoped anyone feeling they could support the teams in some way, would get in touch.</p>

	<p>New path lighting has been installed, the lychgate steps repaired [with more work required in the future] and a temporary toilet installed. At some point the portaloos need to be replaced with a permanent solution. All trees in the churchyard have been surveyed and pruning will take place in the autumn. Since writing this report the quinquennial inspection has taken place with few issues arising apart from fallen internal roof plaster above the font. An inspection has revealed external water leakage, early repair is being investigated.</p> <p>Development project: This has currently stalled over access issues. The DCC will continue discussions with the nearby landowner and work towards resolving the position, with PCC involvement.</p> <p>Retiring DCC members: Thanks and appreciation was expressed to Leon, Julie and particularly Vanessa for their contribution to St Mary's in their different roles.</p>
7 Financial Update [balance sheet attached]	<p>Theo began by reporting the positive position of our balance sheet and thanked our excellent parish treasurer, Rolls Coleman, for his diligent work. As at 31.7.20 the Easton Fabric Fund stood at £26,261 (combining Easton Bells, Friends of St Mary's &amp; Development Fund). Additionally, there is the Were Fabric Fund standing, to the Parish, at £42,067 and to which St Mary's is entitled to 25%. Mrs Were left money to all parishes in the Alresford Deanery.</p> <p>David Poole asked if the fabric fund was inflated by pledges made for the proposed new sound equipment. Theo replied funds sought for this project were, at this moment, only pledges to the value of £21,000 and came from the Valley, not just Easton.</p> <p>Theo hopes we will build on this financial security with congregational growth and church development.</p>
8 Election of Church Wardens	<p>Theo is willing to stand for another year. Proposer: David Poole Secunder: James Young</p> <p>Chris Ellis Proposer: Sara Janssen Secunder: Judy Bishop</p>
9 Election of DCC members	<p>Vanessa Rosewell, Leon Rosewell, James Greig and Julie Taylor are standing down. New members are Chris Ellis, Phoebe Culshaw (Secretary) and Helena Martin who will join Theo Mezger, Jill Croft, Sara Janssen, Penelope Kellie, and David Poole.</p> <p>Proposer: Judy Bishop Secunder: Gail Mann</p> <p>Theo welcomed the new team members and looked forward to their fresh insight and input.</p>
10 Deanery Synod Representative	<p>Theo Mezger Proposer: Elaine Labram Secunder: David Swinstead</p>

11 PCC Representative	<p>Sara Janssen</p> <p>Proposer: Julie Taylor  Seconder: Penelope Kellie</p> <p>Alternate: Phoebe Culshaw</p> <p>.</p>
12 Sides persons	<p>The following persons undertake the duties of sides persons:  David Anderson, Judy Bishop, Jill Croft, Penelope Kellie, Sara Janssen, Sue Kennedy, Judith Mezger and David Swinstead.</p> <p>Proposed: Chris Ellis  Seconded: Theo Mezger</p>
13 Verger	<p>Theo thanked Sara for her agreement to continue in this role. Her work and time given is much appreciated.</p>
14 AOB	<p>a) Vanessa and Julie received presentations on behalf of the DCC and Parish with Theo again thanking both for their input over the years. Vanessa responded with her gratitude for the gifts, said how much she had learned and benefited from being a church warden and that she and Leon were settling in well to their new life in Dorset.</p> <p>b) Old School Field Trust: Frits Janssen would like to see the trust open its mind to community objectives and not view the needs of the church as secondary.  He felt the donor of the trust intended a broader use of the field than is at present designated.  Theo, now a trustee, is working hard to ensure the church's interests are better represented and that the Trust's work and objectives are compliant with the Trust Deed.</p> <p>c) Field adjacent to the church: Frits Janssen expressed concern at the enlargement of stabling facilities in the field below the churchyard against the church wall, carried out without planning permission.  Chris asked if, as the owner of Dymoke House, Frits had formally objected. The answer was, no.  Theo said the DCC are mindful of the implication with regard to historic buildings and he will take the matter forward.</p> <p>d) With the Janssen's imminent move, David P felt it appropriate to thank them very much for providing Car Parking, a Sunday School location, a loo and much more during their time in Dymoke House. His appreciation was echoed by all present.</p> <p>e) Frits asked why we were still so restricted in using the church building?  Theo mentioned the parish Covid Committee who have done a great job to date and adhere to instructions from the Diocese.</p>