

# st martin's DORKING

**Annual Meetings - Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 11.30 am  
in St Martin's Church following worship**

## **AGENDA**

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Report on Fabric and Furnishings
2. Appointment of two Churchwardens for 2024 to 2025

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2023 meetings
3. Matters Arising not otherwise covered by the agenda

### **Reports**

4. Church Electoral Roll Officer's Report  
The 2024 roll shows 89 people, an increase of 2
5. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
6. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
including Dorking Town Mission and Ministry  
and other reports
7. Election of lay representatives to the PCC:
  - a) One LLM (reader) place
  - b) Three to serve for three years, 2024 to 2027
8. In accordance with the Church Representation Rule M15(9) to  
resolve to increase the maximum number of elected lay  
representatives to the PCC from 9 to 12 with effect from the  
2025 APCM
9. Treasurer's Report  
Consolidated Financial Statements for 2023
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner  
To agree that an appointment be made by the PCC following a  
review to be carried out
11. Announcement of the results of any election votes
12. Other matters of General Parochial and Church Interest  
*Comments and Questions*
13. Closing words and prayers

## CHURCHWARDENS NOTES

We are coming up to a year in post and it has certainly been a very busy period for us both. On a personal note given that we hardly knew each other before May of last year it was remarkable how quickly we have settled into a very comfortable working relationship and also a valuable friendship. Our partnership is strengthened by the fact that Judy has been a member of St Martin's Church for a considerable time and carries a lot of the history whilst Felicity had only worshipped at St Martin's for six months (in May 2023) and came with an outsider's perspective.

We are well supported by Canon Peter Bruinvels, PCC Chair, Nick Hands Clarke, Treasurer and much more, and the Support Group (Christine Lawrence, Christine Francis, Nick Hands-Clarke, Peter Bruinvels, Vicki Judd & two churchwardens) which meets regularly and helps to implement events and activities. Vicki Judd, our Administrator, who plays such an important role in the day to day organisation of the Benefice has been crucial in keeping us on track. St Mary's is amply served by the dedication of Peter Shelley and Anne Brown. Many, many thanks to you all.

We have both enjoyed increasing links with St Martin's School and it is a delight to see the children in church, whether for their year assembly or at the large Christmas and Easter whole school end of term services. Rev David Williams, a School Governor, has been instrumental in building on the links and we pay tribute to his work with the school. We have a special window (in the south aisle) dedicated to St Martin's School and the display on the window sill is updated 2/3 times a year by the school team.

Much time and effort has been spent on discerning the best outcome for St Martin's and the Benefice following the process set up by the Archdeacon. We have appreciated building stronger links with St Barnabas, St Mary's, and with the members of St Paul's Church through the small groups. However, the process for agreeing for an interim priest in charge was rather slow and there were no credible candidates following advertising in March. Re-advertising will take place in June with hopefully interviews at the very end of July. This is making for a very long vacancy and we are humbled by the dedication of our clergy team, who journey with us with commitment, good humour and wonderful services. Knowing this lovely group of people they won't want our thanks but we want to pay tribute to them. In no particular order: Rev David Williams, Rev Barbara Steadman-Allen, Rev Caroline Lazenby, Rev David Cowan, Rev Gerard Mee, Dr Chris Watts, Rev Stuart Peace, Bishop Richard. Thanks too to Rev Virginia Smith who has helped with the Wednesday midweek Communion services and taken several weddings.

Many people who come to the services at St Martin's Church speak of the warmth of the welcome and the beauty of the building. The hospitality after the 10 am service is always welcome (especially on cold winter days) and thanks to Robina Williams for her wonderful coffee, cakes and much more.

Next winter we hope the Church will be less chilly and the need for cosy blankets less crucial when the two replacement boilers should be fully operational.

Our first year nearly completed we look back with thanks to all those who have encouraged and supported us (not least our families), for prayers answered, for problems solved and (if re-elected) we go forward in faith that God is at work at St Martin's and St Mary's. Our prayers join with yours for the building up of mission and ministry and the journey of faith for us all as individuals and as a church.

Judy Peace and Felicity Cheetham

## **Fabric report**

### **St Martin's Church**

The largest project this year has been the replacement of the three boilers (two of which were not working) with two new and more efficient boilers. Our grateful thanks to Nick Hands-Clarke for seeing this through on behalf of St Martin's. From submitting a faculty to the Diocese and negotiating with Industraheat to overseeing the installation Nick has taken responsibility for all the stages. The project should be completed by mid May at the latest.

In August 2023 we arranged for a major tidying of the Churchyard including some very overgrown bushes and cutting off a large high level overhanging limb of the oak tree near to the pedestrian route from the public car park by Marks and Spencer. Significant work was also carried out in the Garden of Remembrance. After the necessary permissions were obtained from both Diocese and MVDC the work took place in January 2024. The 18 yew trees which border the Churchyard on the south side are the responsibility of MVDC and it is hoped that the pollarding of these will be completed sometime this year. Many thanks to individuals from the Church and to the Rotary club for their continued support and work in the Churchyard.

A security fixing to the high level ladder on the south side of the roof was installed following a small group of school children accessing the roof and this seems to have prevented further unwanted forays.

The routine high line survey and lightening protection system was carried out by Stone Technical Services in October 2023. Some gutter cleaning was carried out at the same time.

A repair to the Lady Chapel roof seems to have stopped water ingress. However, recently we have noted some black marks and damp on the pillar close to the mosaic of the Flight into Egypt and the architect is being consulted.

The usual tuning on the organ has been carried out twice a year with extra call outs this year with dampness being a particular problem.

As we are still in vacancy we are not able to proceed with any new projects (apart from necessary repairs). With the vacancy now over 18 months this is a concern and frustrating. Plans are on hold for the addition of a stained glass window on the north side as a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II. So too is the possibility of glazing in the Lady Chapel to provide a warm space for midweek services and meetings. Possible options for basic hospitality within the Church, such as a kitchenette and W.C.s, cannot proceed at the present time and this is an ongoing frustration. The local water company carried out some testing on the water in the sink in the Bell Tower and has recommended that this is not suitable for drinking.

Finally a major thank you to all who contribute to the upkeep of St Martin's. Countless visitors who come through our doors stand in awe at our wonderful Church and we are quietly proud and privileged to be stewards of such a beautiful place of sanctuary.

### **FABRIC & FITTINGS NOTES St. MARY'S PIXHAM by Peter Shelley**

Year ending 31 Dec 2023

(Repairs to six stone window transoms, replacement of some 25 missing or damaged roof tiles in several areas, and replacement of seven damaged oak electrical sockets were carried out in 2022.)

In 2023 work took place mainly on internal items needed for the good operation of the church.

This included:

The inspection of all 7 booster fan heaters, and the replacement of the oldest two. Consort free standing Heater fitted to connector with red neon.

The replacement of four smoke alarm batteries.

The repair of the kitchen water heater.

LEDs replaced failing CFL lights to reduce energy consumption.

The recessing into the door jamb of the largest WC door lock striker plate.

Fire extinguishers maintained to standard and certificate recorded.

Gebruder Sohne Piano tuned, moth protection fitted, and small repairs carried out.

Outside, gutters were cleared, long hedge cut, and invading bamboo and trees heavily cut back and substantial quantities of cuttings removed from churchyard & South alleyway.

Defibrillator care was successfully handed over to the Resident's Association, after a recommended software update was organised, and new specialist battery fitted.

Judy Peace and Felicity Cheetham  
Churchwardens, St Martin's Church

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday May 21st 2023 in St Martin's Church starting at 11.30am following a service of Holy Communion in the church.**

The meetings were chaired by Canon Peter Bruinvels. Some 28 members/parishioners were present.

Opening prayers were led by Bishop Richard Cheetham.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

- 1 Report on Fabric and Furnishings  
As there were no Churchwardens, Nick Hands-Clarke had prepared a summary report which had been made available with the agenda prior to the meetings. He highlighted the comprehensive report completed by Fine Arts Society members (formerly NADFAS). At Pixham some roof tiles have been replaced. Revd David Cowan expressed his thanks to Peter Shelley and Anne Brown for their work and support in running Pixham.
- 2 Appointment of two churchwardens  
Two nominations had been received prior to the meeting, and the Chairman declared Felicity Cheetham and Judy Peace duly appointed.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

- 1 Apologies for absence  
These were noted in respect of Veronica and Chris Watts, Di Sutherland, Alan Roome, Christine Lawrence and Mary Cowan.
- 2 Minutes of the 2022 meetings  
These had been made available prior to the meeting and were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Matters arising – none

**Reports**

- 4 Church electoral Roll Officer's Report  
The 2023 roll shows a net reduction of 1 to 87 people of whom 7 report they mainly worship at Pixham. Elizabeth Dobson was thanked for her work on the roll revision.
- 5 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery synod  
Canon Peter Bruinvels reported on the roughly quarterly meetings around the various parishes in the Deanery. Pastoral issues have been the main concern – including the unsuccessful merger/unity of St John's, North Holmwood and St Mary Magdalen, Holmwood. Instead, and very recently, Jane Schofield from St John's is now effectively Associate Minister of Holmwood.  
  
We have a number of new clergy in the area, Kia Pakenham in Abinger, Coldharbour, Wootton and Holmbury St Mary plus Tim Armstrong in Westcott. Indeed Tim was licensed on the evening the Queen died, necessitating some last minute changes to the printed order of service which included singing God Save the King.

The Deanery continue to support the chaplaincy at The Priory School which is also going for academy status.

6 Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council, including Dorking Town Mission and Ministry.

This had been included with the accounts and made available prior to the meeting.

Jenny Bartholomew felt the church choir needed to be promoted, and thanked Andrew Dorman for producing a flier for this.

David Williams reported that the results of the SIAMS inspection of St Martin's School are still confidential, but understood to be encouraging.

Anne Whibberley introduced her report which had been made available prior to the meeting, and emphasised the importance of completing, in a timely manner, the training requirements applicable to the role(s) being undertaken.

7 Election of lay representatives:

- a) one LLM (reader) place on the PCC  
Dr Chris Watts was nominated and duly elected.
- b) Two to serve on Deanery Synod, 2023 to 2026.  
Nominations had been received for Canon Peter Bruinvelds and Nick Hands-Clarke, and they were duly elected.
- c) Three to serve on the PCC for three years, 2023 to 2026.  
Nominations had been received for Jenny Bartholomew, Diana Burges, and Christine Francis. They were duly elected.
- d) Two to serve on the PCC for two years, 2023 to 2025  
Nominations were received for Alan Roome and Catherine Dorman. They were duly elected.
- e) At least one to serve on the PCC for one year, 2023 to 2024  
No nominations had been received prior to the meeting and none were forthcoming. The place was left vacant to be filled later.

8 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements.

Nick Hands-Clarke introduced this, highlighting the unexpected and large legacy which had been received. The report was received.

9 Appointment of Independent Examiner.

There is still an intention to change examiner when sufficient time is available to select a replacement.

10 Announcement of the results of any election votes.

The Chairman reported that no votes had been necessary.

11 Matters of General Parochial and Church Interest

The Chairman remarked on the success in 'flying the flag' for the churches over the past year, noting that Veronica Watts had stood down as churchwarden. This, with the retirement of Revd Derek Tighe at the end of August, had led to challenging times for everyone involved in running the churches.

He noted a number of successes:

- Becoming an Eco friendly church;
- Hosting Bishop Andrew for the large Remembrance Sunday services;
- Excellent hospitality at the Dorking Town Christmas event;
- Getting closer to St Martin's School, including the dedication of a window in church, and the excellent work of Revd David Williams as a governor: please hold the school in your prayers as they proceed down the academy route;
- The meetings of the Discernment Groups which had marketed our churches to the wider church community and helped shape our future direction.

Alison Harding felt the Discernment Group meetings had been very worthwhile and positive. Peter Bruinvelds noted his group meetings were encouraging, and this was supported by others who had taken part in this exercise.

Peter welcomed the appointment of the two churchwardens, Felicity and Judy. He thanked all the clergy who were currently supporting us, Caroline Lazenby, Barbara Steadman-Allen, David Cowan, David Williams, and announced that Bishop Richard Cheetham would shortly be joining the clergy team.

He hoped that the next 12 months would see the selection of a new incumbent. In the interim the church was being run by a small but united team working in partnership as one body for both St Martin's and St Mary's churches, our Lord and for the common good.

Bishop Richard was encouraged by his welcome to St Martin's. It has a rich tradition with much to celebrate and with many ideas for the future. It was important to work well with neighbouring churches. We should value what we have.

David Cowan commented that he was privileged to be part of such a team, and closed the meeting with prayers.

## Dorking Deanery Synod

Area Dean: Revd Peter Nevins  
Lay Chair: Graham Everness  
St Martin's Deanery Reps: Canon Peter Bruinvels  
Nick Hands-Clarke

Dorking Deanery Synod stretches across from Holmbury St Mary, to Newdigate and from Abinger and Coldharbour to Capel and to Westcott as well as including Ranmore and Pixham and the three town churches of St Martin's, St Paul's and St John's, North Holmwood.

Your two elected representatives from St Martin's continue to provide an important link between the parish and the wider structures in the Church with an opportunity to share ideas and experiences as well as supporting and encouraging each other with the Clergy across the Deanery, who are also members.

Dorking Deanery Synod meets three to four times a year and its meetings are held right across the Deanery. Unsurprisingly, the future of Dorking St Martin's and its links with St Paul's and St John's as Members of the Group Ministry to consider the way forward together has played a significant part in our discussions with much interest following the small group meetings and deliberations.

Our meetings have primarily focused on issues including Mission; the who, why, when and where and a reminder of the 5 marks of Mission and how we as individual churches and our Deanery might deal with the implications of the February 2023 -24 General Synod votes on same sex relationships: "Living in Love and Faith". This meeting at St John's, North Holmwood was particularly difficult for me as a Member of General Synod as I took the Deanery through the issues on identity, sexuality, mutual love, personal relationships and marriage and my concern as to how to keep the Church of England together.

Another of our meetings, focussed on the Diocese's Parish Needs Process lead by the Archdeacon in support for parishes as they listen and identify their top priorities for mission and growth, which will form the heart of each of their Church Development Plans. St Martin's has not yet been part of that process as we are still in vacancy and the Parish Needs Process requires the incumbent to be consulted and to sign up to it.

In January 2024, Dorking Deanery Synod were pleased to be part of the Civic and Dorking Deanery Service of Welcome for Bishop Paul Davies - newly appointed Bishop of Dorking where over 200 civic, local business dignitaries, all the clergy and members across the Deanery came together. This was a tremendous occasion with beautiful music, meaningful prayers and a powerful sermon from +Paul who gave a public pledge that he would come to Dorking whenever he could and that he felt that Dorking was his home. [That was certainly the case when +Paul turned up to join our re-introduced Walk of Witness from Dorking Halls and to then preach in St Martin's – a Church which +Andrew calls "+Paul's Cathedral!"]

Our final meeting took place at Holy Trinity, Westcott and covered the recently formed School Hub at The Priory School and concerns school ministry as a means of getting young people back to church or to come to faith. Both a new Mission Enabler for the school and the Priory Chaplain are leading it with the active and hands-on support of the Bishop of Dorking. A Mission Week is planned from 7 – 14 July with an Olympic Theme – 'Run the Race for God' with an Olympian coming to the school and an emphasis on Sports Ministry.

**Canon Peter BRUINVELS CC – Chairman – St Martin's PCC**

## **Bells Report**

The last year has been the most productive that I have overseen in the forty years I have been working with Dorking. We are developing a bigger and keener band. We now have 8 ringers who started post Covid, all of whom are working to build up their repertoire to perform on Sundays.

I like the developing social aspect that we also bring to ringing – the coffee after services and the way ringers help each other at practices.

In 2023 we rang for two weddings and two funerals at St Martin's. There were also two quarter peals for the Coronation of King Charles, as well as general ringing the morning of the Coronation. We opened the tower on heritage weekend in September and we had a fair few visitors despite the heat.

We also had an outing in June, visiting Betchworth, Newdigate and Rusper.

Paul Beeken  
Tower Captain

## 9th Dorking Brownies



It has been an absolute pleasure taking over the running of 9<sup>th</sup> Dorking brownies this year. I have loved getting to know the girls and watching their confidence grow as they move through brownies. We have had an action packed and exciting first year. We have visited the cinema to watch 'Wish', have been roller skating and paid a visit to the Dorking Caves. We have had 2 trips to Faurefold where we sang songs around the campfire, ate smores and designed and made edible vehicles!

We have also been on a woodland walk and built some imaginative dens, complete with carpets, chandeliers and cupboards! We continue to work on Theme awards and celebrated 2 brownies who completed their gold award. We did our bit to celebrate world Earth day by collecting litter around Meadowbank park and made real pancakes(!) at our brownie meeting for pancake day! We decorated pots and planted them for Mother's day and have tie dyed T shirts ready for our final meeting of the year to Abinger Hammer stream to have a picnic, paddle and float the boats we have made!



All this has been possible with help from our 3 fantastic young leaders, who have given up their Thursday evenings to come along and support the pack, which I am truly grateful. We remain in need of a second permanent leader if anyone knows of anyone keen to help. I am looking forward to the year ahead.

Emily Orme AKA Fluffy Owl

## **Choir Report**

St. Martin's Church Choir has a long and illustrious history. Over the years we have sung in many cathedrals, the furthest being York Minster but we have also travelled as far as Gloucester and Bristol as well as nearer cathedrals.

While we are now considerably diminished in size, we have regularly sung Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of the month where we have been attracting a slightly bigger congregation than in the past and have been helped by having additional singers. We also try to be a presence as a small choir on the third Sunday of the month.

For the last two Christmases we have sung the Service for Nine Lessons and Carols conducted by the Director of Music, Stephen Hope, a cappella and both services were widely acclaimed.

We are looking forward to the appointment of a new Director of Music but until then, we have the services of some extremely capable, and would say excellent, external organists.

## **Friends of St Martin's Dorking**

The Friends of St Martin's Church Dorking is a charity which has as its objectives the preservation, maintenance and renewal of the building of the Church and its fabric, furniture and fittings. We continue to benefit from a sizeable legacy received in 2008 which means that at the end of 2023, the charity around £670,000 in assets.

Although we have many ideas that would improve the function and appearance of the church, while we are between incumbents the PCC is limited in the change that it can make to the church building. During 2023 the Friends were able to start to think about a window to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen, and we supported the PCC in its plans to replace the church boilers. We are delighted that this work is now underway, and the Friends are funding it in its entirety.

During 2023, as in previous years, the Friends organised St Martin's contribution to the national Heritage Open Days in September. Last year's theme was "Creativity Unwrapped", and the Friends produced a new leaflet highlighting the range of crafts used in decorating the church. Visitors on Saturday afternoon were also entertained with piano music and singing.

As the previous year's Christmas Card had been so successful, a new card was produced featuring a tablet of the Adoration of the Magi in opus sectile and marble in the Lady Chapel. The card was once more a success, and almost all of the 800 cards printed were sold.

## The Julian Meeting

The Julian Meeting, when at full strength, currently has four members. We meet at 2.45 pm in our house at 5 Priory Close, usually on the third Tuesday of the month. The meeting starts and ends with a reading, and in between we have half an hour of silent, contemplative prayer. The object is to encourage one another in the practice of silent prayer and to strengthen our prayer life (an aspect of making disciples, to use the language of 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives'). There is always room for more, and new members are welcome, but, with only four regulars, it sometimes happens that there aren't enough of us to make the meeting viable, so if you are thinking of trying us out it may be a good idea to check with Chris or Veronica Watts at 01306 640 775 first, just to make sure.