Luddesdowne Parish Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 2019

Report on the proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish

By the time of the 2019 APCM the PCC will have had seven meetings since the 2018 APCM, including the short meeting at which Colin Campbell was elected as vice-chairman, Janet Weaver as treasurer and Paul Lee as secretary. In addition Luddesdowne PCC had one joint meeting with Cobham PCC in November 2018 at which the print room operation and church magazine were discussed, and the changes to services implemented in January 2018 were reviewed.

PCC business this year has naturally included finance and fabric/furnishings matters (reported elsewhere), not least of which was the installation of the new church lighting at the end of 2018. The introduction of new data protection legislation (GDPR) generated a lot of work in the run-up to its implementation in May 2018, and we can all be grateful to Angela and Janet for undertaking the bulk of this work. Safeguarding is obviously taken very seriously these days and the PCC has adopted the Church Of England House of Bishops’ policy statement for children, young people and adults. Margaret Haig has been appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer for Luddesdowne.

There have been other personnel changes; earlier in the year Janet took over from Brian Hussey as Gift Aid Officer, and Brian was thanked for having undertaken this work for several years. More recently, last autumn, we said farewell to Veronica Rees who has moved to Meopham Church having been our evangelist and deanery synod representative for many years. Veronica has also undertaken several other roles, including masterminding the print room operation, and we are grateful to her for all that she has done. She will be much missed but we wish her well as she pursues her vocation in Meopham.

Other business has included diocesan proposals for changes to the way parish share is calculated, fundraising, a proposal to change our electricity supplier to a 100% renewable energy supplier, and special events and services.

Special services at Luddesdowne over the last 12 months have included Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and the usual complement of Christmas services. Remembrance Sunday in 2018 was particularly special as it coincided with Armistice Day on the centenary of the end of the First World War. Special prayers were said, a commemorative kneeler worked by Diana Bampton was dedicated, Margaret Haig fixed the poppy cross in position in the church representing the Haig family and its connections with the Poppy Fund, and Janet Weaver rang the church bells at the end of the service as part of a national bellringing commemoration.

Luddesdowne Church was open on Saturday afternoons in July, August and September as usual. Visitors were few in number but appreciative. Special arrangements were also made for a couple of group visits. The PCC is grateful to all volunteers for staffing the church. In 2019 it has been decided to open for a slightly shorter period (2-4 p.m.) in August and September only.

Food bank collections continue at Luddesdowne Church following Veronica Rees’s departure and we are grateful to Sue and Colin Campbell for taking over organising this.

Paul Lee
Luddesdowne PCC Secretary