

# **ST PETER & ST PAUL**

## **TESTON**



**THE REPORTS FOR THE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
2ND APRIL 2019**

### **A Message from the Churchwardens**

We are pleased to provide this booklet, comprising our Annual Reports, in advance of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30pm** here at St Peter & St Paul, Teston.

Please make an effort to read the reports and this will save us a great deal of time at the meeting and allow for a more meaningful discussion to take place on issues which warrant more of our attention.

If you have any queries or comments to make there will be ample opportunity during the course of the evening.

We hope that once you have finished reading this report you will be very impressed by all that is taking place and we hope it will provide you with some real food for thought!

It may prompt that question “Is there anything I could be doing for my Church?”

There is such a great deal happening within our church life and we trust that you will continue to pray for each other as we serve Christ in all that we do!

*Dawn Page and Ros Hutchins*

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019**

**To be held on  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019  
At 7.30pm in the Church**

### **AGENDA**

#### ***Annual Vestry Meeting***

1. Prayers
2. Presentation of Notice convening the meeting
3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018
4. Election of Churchwardens

#### ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

1. Presentation of Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018
4. Electoral Roll Report - Janet Gorin - *to be presented separately at the meeting*
5. Annual Reports;  
Vicar's Report - *to be presented separately at the meeting*  
Church Wardens  
Mission & Worship Committee  
Fundraising Crew  
Fabric Committee  
Deanery Synod  
Benefice Mothers Union  
The Choir  
Children's Church  
Teston CMS Pioneers  
Refreshments after Services  
Cleaning Team  
Teas'n Craftees  
The Testonites  
Open Church & Tea at Three  
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) & Safeguarding  
Accounts for 2018 - *to be presented separately at the meeting*
6. Election of Independent Examiner for 2019
7. Elections to Deanery Synod - *n/a*
8. Elections to PCC
9. Elections of Sidepersons
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of 1<sup>st</sup> PCC Meeting

**PARISH OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CHURCH, TESTON**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held at Teston Church on

**Monday 24th April 2018 at 7.30pm**

**ATTENDEES:**

Rev Nicholas Williams (NW), Dawn Page (DP), Ros Hutchins (RH), Sandra Corby (SC), Janet Gorin (JG), Rita Bourlet (RB), Diane Tench (DT), Freddie Cumber (FC), Kirstie Martin (KM)

***Annual Vestry Meeting***

Meeting opened with prayer at 7.34pm

The Meeting Notice was presented and had been displayed for the statutory period.

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting**

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 25th April 2017 for the re-election of the Church Wardens were considered approved, proposed by Freddie Cumber, seconded by Kirstie Martin, and signed accordingly by Rev Nick.

**Election of Churchwardens 2018:** Two applications/nominations had been received; one for Dawn Page and one for Ros Hutchins, both properly proposed and seconded.

Rev Nick therefore declared that Rosalind Hutchins and Dawn Page are duly elected to continue as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Meeting closed 7.36pm

Dated .....

Chairman .....

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Meeting opened at 7.37pm

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 2018**

The Meeting Notice was presented and had been displayed for the statutory period.

**Apologies for absence:** Linda Hoskins, but arrived 7.55pm

1. **Minutes** of the APCM held on Monday 25th April 2017 were considered approved, proposed by KM, seconded by FC, and signed by NW.
2. **Electoral Roll Report:** JG advised that we have 27 on the roll. The roll generally reflects those who attend church regularly, and all but one live in the parish.
3. **Annual Reports:** A booklet containing all the reports had been circulated prior to the meeting, minus the Vicars Report - see below

Items raised from the Reports list;

**Churchwardens:** KM asked about market economy for services. DP said new service had highlighted people like different timings. Numbers have been affected over the last few months.

**Fundraising:** SC congratulated the team on their hard work, ideas, and money raised each year.

**Fabric:** DP advised there are a number of issue that need moving on. NW asked about the slight alteration of 2 pews - were not fixed ones.

**Refreshments after services:** Appreciation was given for their efforts.

**Cleaning:** Everyone grateful for Hilary's and LH's work.

### **Vicar's Report**

NW thanked everyone who does something for the church, the efforts are noted and appreciated.

#### **Review of the Year / Challenges**

NW attended/chaired a number of PCC meetings throughout the year. The new service pattern included a new daytime Eucharist service led by Rev Canon Brenda Hurd. New services have not increased the size of the congregation, neither have they dropped. A new style of family service is being looked at. Prayer and perseverance are needed.

**Future Plans** - Deanery Ministry & Mission Plans (DMMP) is the elephant in the room with its proposals for Teston and other parishes. Closing date of DMMP submissions has passed and we now await the outcome - when NW knows, we'll know.

NW said we have to be honest about the Benefice, it is dead in peoples' minds. Teston is the smallest in all areas, population, electoral roll, congregation, financial, and this has been made more obvious by the Benefice and Parish Shares now being paid separately. Teston is fortunate in being between two larger, financially more stable

churches in Watlingbury and Barming, but questions may be asked as to why we're keeping open, when two churches are not that far away.

The village supports the church in other ways, but not in congregation numbers, which must raise concerns about Teston staying as a church in its own right. There is no question whatsoever of the closure of Teston church, or turning it into a Festival church but in current climate that might become an issue in the future, so it is very important to look to increase £s and people at services. NW insists that there is a lot of potential for the church, but we need to work together to try and get the village engaged in Sunday services. Things may need to change in order to achieve it - that's the challenge for the year. Our personal thoughts need to be put aside and we need to find common ground with traditional/modern styles to attract people.

NW thanked the PCC for all their efforts.

### **Questions to Vicar**

RH said we've been talking for years and years, trying new things but nothing works. NW said there is an incredible community spirit in Teston that you don't see in other villages, the loyalty is strong so try and harness it - tell them "if you don't use it, you'll lose it"! DP said that has been said. She also mentioned the door to door mission from a few years ago, the response from which was amazing.

NW mentioned that in a few weeks' time, Thy Kingdom Come - invitation Sunday for people you are praying for. Invite the village and hold "Songs of Praise".

NW reiterated that there has been no talk of closing the church at all. It is very difficult to close a church. But because of financial and reduced clergy numbers, in the future very small churches will be harder to keep open so it's important to have a plan in place to avoid it happening.

KM asked about Festival churches - NW advised they hold Easter, Christmas, Harvest etc plus weddings, baptisms, funerals, and not much by way of normal services. DT asked if the village would be or has been presented with that information. DP said it had been hinted but DT said hints don't do it and needs to be said straight about the possible future. RH asked if would we be paying for covering clergy under Festival Church. NW said there are no Festival churches in Rochester Diocese but that he read that responsibility for the church could pass to the local community, i.e. the Parish Council. SC said we need to make people aware of the possible scenario. DT suggested that this be put in Tapestry. SC said that if even half of the Christmas congregation were to turn up on Sundays, it would be a very good congregation week on week.

DP feels that over the years there hasn't been much support for the church from the Parish Council but it has improved and they have contributed to the churchyard maintenance. SC asked if other Parish Council members came to the Christmas service. DP said possibly 2 including herself. Working together is key. DP said church, Parish Council and History Society are working together for the Armistice Centenary. NW suggested buying one of the "There but Not There" figures which helps in connection the village to the church.

**Election of Independent Examiner for 2018:** Peter Mitchell in Watlingbury has agreed to be our examiner. Proposed by DP, seconded by KM.

7. **Elections to Deanery Synod:** this Parish has entitlement to 1 place on the Synod. DP appointed for the 3 year period.
8. **Elections to PCC:** All willing to stand again so SC, FC, LH, RB, were voted on to the PCC on a bulk basis (paper forms received from SC, LH & RB). KM stepping down. JG may be co-opted on at the first PCC meeting (co-opted members can't vote). DP & RH as Churchwardens are both ex-officio.
9. **Elections of Sidespersons:** Current list; Neil & Hilary Fisher, Wendy Waygood, Sandra Corby, Phil & Jackie Wall, Ed Bennett, Linda Hoskins, Janet Gorin, Diane Tench, Rita Bourlet, and Kirstie Martin. No changes. Names have agreed to stand again. Proposed by FC, seconded by DP, all in favour.
10. **Any Other Business:** FC - re DMMP - have we heard from Barming? DP & RH met with Wil as they were unsure of what was on offer. DP said it was a negative response, because the figures used by DMMP were not up to date ones, and are 5 yrs in to a 10 yr plan, their finances suggest they will be able to stand alone. Incumbents and Bishop have to agree to the changes.  
 SC is leaving position of Secretary after many years of saying she would step down, and from May will be a PCC member only. DP thanked SC for being an excellent Secretary. SC has been asking people if they would like to do it, no takers as yet.  
 Treasurer - RH happy to do the every day but won't be doing the end of year accounts. DP may speak to the Diocese about help for the accounts.

No nominations received for Secretary or Treasurer so roles now undertaken by Churchwardens

**11. Date of 1<sup>st</sup> PCC Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 7.30pm in the church

Rev Nicholas Williams, closed the meeting with the grace, at 20.28pm.

Dated .....

Chairman.....

# **APCM 2019**

## **REPORTS**

### **VICAR**

Rev Nick Williams' report will be presented at the APCM

### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Once again we have been very busy with Fundraising Events, helped by a cohort of willing and supportive Villagers, whom we thank most sincerely. We would particularly like to thank the group of men who help tirelessly with the putting up of tents and other heavy jobs.

There has been much discussion over the future of our Church, and its position within the Deanery. From July onwards we have received visits from the Archdeacon of Tonbridge. Low numbers at weekly services are giving concern.

An Open Meeting concerning the Sustainability of Teston Church, and its Suitability to becoming a Festival Church, at which seventy or more Parishioners were present, was held in February. Unfortunately the consequences of this meeting have led to the withdrawal of Revd. Nick Williams from ministry in the Parish of Teston.

We thank Revd, Nick for his ministry among us over the past two and a half years and wish him well in the future.

*Dawn Page & Ros Hutchins*  
*Churchwardens*

### **MISSION & WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Committee has met on occasions during the year. The "James Ramsay Day" Service took place as usual, with the wreath laying. The experimental "Food ForThought" and "Come And Praise" services were pruned, and we reverted to the previous pattern and name. The morning Communion on the third Sunday, led by Revd Canon Brenda Hurd has given an opportunity for those who prefer morning worship to attend. Numbers are encouraging. Epifest and Epifest once again proved rewarding. The Flower Festival theme this year provided opportunities for those inexperienced in flower arranging to help. About thirty "Basket arrangements" appeared. The most exciting development was the "Teston Remembers Weekend" to commemorate the Armistice that saw the end of the First World War. A Committee representing the Parish Church, The Parish Council and the History Society

planned an amazing weekend of solemn and social activity, with Exhibitions, Talks, a Reception, a Fish and Chip Supper, a Poppy Tapestry, and Services of Remembrance, accompanied by a Piper. We felt especially honoured that a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent laid a wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Kent at our Act of Remembrance. The lighting of the newly provided Beacon by Michael Bouet, great Grandson of the Rector of Teston at the time of the First World War, was particularly poignant. The Christmas Services were joyful, happy and very well attended. This serves to highlight the problem of how we tap into these numbers, and translate them into increased weekly attendances. Harvest gifts were distributed, and Harvest celebrated with worship, and a hearty Harvest Supper. The Agape Meal in Holy Week was much appreciated.

*Dawn Page*

### **FUND RAISING CREW**

A full programme of Fund Raising has been successfully undertaken throughout the year. The Crew has risen magnificently to each occasion, with innovative twists and tweaks to the usual programme.

We owe a huge debt to all who help on these occasions, as without them the Church could not remain viable.

*Dawn Page*

### **FABRIC COMMITTEE**

We have not resolved the three major issues- the South Transept Window, the placing of the Nestor Plaque and the shed for storage. We have received a quotation for the latter, but a leak in the pipes of the heating system has made a hole in the available monies.

*Dawn Page*

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Three Meetings were held during the Year. The Minutes of each meeting have been reported, and can be found in the minutes of the PCC.

*Dawn Page*

## MOTHERS' UNION

### East Malling, Wateringbury & Teston Benefice Branch of Mothers' Union

- Our branch currently has 16 members, on average we have around 8-12 members at our monthly meetings. Visitors and new members are always welcome.
- We have been making blankets for babies in Malawi, Greece and "Home For Good" adoptees, and knitting for premature and stillborn babies
- We have raised funds for AFIA (Away From It All) caravan holidays for families in Rochester Diocese who are in need of a break from raffles, a cake & craft sale and a garden party
- We continue to support the work of Mothers' Union around the world with daily prayers and some fund raising.

We have had a number of interesting meetings in the last 12 months, some with speakers on a variety of topics:

2018

- Mar: (Meeting cancelled due to snow and ice)
- May: The Work of Mothers' Union a talk by Julia Jamieson Rochester Diocesan President
- June: (Meeting cancelled due to a funeral)
- July: Our annual garden party and fund-raising event at Audrey Allen's house, Larkfield  
with a talk by Maggie Mitchell on the charity "Starfish Malawi"
- Sept: Afternoon tea and visit to Hall Place, Bexley
- Oct: A talk by Billy-Jo O-Leary on "Home for Good" adoption services
- Nov: A talk from Revd Annette Hawkins (Vicar of Dibley) on her route to the priesthood

2019

- Jan: New Year's lunch at the North Pole Pub, Teston
- Feb: A talk on Safety in the Home by a fireman

My thanks go to Audrey Allen (Committee member), Liz Allen (Treasurer) and to Rachel Arundell (Administrator) for helping to plan and run our Benefice Branch of Mothers' Union. Also to all those who tirelessly help with opening up the churches and providing refreshments at our meetings.

*Frances Selman*  
*Mothers' Union Secretary*

### **THE CHOIR**

Our choir of five sopranos and altos continues to lead the worship. We practise weekly on a Tuesday evening, learning a good range of Church Music, with special Anthems and Songs for the Festival Services, and becoming unfazed at singing without accompanying music! We thank them for being the "dynamo" of all that happens in the Church!

*Dawn Page*

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

This group meets every other week in the Church at 9.45am, catering for youngsters from babes in arms with Mums, to teenagers. We are indeed a family group! We enjoy worship and Bible Stories, using the "Roots" syllabus to keep us right up to date in our presentation. Craft and drama activities feature largely in our activity slots. We even rival "Blue Peter"! Musical instruments are popular to accompany our singing. We presented our annual Nativity Play. I would like to give my most sincere thanks to Emily and Tina without whom this would not have been possible. One of the lovely developments within this group is the presence of "Mums" who come in and take part in our sessions. We are small in number, but big in heart! Many thanks to Sandra for her help.

*Dawn Page*

### **TESTON CMS PIONEERS**

The group of young people aged 11 years and over continues to meet weekly on a Wednesday evening during Term Time. We enjoy a programme of events suggested by the young people themselves. Most meetings are in the Village Hall, the hiring fees for which are shared by the Parish Church, and the Parish Council, for which we thank them. We also go out for evenings like Swimming, Ice Skating, Bowling, and Gravity. In the summer we played Tennis at "Park

Cottage”, by kind permission of Robin Owens. Also we enjoyed Bar-B-Qs by the River, and, of course a lovely visit to “Troutbeck”, by kind permission of Peter and Margaret Smith. We also raised funds for CMS with events consisting of Bingo, Quizzes, Beetle Drives and an Entertainment. Carol Singing raised £460+ for Christian Aid. We also helped at Church Fund Raising Events. The Group has now been running continuously for 58years! Huge thanks to Nina for her support and inspiration!

*Dawn Page*

### **REFRESHMENTS AFTER SERVICES**

Many thanks to the small band of ladies who faithfully serve our refreshments after services.

*Dawn Page*

### **CLEANING TEAM**

We like to keep our church clean and welcoming at all times for our congregation, visitors and the building itself – it deserves our respect and care. The speed of a passing year is always noticeable within the church as we seem to be cleaning for our Christmas services and celebrations one minute, the next the odd hidden chocolate Easter egg is discovered under a cushion, Harvest goods adorn the altar then poppies mark our respect in Remembrance. For each of these special times, and in between, we fend off the spider webs, remove the candle wax and polish the dust away. Although Linda and I clean together on a regular basis, Linda ‘tops & tails’ every week ensuring everything is in order after the Tuesday tea gatherings and that the loo is fresh & gleaming! The Team Spring Clean tackles the areas not covered so regularly such as the brasses, historic plaques, hoovering under the floor gratings and higher cobwebs. So, as the seasons of the church fly by, we will continue to muster the duster and thank everybody that is involved in keeping the church looking it’s best.

*Hilary Fisher & Linda Hoskins*

### **TEAS’N CRAFTEES.**

This group has met monthly throughout the year, conjouring up a huge range of items to stock the stalls at Church Events. Thanks to them for their inspiration and perspiration which provides so much to help our finances.

*Dawn Page*

## **THE TESTONITES**

The Testonites Concert Party have produced two major events during the year. In the Spring they produced “Silver Stars”, their show for 2018 which celebrated their twenty-fifth year. Then in the Summer they produced a piece entitled “Can I Help You?”, which was their take on the popular BBC Series “Are You Being Served”. Both pieces were well received, and raised a considerable amount for Church Funds.

*Dawn Page*

## **OPEN CHURCH AND TEA AT THREE**

We continue to open the Church on Tuesdays, both morning and afternoon, and to serve delicious refreshments. It provides an excellent social focus, and attracts both a regular group, and fascinating visitors! Tea at Three remains popular, and reinforces our mission statement of “Hospitality.” Thanks to Linda and the “Tea at Three Team” of Diane, Rita, Ros and Dawn for providing and serving the Refreshment, and for providing Lifts.

## **DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE (DBS) & SAFEGUARDING**

My role as Lead Recruiter is to ensure that DBS applications are carried out according to Diocesan guidelines, that DBS applications are submitted and checked online via ThirtyOne:Eight (formerly known as CCPAS) as quickly and efficiently as possible, always with best practice, and that all relevant Safeguarding courses are completed in good time.

I am responsible for ensuring that the 33 volunteers across the Benefice, who regularly work with Children and/or Vulnerable Adults, have current and valid DBS in place - 3 of those are here in Teston. Added to that in 2018, there were 14 PCC Members across the Benefice who had to apply for a DBS, 3 here at Teston. At the time of compiling this report, some of the PCC applications from across the Benefice are still outstanding as the paperwork has not yet been returned.

In addition, I keep a database of the 120+ volunteers in the Benefice, so at a glance I can see who has/has not completed the relevant safeguarding training, who needs to renew their DBS, and who is applying for the first time.

And as predicted in last year’s report, 2018 was a very busy year.

I think it is safe to say that there were mixed reactions to the C0 & C1 online safeguarding courses. Some found the courses relatively easy to access/complete, others found them more difficult and frustrating, and of course there were a number who were unable to take the online course as they do not possess, or were not comfortable in using, a computer. Thankfully, we had the wonderful Debbie Bond (Safeguarding Rep. for Wateringbury) who stepped in to help those who needed it, by presenting the C0 course at her home over a number of months, and then a one-off presentation at the St Benedict’s Centre, West Malling

in January 2019. Without Debbie's help, giving up her Saturday mornings, the Benefice would be way behind with the training, so a huge thank you to Debbie for all her hard work.

As it stands, all but 5 volunteers across the Benefice have completed their C0 &/or C1 training, and 3 are due to take their C2 course in the not too distant future. Hopefully by the time the APCMs take place, all the volunteers will be trained accordingly, but, disappointingly for me, it has taken over twelve months to get where we are now. The volunteers' safeguarding training is valid for 3 years so if volunteers are still in their roles in 2021, refresher courses will have to be taken.

In addition to the DBS & Safeguarding, February and March 2018 involved me notifying and collating information from everyone who holds data in the Benefice, to ensure that we complied with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into effect on 25th May 2018. The information compiled showed how data was being held, who had access to it, and whether necessary consent forms were in place. With some advice here and there, measures were adopted to ensure that data was kept securely.

2019 should be a slightly easier year in relation to DBS & Safeguarding as there are only 7 DBS renewals to carry out across the Benefice. However, we have the break up of the Benefice looming which will be a big change and challenge for everyone.

And finally, I would like to say a big thank you to our Benefice Safeguarding Reps, Debbie Bond, Michala Neaves and Linda Hoskins, for all their help and support throughout the year.

*Sandra Corby*  
*Lead Recruiter and Administrator for the Benefice*

In accordance with CofE Church Representation Rule 9.2A;

**The Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Teston, confirms that it has complied with the duty mentioned relating to the safeguarding of children and adults who are vulnerable.**

Signed ..... Date: .....