

**PARISH OF WHYKE, St GEORGE with RUMBOLDWYKE, St MARY, and PORTFIELD, ALL SAINTS.
CHICHESTER**

The Annual Parish and Parochial Church Meetings were held in the Church on Sunday, 28 April 2009 at 11.30 am.

Father Stuart was in the chair, there were 77 present and 9 apologies were received.

Annual Parish Meeting

1 Election of Churchwardens

Nominations had been received for Leslie Shipp and Sheila Price and they had agreed to stand. There were no other nominations and they were therefore elected to stand for the coming year.

Father Stuart thanked the outgoing wardens, Mike Glancy and Liz Cooper, for the work they have done during their time in office and for the support that they had given him since he and his family had arrived.

The Annual Parish Meeting Closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1 Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday, 27 April 2008

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Tracey Hills and seconded by Roy Barratt

Unanimously approved

2 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

3 Election of Parochial Church Council Representatives

The following had been proposed and seconded to serve on the Parochial Church Council:

Tracey Hills, Louise Gibbon, Ruth Sullivan, Abigail Greaves, Emma R Brown, Eddie Tuke, Susan Howell-Evans

There were seven vacancies and all were therefore elected to the Parochial Church Council

4 Report on Parish Electoral Roll

Rosemary Lay, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there are 221 members on role.

Number on role last year: 213 members

New names on register: 15 members

Removed, including deaths: 7 members

Father Stuart thanked Rosemary Lay for all the hard work that she does as Electoral Roll Officer.

5 Churchwardens Fabric Report

The report, which had been circulated earlier was given by Liz Cooper, a copy is attached as appendix 'A'

There were no questions raised concerning the Report.

6 Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2008

Tom Batting gave the report which had been circulated earlier, a copy is attached as appendix 'B'

He reported that, as the income of the PCC had exceeded £100,000 this year, the format of the accounts had been changed. They now have to be drawn on an accrual basis, in the same way as business accounts are shown. We also have to register with the Charity Commission, which he is currently doing.

Because of the change it is difficult to compare the accounts with last year's figures, the unrestricted income was up by nearly £8,500 largely owing to a donation of £5,500 and an increase in investment income. This benefit will not be enjoyed in 2009 owing to the fall in interest rates, also the stock market has plunged.

Gift Aid Tax refunds are now collected quarterly, the final quarters refund of over £3000 has been claimed but not yet received. Tom stressed the advantages of the 'yellow envelope' scheme which has been introduced in 2009 resulting in an additional £2000 being reclaimed.

During the year we received a legacy of £1000 and a generous donation of over £14,000. Hall letting income had decrease, but this followed an exceptional year in 2007 and the figures have now evened out. Other fund raising had produced £1553, the 'book case' having raised £271 to date since its inception in June 2007.

Outgoings had increased; we have had full year's expenses of an incumbent, including the Rectory's Council Tax, together with several one off amounts. These include major repairs to the heating system costing £3,500 and unrestricted funds of about £11,000 have been set aside for the proposed updating of the sound system.

Tom gave his thanks to Fred Corbin and Rosemary Lay for their help in the counting and banking of money and also to James Chisholm for his work as auditor of the accounts.

Proposed: Vernon Scullard

Seconded Rosemary Lay

Unanimously agreed

Lorna Russell proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Muriel Facer, They were approved unanimously.

8. **Appointment of Auditor**

It was proposed Susan Howell-Evans and seconded by Andy Wilkes that Mr James Chisham be appointed auditor, approved unanimously.

9. **Rector's Annual Report**

Father Stuart opened his address by reading the Saint George's Church Mission Statement to the meeting. He reported that for St George's 2008 had been a very full year, last year he had thanked everyone for their support and encouragement as he and Laura with their children had arrived and settled into life in the parish. This year he thanked everyone for all the support shown to both of them over the year and particularly over the difficult period of the last two months.

He was delighted to report a significant increase in the number of people attending St George's, the aim for our congregation this year is to build upon this growth with a series of teaching events and programmes to increase our knowledge and understanding of our faith.

Father Stuart said that his initial development plans had included restarting the youth group. He was pleased to report that the Dragons, which had started in January 2008, had continued, thanks particularly to the strong leadership team of five, to grow from strength to strength bringing in new people to the church.

2008 also saw the start of the Monday morning TOTS group; this has proved to be a wonderful way of reaching out to the wider community and has also brought a number of families into our church congregation.

During the year the PCC had put forward 12 people to become lay Eucharistic Assistants, it is hoped that in 2009 several of this number will be used, in addition to taking part in the main Parish Mass, to support our ministry to the housebound.

Our Parish Reader, Brian Dunstan, has been plagued by ill health, however his faith is strong and his ministry with us will continue in a different way. Owing to illness father Peter is unable to take as full a part in the life of St George's as he has in the past. as you know Father James, 'The Great', underwent major heart surgery at the latter end of last year which took him out of his normal duties, we are grateful that he is now strong enough to come back to us on slightly lighter duties.

The Rector continued that it goes without saying the huge thanks that he expressed to both Liz and Mike for all the support, encouragement and direction that they have offered him during his time at St George's. They have both offered fully of themselves and he will miss their company as Bishop's officers.

Father Stuart concluded by saying that he considered complacency to be the biggest threat to the Church, not just St George's but the Church universal, of which we are part. We should always try to gain the best for God, both in this parish and in the Church throughout the World. He was himself committed to not resting upon his laurels and he hoped that the congregation would continue to challenge him as he hoped to continue challenging them. Exiting times lie ahead for our community of faith here in this parish and we step ahead confident in the knowledge of the love of God which surrounds us and his Spirit that guides us.

10 **Any other business**

Pat Sparkes express her concern that ther request to the PCC for money from the Community Grant to be spent on new crockery for the Centre had not been accepted. Liz replied that the PCC had carefully considered this and other suggestions for spending this money and that they had to decide on priorities, in this case they had decided to defer the purchase to a later time.

Liz spoke to pay tribute to all that Father Stuart had achieved in his first full year in the Parish; she asked that during the present time, as Laura was recovering from her illness, demands on the Rector's time should kept to the essential.

The meeting closed with the Grace.