



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on 29th April 2019 @ 7.00 pm in Whitesheet School Hall, Kilmington**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. **Opening Prayers** led by Rev. Graham Perryman.
2. **Apologies** – Jackie Perryman, Crin Fearon, Margaret Martin and Colin Holman.
24 attended the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting 26th April 2018** – These had been available in the churches for two weeks, having been emailed to the PCC and the LCCs and were unanimously approved.
4. **Proposal to disregard Church Warden Measure 6 year rule** – Graham Perryman explained that Church Wardens usually held office for 6 years, however he recommended that we disregard this rule to enable the valued CWs to continue to stand. Catherine Spencer proposed, Ashley Kemp seconded and all were in favour.
5. **Election of Church Wardens and Asst. Wardens** – Graham Perryman reported that the CWs had all been proposed and were willing to stand and they were elected as standing. The Assistant wardens were appointed. Barbara Borwell proposed Vivian Sturt as an Asst. Warden for Bourton and Jane Parker seconded. All were approved.

Churchwardens

Assistant Wardens

St. Georges, Bourton	Mrs. Margaret Martin Mr. Harry Allen	Mrs. Vivian Sturt
St. Mary's, Kilmington	Mrs. Celia Cotton Mr. Chris Reeves	Mrs. Vanessa Meeker Mr. Peter Booth
St. Peter's, Stourton	Mrs. Jane Parker Mrs. Crin Fearon	Mrs. Catherine Spencer Mrs. Jane Joyce
St. Martin's Zeals	Miss Sue Evans Mr. Tom Spencer	Mr. Graham Edgar Mr. Gordon Jackson Mr. Ashley Kemp

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Church Wardens' reports on the fabric, goods and ornaments of each Church and presentation of Church Inventories:

The inventories from Zeals, Stourton, Kilmington and Bourton were each signed as a correct record by Graham Perryman. Graham Perryman said that as last year, rather than have all the parish reports in a document these would be presented in Church throughout the year. However, the required reports to be recorded are as follows:-

St. Martin's, Zeals was presented by Sue Evans.

Once again we would like to thank the many people of Zeals' and those of the other villages in the parish who regularly support Tom and me, without them our tasks would be extremely onerous.

Tom and I have made two applications to the DAC for faculties. These are for;

- A) To replace the 6 heaters with modern storage heaters, this will enable us to maintain a better regular temperature. This has been given provisional agreement, however there are still some outstanding questions to be answered.
- B) Replacement of the inner porch doors with double glazed ones and levelling of the floor to prevent the heat escaping through the gaps and also to make the entrance more welcoming to worshipers.

Neither has been given full permission yet; however we are persisting in our efforts with the support of our architect and electrical engineer.

A full electrical survey has recently been made to ensure that all is in good order.

We have also had a survey of the trees in the churchyard and application has been made to fell a dead yew. Other work will also be carried out to ensure overgrown trees are made safe.

St. Peter's, Stourton was presented by Jane Parker.

After a few years being busy with the roof, this year, Crin and I have been busy on other matters:

First of all, we have at long last managed to agree on a sound system for St. Peter's – the paperwork is with the DAC at the moment and we hope to be able to proceed shortly. We have the money to pay for it, thanks to some amazing fund raising and some generous donations.

Our architect has identified quite a bit of repointing that needs doing – and work will start as soon as we get permission from the DAC. Some of the important Grade II Listed tombs need conservation at the same time.

We had a very useful churchyard day and everybody helped to cut, prune, and trim various bushes etc, and it is all looking pretty tidy now. We are grateful to the National Trust for their upkeep of the churchyard, and also to the Parish Council for their generous support.

Weddings, of course, continue to be a major feature of St. Peter's and last year we had 8, and it was lovely for the church to be used in this way. This year we are expecting a total of 10 weddings so far, including quite a few local ones.

We have sadly had several funerals last year. Firstly, Margaret Trussler, whose husband John was a churchwarden for many years and then Betty Chapple, who had lived in Stourton nearly all her life – and was such a huge help to Crin and I in looking after the church. Happily, Dennis has kindly agreed to continue to open and close the church and keep an eye on it on a day to day basis.

This is actually much needed as people do do the strangest things – we have had vandals in who cut the bell ropes. They climbed up into the bell tower and seemed to have been trying to steal the ropes – all they actually did was to damage them quite badly, and the bell ringers have had a difficult job in repairing them.

We have also had a problem with one of the newly restored bells – and we have had to replace part of the mechanism. All is now well, and the bell is ringing again perfectly.

We have had a usual round of services, including a few Choral Evensongs; a Reflective Carol Service as well as the ever popular Christmas Eve Carol Service. And a very busy Easter Day Service. The Sunrise service was held in Stourhead Gardens by the Lake and it was a magical experience.

As usual, Crin and I remain very grateful to our LCC for all their support.

St. Mary's, Kilmington was presented by Celia Cotton.

The repairs to the chancel roof and the vestry roof, including painting, were completed in the early part of the year at an overall cost of around £50,000, so more or less on budget. The vestry roof had to be completely replaced, as did most of the chancel roof. Ellis & Co did a particularly good job and we were very pleased with their work.

The sound system application under list B is with the DAC for approval after a few queries etc on their part. They have been sent all the information requested, including the new electrical specification and details of all the speakers, cabinet, cabling etc.

The Tower project is ongoing with work on replacing the lead and installing a new flagpole on the roof due to begin in September. Meanwhile a series of fundraising events are taking place.

We recently had a good day tidying up the churchyard, clearing undergrowth etc. It looks very much better.

St. George's, Bourton was presented by Harry Allen. He was interrupted by a dog without a collar, which took a while to be persuaded to leave, but he pressed on regardless – and so did the dog.

It has been an exciting year at St. George's as we have been working toward a major re ordering of the interior of the Church. Plans have been drawn up to install toilets in the Tower Room and to put in a servery with running water at last! Andrew Sturt is helping us and we are benefitting from his many years' experience as an engineer and property developer.

Our bells also need attention and David Corbin has been helping us with this aspect of the project as he has considerable experience in this area. We had originally planned to include a room at the back of the church. This remains in the application but will not be pursued without the support of our new incumbent. If all goes well, we hope to place our application with the DAC next week and await their reply.

The required 5 yearly inspection of the entire electrical infrastructure in the church, was completed in September 2018. A pass report and certificate were issued. PAT testing of all the electrical equipment was also carried out in September.

The water main to the school and church was replaced late last year following repeated failures. As this was on private land (school/church car park) Wessex water would not carry out the work free of charge. In discussion with the school the main was replaced with the church paying 1/8 of the cost as we only use the very small length of the new main. A new standpipe was placed at the church entrance from the car park. Unfortunately the cable to the light in the wrought iron arch was severed. After a lot of chasing the contractor has agreed it was his fault and will repair it at his cost; date TBA.

The fire extinguishers at the church were inspected in February 2019 and two new water ones installed.

General maintenance has continued as normal. The only significant item from the quinquennial report that has not been completed is the maintenance required on the bells. This has been delayed as we are trying to completely refurbish the bells in the DAC submission outlined in this report.

After this report, Rev. Vickie Goodman mentioned that when she was in Mere, it took them quite some time to get DAC approval for a similar project. She recommended getting a Disability Audit to speed things up. This advice from the floor was very much welcomed.

2. **PCC Annual Report** – This had been in the churches and emailed to the PCC with a request to forward to LCC members. Graham Perryman ran through briefly. On the Electoral Roll report numbering 95, he expected some hadn't signed up yet and Elizabeth Hames said there were about 20 more yet to do so. Graham explained that Rev. Kirsty Wells (non-stipendiary) was leaving Sturminster and would now be with us 3 days a week – Sunday + 2 days. Jane Joyce asked if Sue Todd should report on Safeguarding during a service - adding to the reports in services. This was unanimously agreed. Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Liz Kemp and seconded by Harry Allen. All approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts** – Brian Martin delivered his report and said that the rise in the Parish Share equated to each member giving £400 p.a. with all the ancillary costs of running a priest at £52,000. He explained about the Parish Giving Scheme, which Graham Perryman endorsed. Gift aid is added and the donation is tied to inflation. Harry Allen asked about the numbers for the Share and it was explained that the diocese formula was to take the count of the members annually, add to the previous two years and divide by three. This was 120 but the average would go down with the lower count this year. Celia Cotton queried the lower amount for fund-raising, which was explained by Zeals' being down on the previous year. He also explained about the restricted funds. On Celia Cotton's question re stewardship, he said that he would draft a letter and send to the Churchwardens. Celia Cotton proposed adoption of the accounts and Jane Parker seconded. They were unanimously approved.

4. **Appointment of Examiner of PCC Accounts** – Michael Willis was proposed by Brian Martin to examine the accounts. Catherine Spencer seconded and he was duly appointed for a further year.

5. **Deanery Synod Report** – Malcolm Affleck presented the following report. Synod met for its three statutory meetings during the year. The first two meetings continued previous years' consideration of Bishop Nicholas's charge to the Diocese:- Renewing Hope; Pray-Serve-Grow. The last element Grow was taken by both speakers.

The third meeting included a talk by Nigel Salisbury, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance. The talk was generally upbeat but at the same time there were hints of dark clouds. More parishes are having difficulty in meeting their 'Share' even though over 90% pay in full and some are able to pay off arrears. Church membership numbers, used for share calculation, have slightly declined which means a diocesan budget increase of 2.5% becomes 3.9% for the current year. The deanery officers are trying to improve parish understanding of the 'Share' calculation rules and the Diocese is undertaking a review of the 'Share' system.

Our area Bishop Edward retired in the early part of the year and by the year's end the Revd. Dr. Andrew Rumsey, Team Rector of Oxted, was named as the new Bishop of Ramsbury.

Following diocesan policy the Deanery is maintaining a watching and mentoring brief over the tentative formation of a Christian community within the Western Urban Development at Swaddale Road, Warminster. The couple leading this are Chris & Hev Scrorah who have worked elsewhere in the diocese with young people.

Links with the Diocese of Maridi in South Sudan and their new Bishop Moses are being maintained, including Deanery fundraising events. You may care to give thought to the possibility of offering hospitality to a delegate and spouse, from South Sudan, whilst they are attending next year's Lambeth Conference.

The work of Deaneries may seem dull and mundane, especially after the years of turmoil when arguments regarding women priests and subsequently bishops were the order of the day. No doubt other issues lay ahead.

6. **Election of Deanery Synod representative** (Open to those on the Church Electoral Roll)

Graham Perryman explained that there was a vacancy with a 1 year term as Peter Costen had stood down. We are allowed 3 members for membership over 100 – denoted at the beginning of the 3 year term. Brian Martin proposed Chris Reeves and Barbara Borwell seconded. He was unanimously voted in.

7. Report on and reception of the Church Electoral Roll

Jane Joyce read out Elizabeth Hames report:- Eleven new applicants registered on the roll for 2019. At the close of registration for 2018 there were 157 on the roll. Through the year it had decreased by sixty-two people. This breaks down as follows for 2019:-

BOURTON:	Thirty people off and five new people on
KILMINGTON:	Seven people off and three new people on
STOURTON:	Ten people off and one new person on
ZEALS:	Eleven people off and five new people on
NON-RESIDENTS:	Fourteen people off and one new person on
BOURTON:	21 Residents
KILMINGTON:	25 Residents
STOURTON:	18 Residents
ZEALS:	30 Residents
NON-RESIDENTS:	1
TOTAL ON ROLL in 2019	95

Elizabeth Hames said that she did rely on being informed of deaths. She had mentioned earlier that as far as she knew, 20 had yet to sign. Graham Perryman thanked her for the report and encouraged everyone to check the Roll in each church to make sure it's correct.

8. Election of Parochial Church Council representatives x 6 (Open to those on the Electoral Roll – Incumbent, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod reps., Brian Martin as LLM = ex officio)

Graham Perryman explained that there were 2 vacancies. Sue Evans asked if people could be co-opted later and Graham said that they could. Meanwhile, Ashley Kemp was proposed by Jane Parker and seconded by Celia Cotton and was welcomed back. Caroline Worthington (Bourton Rep. & LWL), Colin Holman (Zeals Rep. & Asst. Treasurer), David Corbin and Jane Joyce (Stourton Rep. & Secretary) were elected. They were proposed en bloc by Malcolm Affleck, seconded by Jane Joyce and unanimously approved.

9. Nominations to Local Church Committees – The following appointments were proposed by Catherine Spencer and seconded by Liz Kemp. All approved.

Bourton	Kilmington	Stourton	Zeals
Mrs. M. Martin	Mrs. C. Cotton (S)	Mrs. J. Parker	Miss. S. Evans
Mr. H. Allen	Mr. C. Reeves	Mrs. C. Fearon (S)	Mr. T. Spencer
Mrs. C. Worthington	Mrs. E. Hames	Mrs. J. Joyce	Mr. A. Kemp (T)
Mr. A. Moorby (T)	Mr. R. Tyley (T)	Mrs. C. Spencer	Mr. G. Edgar
Mrs. B. Borwell	Mrs. V. Meeker	Mr. S. Harries	Mr. G. Jackson
Mrs. P. Ross-Hurst (S)	Mr. P. Booth	Mr. G. Poynton (T)	Mrs. G. Jackson
Mrs. G. Allen	Mrs. V. Donell		Mr. D. Corbin
Mrs J. Dee	Mrs. J. Kennedy		Mr. J. Waterfield
Mrs. V. Sturt	Mr. P. Kennedy		Mrs. B. Ridout
	Mrs. V. Donell		Mr. M. Affleck
			Mrs. C. Affleck
			Mr. C. Holman
			Mrs. J. Lane
			Mr. J. Rowe
			Mrs. E. Kemp (S)

10. **Appointment of Sidespeople** – The following appointments were proposed by Brian Martin and seconded by Jane Joyce to unanimous approval.

Bourton

Mrs. J. Dee
Mrs. C. Worthington
Mrs. V. Sturt
Mrs. G. Allen
Mrs. C. Moorby
Mrs. P. Ross-Hurst

Kilmington

As per LCC

Stourton

As per LCC
ex G. Poynton

Zeals

Mrs. C. Affleck
Mr. M. Affleck
Mrs. E. Kemp
Mr. A. Kemp
Mrs. J. Lucas
Miss S. Evans
Mr. D. Walsh
Mrs. B. Ridout
Mr. J. Waterfield
Mr. R. Coad
Mr. G. Edgar
Mrs. C. Edgar

11. **Any other business** – there was none.

12. **Chairman's Report** by Graham Perryman, Priest-in-charge

This is my fourth and final Annual Meeting in this parish (around my 150th in the last 25 years) and I want to thank you all for all you have done in these last four years, and, God willing, will continue to do over the next year.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the churchwardens who are the glue that holds this parish together, and their individual churches together. As I said last year, this is the best group of churchwardens I have worked alongside in those 25 years of ministry.

Thank you to our two Licensed Lay Ministers, Mona Tyler and Brian Martin, and to Rev. Peter Lewis for his support and encouragement through this time. Thank you to Kirsty Wells, Vickie Goodman and Mike MacCormack for being willing to help out during the forthcoming vacancy.

Thank you to Caroline Worthington for her contribution as a Lay Worship Leader, and for becoming an LPA to join Vicky Goodfellow and Barbara Borwell. Georgie Denison Pender felt it right to tender her resignation as an LPA during the year, and Vicky's home circumstances mean that she is taking a temporary sabbatical to allow her batteries to recharge.

Thank you to the other officers of the church - our wonderful LCC and PCC treasurers, secretaries, assistant wardens LCC and PCC members, and sidespeople who play such an important role in welcoming people into church each Sunday. Thank you especially to our PCC Treasurer Brian Martin for preparing the accounts we have received this evening.

Thank you to Sue Todd, our Safeguarding Representative. Thank you to Malcolm Affleck, Peter Costen and John Rowe for representing our parish on the Deanery Synod, and Malcolm on Diocesan Synod too.

Thank you to our housegroup leaders – the Martins and the Allens – for all you do to help people understand God's word at a deeper level and grow in faith and love.

Thank you to all those who serve as school governors in the two schools, and all those who serve in other groups in the community.

Thank you to the Open the Book team, and others who go into the schools, and are so appreciated.

Thank you to Ashley Kemp, who has overseen the creation of a new website and email server, and trained our new Administrator Eve to update it.

Thank you to Celia and the magazine team for all their hard work in keeping us informed and bringing significant income into the parish.

Thank you to all those who work so hard to keep the church buildings attractive and welcoming: those who clean the churches, set up the church for services, arrange flowers, provide music, care for the churchyard, cut the grass, read lessons, lead the intercessions, set the clocks, ring the bells, all those who pray for God's work in this parish week by week, especially those who pray in our churches during the week, and all those who come to worship on Sundays.

Thank you to all those who work so hard to raise funds for this parish and these churches, and all those members and Friends who give generously of time, talents, and finance to maintain the ministry and mission of this parish.

Thank you to our parish administrator, Julia Skelhorn, for all her help in the office last year, and for Eve Wynn for being willing to take over her role since November, and to Jane Joyce for her careful work as PCC Secretary. Thank you also to the four Administrative Assistants who come to help out in the office once a month.

Thank you to those who have worked so hard on the parish profile, that means you will be ready to advertise in July.

And thank you to all those who helped create the parish Mission Statement last year, on which the profile is based – Looking to God, looking to care, looking to grow. May that be your experience this year.

One person I would like to highlight this year is Margaret Martin. She sits on Bourton Parish Council, which has been very stressful this year, she works with Harry to oversee Bourton church as churchwarden, and most significantly, she has been Chair of Governors at Whitesheet Academy through some very troubled waters over the last couple of years. She carries out all these responsibilities with enthusiasm, dedication and great skill. Thank you, Margaret.

I would also like to say a huge thank you for yesterday, my final Sunday in the parish.

Jackie and I were left speechless (quite a feat!) at your generosity, and the encouraging and appreciative words, both spoken, and in cards and messages. It is very humbling, and quite undeserved.

Thank you to all those who organised things behind the scenes for yesterday. I still have no idea how you did it without letting on. What a gloriously devious bunch you are! I shall think of you every time I watch Yeovil lose next season.

Thank you especially for all those who worked so hard in planning the meal yesterday lunchtime. In 25 years of harvest suppers, parish lunches etc. I don't think I have seen such logistical excellence. Four stations for main course, a variety of desserts brought to the table to fight over...brilliant!

And finally, thank you to my long-suffering wife Jackie, who has been a wonderful support these last 25 years.

So thank you to you all for all that you do for our Lord in this parish. I am sad to be leaving you, although retirement does look quite a nice idea... I look forward to hearing how God will work with you as you bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of this parish in the coming years.

13. Date of next meeting - 27th April 2020 at 7.00 pm

Jane Joyce then added the following:-

I don't think we can finish this meeting without saying how much we want to thank Graham for his friendly advice and guidance during his time with us. I think he has a great gift that we probably all think of him as our friend.

We'll miss him and we'll miss the jokes – even the terrible ones.

In a nod to yesterday's sermon - Let Upper Stour, Let US, Lettuce:-

Lettuce thank you for being *Arugula* fella.
Lettuce thank you for putting a *Rocket* under us when we needed it.
But that's just the tip of the *Iceberg*.
Let it *Romaine* for me to say,
Thank you, *Cos* you're a *Gem*

14. Closing Prayers



Approved: 27.4.20