

United Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Minutes of the Annual Parish Church Meetings held on Sunday 7 April 2019 at St Mary's Church, West Harptree

There were 14 parishioners of the United Parish present. The Revd Karen Spray took the Chair.

Apologies for Absence were received from Murray & Rosemary Bennett, Jo & Kevin Brown, Robbie Drewett, John Hall, Richard & Diana Martin and Barry & Hazel Rider.

Vestry Meeting

1. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting** held on 15 April 2018: acceptance was proposed by Adrian Moore, seconded by Brian de Looze and agreed by all present.
2. **Election of Churchwardens** for the year 2019-2020

There being no other nominations, the following were unanimously elected:

		<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
East Harptree	Guy Stobart	Rosemary Bennett	Diana Martin
	Mary Cookson	Joanna Brown	Adrian Moore
West Harptree	Sara Hall	Maggie Brain	Adrian Phillips
Hinton Blewett	Judith Hutchins	Anne Vincent	John Hall

Grateful thanks were expressed to Robbie Drewett who is taking a break both as Warden of Hinton Blewett and from the PCC. Hinton and West Harptree are each one Warden short and Revd Karen asked parishioners to consider prayerfully whether they might be prepared to volunteer. She thanked all the Wardens for their work over the past year and welcomed them back again for another year.

The Archdeacon's Visitation to the Chew Magna and Midsomer Norton Deanery will take place on **Wednesday 8 May at St John's Midsomer Norton at 7.00pm.**

The Vestry Meeting was closed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of the last meeting:** acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2018 was proposed by Judith Hutchins, seconded by Adrian Phillips and agreed unanimously.
2. **Matters arising:** there were none.
3. **The Annual Report:** the Report had been circulated previously and Revd Karen thanked all who had contributed towards its preparation, and in particular Guy Stobart for the significant task of compiling it. A complete revision of the Electoral Roll has been undertaken and the number now stands at 53, down from 78 last year. A large number number of people did not reapply, including a significant number who have moved away, but this is partly offset by 6 new members. Anyone wishing to join the Roll may obtain an application from the Electoral Roll Officer. It was proposed by Sara Hall, seconded by Margaret Brain and unanimously agreed that the Annual Report be accepted. The Parish Accounts are dealt with separately below.
4. **Nomination and Election of Village Representatives** to serve on the PCC for the ensuing year

Nominations were received for:

		<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
East Harptree	Hazel Rider	Barry Rider	Jenny Cruse
West Harptree	Elaine Avery	Margaret Brain	Sue Bowden
	Margaret Brain	Sara Hall	Adrian Phillips
Hinton Blewett	Vacant		

and there being no other nominations, were unanimously elected. This leaves one vacancy at East Harptree and two at Hinton Blewett. The PCC is now rather depleted and parishioners are urged to volunteer. There are usually only 4 or 5 meetings per year so membership is not onerous. Please contact Revd Karen or any Church Warden for more information.

5. **Nomination and Election of two representatives to the Deanery Synod**

Sara Hall is standing down as a Deanery Synod Representative owing to pressure of other commitments, whilst Graham Sage has taken up a Deanery Synod appointment in his own right. No other nominations were received, leaving both posts vacant. Revd Karen thanked them both and asked parishioners to consider this interesting role, which gives a wider insight into what goes on in surrounding parishes from which the United Parish might learn, and to which it could contribute.

6. **Presentation of Parish Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018:** whilst the figures show a loss for the PCC in general and the analysis shows that all three village churches spent more than they took in during the year, the results are not as bad as they seem because of one-off items, eg initial expenses connected with the Newton Project and the irregular purchase of heating oil. However, the steady decline in overall income in recent years continued in 2018, with regular giving down by around 10%, whilst expenditure increased. Although parish turnover is currently too low to require formal registration with the Charity Commission, increased turnover in connection with the ongoing Newton Project is likely to take us over the threshold and there are likely to be new hoops to jump through. Claire Pearson may not be able to continue to act as Treasurer for the full year as she may be moving away. She and Guy work together well and systems are now set up to enable someone else to take over without too much trouble. Claire has enjoyed doing the work and is glad to volunteer. Guy appreciates the professional way she administers the accounts and provides expert advice as needed. It was proposed by Brian de Looze, seconded by Adrian Phillips and unanimously agreed to accept the accounts. Thanks were expressed to Claire for her expertise and the enormous amount of time she devotes to keeping the United Parish accounts and she thanked the Treasurers of the individual churches.

In response to a query about the Parish Share and how often the parish category and church membership are considered, this is reviewed annually and has just been undertaken in relation to the Parish Share for 2020, when it had been agreed to remain in Band B.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2019 Parish Accounts**

It was proposed by Guy Stobart, seconded by Jenny Cruse and unanimously agreed to re-appoint Kay Drury as Independent Examiner of the Parish Accounts for 2019. Kay, a partner in KPMG, undertakes this onerous task voluntarily and warm thanks were expressed to her.

8. **Any Other Business:** Revd Karen expressed her thanks to the Church Wardens and PCC for the enormous amount of work they undertake, much of it behind the scenes, to keep the work of the parish going on smoothly; to Claire Pearson, Kay Drury, Guy Stobart and the church treasurers for all that goes into looking after the finances and Kevin Brown as Gift Aid Officer; to Elaine Avery as PCC Secretary and the VCCs and Friends for looking after the churches, thus relieving the PCC of the day to day burden; to Trish Rees-Jones and the choir for the ever expanding musical life of the parish; to Jo Brown for her enormous support as Parish Administrator and Adrian Moore whose services as Server she appreciates; to those who run Sunday School, Messy Church, Open the Book and Praise Services, or who act as readers, intercessors and Communion administrators. Bell ringers, refreshment providers and those who clean, do the flowers, look after the churchyards and many others not specifically mentioned, contribute significantly to parish life, and she thanked them all. Finally, she said that Graham Sage is standing down as PCC Chairman owing to his greater involvement with Deanery Synod and increasing family commitments and she paid tribute to the enormous amount of work he has done over a significant period as PCC Chair and previously as a Warden. She and Graham have worked together very well and he has been a real support since her arrival. A thank you card and gift will be passed on to him. In response, Mary Cookson thanked Revd Karen for all that she does in the parish and said everyone wishes to support her. Revd Karen appreciates the fact that she is able to be truly part-time and that parishioners respect her off-duty time.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with The Grace at 12.35 pm.