

## **Minutes of Martyr Worthy Annual Village Meeting held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at St Swithuns Church at 10.00 am**

Present: Liz Platt (DCC Chairman), John Barber, Rolls & Verity Coleman, Peter & Vera Collings, Simon Ffennell, Robin Greenwood, Sara Mason

Apologies: Nicky Barber, Gilly Greenwood, Andrew & Katherine Impey, John Platt, Victoria Waring

1. The Chairman welcomed all present to this re-arranged meeting originally scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 which had to be postponed due to the lockdown caused by COVID 19.
2. **Churchwardens.** It was proposed that Robin Greenwood and Sara Mason should be again recommended for nomination as Churchwardens. Robin Greenwood: proposed by Rolls Coleman, seconded by John Barber; agreed. Sara Mason: proposed by Verity Coleman, seconded by John Barber; agreed.
3. **Sidesmen.** Simon Ffennell submitted a proposed list of sidemen which was approved.

### **Annual District Church Meeting held immediately after Village Meeting.**

1. Minutes of last ADCM on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved; proposed by Sara Mason and seconded by Simon Ffennell.

#### **2. Chairman's Report.**

The DCC Chairman thanked everyone for coming in what has been an odd and challenging year. Liz Platt also thanked John Barber for agreeing to join MW DCC.

Liz said that two events stood out for her: first, standing on her lawn and hearing Simon Ffennell ringing a church bell at 8.00 pm on Thursdays when we were applauding NHS workers and others; and secondly the re-opening of MW Church for private prayer. She said that a special vote of thanks was owed to Simon Ffennell for all that he has been doing to facilitate this. Thanks was owed to Sara Mason for all her work as chairman of IV PCC's Covid Committee.

Liz Platt commented on how many parishioners work hard and enthusiastically for the Parish providing support in many ways and thanked them all for their support. In particular she thanked our Rector Alex Pease and his wife Lucy, the Churchwardens and their spouses, Cathy Dickinson for taking over organizing church cleaning, Lizzy Reid for taking over organizing church flowers, Lee Tovell for looking after the church path, Paulene Tovell for not only laundering the alter cloths but making three new ones, John Barber, Geoffrey Burnand, Peter Collings and Simon Ffennell for being keyholders, John & Nicky Barber for allowing us to park cars on their property and as always Simon Ffennell our verger.

#### **3. Finance & Fabric Reports.**

Robin Greenwood reported that our fabric fund stood at £30,258 as at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2019 having, as in the previous year, spent very little on major repairs in 2019.

Since the year end the works arising from 2017 Quinquennial Inspection started on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and were completed on 30<sup>th</sup> July. These works involved repairs to the roof tiles, roof vents, bell chamber louvres, gutters and downpipes, boiler house chimney and some brick and stonework repairs. A faculty was obtained on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 for a year which was extended on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 for a further year. We also obtained a bat licence on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020. We have yet to receive the final invoices and draw up final accounts for the works, but the works are currently expected to cost c£42k as budgetted, including professional fees and

all add other add ons and before VAT which we are expecting to get nearly all of back. Robin Greenwood said that this is an amazing result given the complications caused by Covid 19. It is expected to be financed by MW Fabric Fund c£22k, Wear Fund c£10k and Friends of St Swithuns £10k. Simon Ffennell reported that a swift box has also been installed in the Church tower.

Sara Mason reported that she is continuing to investigate the introduction of WIFI in MW Church with a view to having it installed by December.

In answer to a question from Rolls Coleman, Robin Greenwood said that he was not envisaging any major repairs for the rest of 2020 and 2021, indeed not before the next 2022 Quinquennial Inspection, except for possibly pointing a crack in the west wall in the churchyard. It was noted that the PCC General Fund stood at £130,314 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

#### **4. Fundraising report.**

Robin Greenwood reported the 2018/19 MW Lecture Series raised £7,891, of which £5,002 was raised in 2019.

After the year end, the 2020 MW Plant Sale, despite Covid 19, raised over £6,497 split £4,872 (75%) General fund and £1,624 (25%) MW Restricted Fund. An enormous thanks to Katherine Impey & Sophie Parry for organizing the MW Plant Sale and rising to the challenge in difficult circumstances.

Liz Platt reported that due to Covid 19, it has been decided to postpone the 2020/21 MW Lecture Series to 2021/22.

However it is proposed to hold a sale in MW Village Hall on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> November of both Philip Windsor-Aubrey's woodwork and home produce. Woodwork sales will be for MW Fabric Fund and home produce sales will be for the general fund.

#### **5. Friends of St Swithun's report.**

Liz Platt reported on behalf of John Platt, the Chairman of FOSS, and his fellow trustees Guy Green, John Prince and Scott Johnston that there has been little change in membership and income of FOSS over the last 12 months. Total funds stand at about £38K and membership is currently 82. FOSS continues to seek new members. FOSS have offered to contribute £10k towards the cost of the recent Church refurbishments and this offer has been accepted.

#### **6. Elections and appointments**

- Nomination for membership of PCC: Verity Coleman – Sara Mason proposer and John Barber seconder. Approved.
- Nomination for alternate PCC member: Nicky Barber – Rolls Coleman proposer and Simon Ffennell seconder. Approved
- DCC members election: Chairman - Liz Platt, John Barber, Peter Collings, Simon Ffennell, Robin Greenwood, Andrew Impey, Sara Mason, Secretary -Victoria Waring. Proposer Vera Collings, seconder Verity Coleman Approved.
- Deputy Church Wardens: Simon Ffennell and Liz Platt. Proposer Verity Coleman, seconder Sara Mason. Approved
- Verger: Simon Ffennell, Proposer Sara Mason., seconder Rolls Coleman. Approved.
- Sacristan: Liz Platt. Proposer John Barber, seconder Peter Collings. Approved.

#### **7. AOB**

- Verity Coleman said that she was keen to see MW Church re-opened for private prayer for more than just a few hours every Sunday.

- Verity Coleman said that she was keen to see the establishment of wild flower meadows in MW's two churchyards.
- Simon Ffennell wished it to be recorded that he regarded April Rivett-Carnac's funeral as the most challenging event he has ever organized in MW Church, and that there are limits on what we can do with regard to very large services. He also said that a special thanks was also owed to John & Nicky Barber and John Lang for all their help with its organization.
- A special vote of thanks was given to Liz Platt for everything that she has done and to John Barber for producing coffee.

The meeting closed at 10.45am