**ST.MARTIN’S CHURCH, EYNSFORD**

**Annual Report for January - December 2020**

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**Incumbent (Rector)** We were in interregnum until the Institution of

Reverend Dorothy McGarvey on 10 December 2020

**Readers** Peter Davis, Jan Thompson

**Diocesan Evangelist**  Peter Sansom

**Licensed Lay Minister** Tina Watson

**Background**

St.Martin’s Church, together with St.Botolph’s, Lullingstone and St Peter & St Paul’s, Farningham form the Benefice of Eynsford with Farningham and Lullingstone. Each parish has its own Parochial Church Council and is responsible for the maintenance of its own church buildings and churchyard. Although the parishes operate independently, they co-operate closely, holding united services in rotation, study days, home groups, youth group and other common initiatives. The Benefice Council set up in 2008 has established structures of administration, pastoral care and oversight of financial arrangements within the Benefice. Each PCC appoints 4 representatives to serve on the Council. In addition, representatives from the worship, preaching and teaching team, pastoral team, mission and children and young people groups are invited to attend as non-voting members.

**Membership**

At the 2020 Annual Church Meeting there were 73 members on the Church Electoral Roll, in accordance with Church of England rules.

**The Parochial Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity.

Ex-Officio members:

The Rector: Revd Dorothy McGarvey (from 10 December 2020).

The Churchwardens: Peter Sansom (Vice-chair) and Marion Bond (until October 2020).

Elected members (until October 2020): Gillian Hill, Julie Clark, Linda Gwyther, Norman Hamblyn, Julie Piper, Sue Povey, Matthew Weaver, Jo Williment, Linda Viner.

Elected members (from October 2020): Julie Clark, Linda Gwyther, Norman Hamblyn, Julie Piper, Sue Povey, Matthew Weaver, Jo Williment. Linda Viner. Martin Piper from 16 November 2020.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Jan Thompson and Mike Hill, (until APCM on 4 October 2020). No Deanery Synod representatives were elected at APCM.

At the first meeting of the PCC after the 2020 Annual Meeting, Matthew Weaver was appointed as Electoral Roll Officer. Linda Viner was appointed Treasurer and Sue Povey was appointed Secretary. Four PCC members were elected to serve on the Benefice Council: Linda Gwyther, Julie Piper, Julie Clark and Peter Sansom.

The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Churchwarden, Secretary and Treasurer.

Between Annual Church Meetings the PCC met 7 times either face to face in the church or via Zoom. During the year the PCC received regular reports from the Benefice Council and the Friends of St Martin’s Church. The PCC received reports from George Comer of meetings of the Deanery Synod.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishop’s guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Mr Peter Davis is currently our Parish Safeguarding Children’s and Adult’s Representative.

All PCC members and those working with children and vulnerable adultshave taken safeguarding training.

The warden has completed a health and safety check of the church and risk assessed its activities to discharge the PCC’s duty of care to safeguard parishioners and visitors to the church*.*

**Report of the PCC**

We fully endorse the aims and objectives set by the Benefice Council

1. To build up Sunday services as the focus of our common life together.
2. To grow church members as disciples through homegroups and age-appropriate groups for 0 – 18s.
3. To grow more leaders.
4. To make the most of occasional offices as a means of connecting people with Jesus.
5. To do better at evangelism, so more people come to faith.

It was generally a difficult year. Firstly, due to the Covid pandemic and secondly because we had no Incumbent Rector for most of the year. The PCC would like to thank Reverend Dorothy for filling this extremely demanding role until her formal appointment to the post on 10 December 2020. The church was closed for most of the year to comply with Government guidelines and church services were recorded and distributed by YouTube to maintain contact with the church congregation and wider community. PCC meetings, Benefice Council Meetings, House Groups, Revive and Sunday School were all maintained using Zoom video conferencing which was a new experience for many. Fund raising activities were also restricted due to government regulations but we managed to have a successful Christmas raffle and Lights of Love due to the help and generosity of the local community and in particular, Normans, Raffertys and the newsagents, whose assistance with the sale of tickets was most appreciated.

**Finance**

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 were prepared by the treasurer, Linda Viner, independently examined by David Carey and approved by the PCC. The General Account income was £51,831 and expenditure was £57,625 resulting in a deficit of £5,794 (including specific charitable collections).

A grant of £650 was received from the Eynsford Parish Council towards maintenance of the churchyard. We received generous donations from a few parishioners which we are incredibly grateful for especially in these unprecedent times.

The PCC was able to give £3,127 to charity, due to cash constraints this was less than the 10% of unrestricted income we were hoping to give. The main charities supported were: Sevenoaks Counselling, Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, Home for Good, Care for the Family, Embrace and Open Doors.

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to approximately three months normal expenditure which is approximately £14,000 on a quarterly average. The General Account balance at 31st December 2020 was £36,799.86 of which £18,239.47 is unrestricted.

We are looking at a budget/forecast deficit of £17,747 for the year to 31st December 2021 if we are not able to resume services at normal capacity and fundraising activities. It is therefore essential that planned giving by members is maintained and possibly increased to meet the Benefice and Diocesan requirements and to keep the Church open for worship. Church members are encouraged to review their giving.

The PCC is grateful to all who support the Church by giving their time and financial contributions.

**Church Fabric**

A Quinquennial inspection took place in St Martins on 26 March 2019 by the architect Simon Ablett. The report was received in September 2019. This is a 5-year project and will be discussed and activated at PCC meetings as and when required.

On behalf of the PCC

Peter Sansom, Church Warden

Sue Povey, PCC Secretary