

**PARISH OF FRANT WITH ERIDGE  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
HELD IN ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, FRANT  
ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020 AT 8.00PM**

**Present:** Revd Brendan Martin (Rector & Chairman); Stephen Barnes and Jonathan Lynn (Churchwardens); Jeremy Halmshaw (Treasurer); Sue Vincer (Hon. Secretary); and 10 members of the Parish.

The Revd Brendan Martin welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Apologies:** Paul & Beryl Barber, Roy & Jenny Buchanan, Colin & Ros Burgess, Helen Carpenter, Annette Carruthers, Patsy Cassidy, Roy & Audrey Dicker, Jane Emler, Brian & Angela Gill, Christopher and Susanna Hall, Iain & Alison Holton, Ann Huggett, Lesley Lynn, Barbara Tasker, Imtiaz Trask and Anne Pybus.

**VESTRY MEETING**

The Chairman explained that the purpose of the Vestry Meeting is to elect the Churchwardens. Nominations had been received from Stephen Barnes, Jane Emler and Jonathan Lynn. All nominations had been proposed and seconded and, with all present being in favour, were duly elected. The Chairman informed the meeting that Crawford Burden was retiring. He thanked Crawford for his time of service, especially throughout the interregnum when he also took a role in choosing the new Rector.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**(1) Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2019 APCM, which had been agreed by the PCC in May 2019, had been distributed by email. Jonathan Lynn proposed they be accepted; seconded by Nick Jones and carried.

**(2) Matter Arising**

Referring to Paragraph (9)(2) of the Minutes, Trish Gray asked whether the bank accounts had been changed. Jeremy said that a change had not been made – it had been decided to stay with Barclays as it was complicated and costly to change it. Trish replied that she was surprised that the church doesn't make a stand and go with a more ethical bank. Brendan said that this matter would be taken to the Finance Committee.

**(3) The Reports**

**(i) The Rector's Report.**

The Chairman explained that he had given his report during the services held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, and it was also available online. Alan Barter enquired as to whether the Rector would be considering how to deal with future services, i.e. Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Services. Brendan replied that, in the present crisis, we have to think "outside the box". An outside service is always held at Frant on Remembrance Sunday and he was hoping that a similar service would also take place at Eridge. With regard to Christmas, he is hoping to have a service of celebration outside with music.

Matt Gurney enquired about the fabric of the churches, bearing in mind our reduced financial position – what plans were in place to maintain the buildings? The Rector replied that the Fabric Fund had suffered as all concerts had been cancelled. John Williams had been booked for last May but due to Covid had postponed to May 2021. However, he was now retiring so that concert would no longer take place.

The Rector informed the meeting that, at present, our bank accounts held enough cash to hopefully get us through Covid, and having spoken to clergy friends he believes we are in a good position financially.

**(ii) The Electoral Roll.**

Nick Jones reported on behalf of his wife, Margaret Jones, Electoral Roll Officer, that the Roll stands at 132 for St Alban's, Frant, and 94 for Holy Trinity, Eridge.

**(iii) Annual Reports from Frant and Eridge**

The Rector thanked Jane Emler and Jonathan Lynn for bringing all the reports together which are in the Annual Report.

**(4) Financial Report and 2019 Accounts**

The Treasurer, Jeremy Halmshaw, presented a full set of accounts, which form part of the Annual Report. During 2019 there was a reduction in expenses as the Parish was in interregnum. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 church funds stood at £131,042 of which £129,742 is cash at the bank and in hand. Unrestricted funds stood at £82,360 and restricted funds at £47,382. (Total funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 were £116,071).

Jeremy informed the meeting that our churches can survive for another 13 or 14 months in the current climate without further funds being received but this situation must be addressed.

The Annual Report was approved and signed by the Rector and Treasurer, and the Rector thanked Jeremy for the extensive work he had undertaken on the accounts during the last year.

**(5) Elections and Appointments**

*(i) Election of representatives to Deanery Synod*

The Rector thanked Anne Pybus and Ann Huggett for agreeing to serve a further term of three years, and welcomed Caroline Creedy Smith and Ed Pascoe as new representatives. As there were no other nominations all were duly elected and will serve as lay representatives of Deanery Synod until 2023. The Rector thanked Susanna Hall for serving as a representative for the last three years.

*(ii) Election of PCC Members*

All the present PCC members were continuing in their present terms and there were no further nominations. The Rector thanked Andrew Best, who had retired, for serving on the PCC.

*(iii) Appointment of Sidespeople*

No change this year.

*(iv) Appointment of Independent Examiner*

Jeremy Halmshaw proposed that James R. Griffin ACA, Chartered Accountant of Cardiff, be appointed as the new Independent Examiner; seconded by Jonathan Lynn and carried.

**(6) Any other business**

None

The Rector closed the meeting with prayer at 8.45pm.