

NEWCHURCH PCC REPORT 2019

The Parochial Church Council made a small excess of income over expenditure for the year 2018, although we were unable to pay the parish share in full and only able to pay £1000 of the £2650 demanded. The quarterly country markets continue to be well attended and profitable and we keep a tight control on our outgoings with the major cost being an insurance bill of £2500.

We were greatly saddened earlier this year by the deaths of both Tony and Jan Day, with Tony dying after a short illness at the end of January and Jan a few weeks later having had some years of declining health. We would like to pay tribute to the considerable contribution they both made to both the church and the PCC. Tony was churchwarden for many years and Jan apart from being organist and a spell as secretary was a huge supporter of the church.

Following the PCC annual meeting in April we now have 4 members of the laity on the PCC plus 1 co-opted member and myself serving as churchwarden being an ex-officio member. We are also pleased to welcome our new treasurer Myra Webb who at this stage is not a PCC member.

As most people are aware Priest-in-charge the Revd Julie Coleman moved to a post in London in October 2018 so that our benefice is now in a vacancy. There are now plans under a relatively new Archdeacon Darren Miller to make some pastoral reorganisations. The proposal is to put the benefice of Romney and that of Lydd together with a total of 13 churches (I think) to form a Team Ministry with a Team Rector in overall charge and a Team Vicar both full time stipendiaries. The point of view from Canterbury Diocese is that there is great difficulty in attracting any applications to the benefice as it currently stands and that forming a Team Ministry where the 2 work together is the best and only way forward. Subject to this proposal, which will take a few months to put in effect, it is unlikely that anyone is appointed before the end of this year or more realistically early 2020. There is also the possibility of some parishes joining to another parish to form one larger parish as in the long term it continues to be difficult in many parishes to fill PCC posts with very few younger people coming forward to fill those roles. Newchurch may join with Dymchurch to form a new larger parish. This will also help to cut down on some administration.

In the meantime we are fortunate that we have both a part time assistant priest in the Very Revd John Richardson (a former Dean of Bradford), who does considerably more than his allotted hours and benefice administrator who keeps all the benefice paperwork in order. Having these two has been a huge help in keeping everything running smoothly during the vacancy.

Mike Barclay
Churchwarden