

## **Report on the activities of the parish and PCC for the Annual Parochial Church meeting 2022**

2021 was a year dominated again by the coronavirus pandemic to which was then added the sad news that our incumbent Father Jonathan would be leaving us at the end of September.

As in 2020, restrictions were imposed on public worship then slowly lifted and imposed again. Schools work, childrens work and youth work remained limited by these restrictions and then further by the interregnum. Nonetheless, over the year there were twenty-five baptisms, nineteen funerals and a confirmation service at which five of our own candidates were confirmed, a testament to Father Jonathan's work over twelve years in the parish and during the interregnum by the wonderful supporting ministry of Canons Stephen and Michael and Father Frank. Jonathan's contribution to the parish was celebrated in an affectionate Thanksgiving service at the beginning of September when all had an opportunity to say their goodbyes to him and to Judith, a wonderful support throughout their years with us, and to their two wonderful daughters Rose and Lily.

Come September, our wardens Mark Wilcox and Phil Harrison together with the PCC had not only to plan forward for the interregnum but to tackle the somewhat cumbersome process which would lead to the appointment of a new incumbent. Regrettably at the end of November we lost the administrative services of Dawn Holley and Mark resigned as church warden effective from the beginning of 2022.

A meeting was arranged with our Archdeacon Mike Lodge who set out the process for the appointment of an incumbent which would also involve the Cabinet Office as St. Augustine's is a crown patronage. Contact was made with the Ecclesiastical Secretary at the Cabinet Office, Helen Dimmock who gave guidance further as to the process and the drafting of a parish profile. Archdeacon Mike was replaced by Mike Powell who with his secretary Linda gave additional guidance and, following the Formal Notification of Vacancy being served upon the Bishop, Diocese and Cabinet Office, a timetable was then set to progress the appointment:

- Advertisement to be placed in the Church Times between 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Short listing afternoon to take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- First interview day Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The PCC as required, appointed our two wardens to be our Parish Representatives. Upon Mark Wilcox's resignation Margaret Ridley was appointed in his place.

Between September and November at special meetings of the PCC discussions took place as to the content to be included in the Parish Profile and a sub committee consisting of Paul Chisnell, Megan Dugdale and Karen Kindley agreed to prepare a first draft. This they speedily and concisely executed. Further work was then undertaken by Margaret Ridley and Megan Dugdale which once finalised was then reformatted and forwarded to Helen Dimmock and Archdeacon Mike Powell prior to the advertisement, which he assisted in drafting, being placed in the Church Times. By the beginning of December all action required to implement the prescribed timetable had been completed.

Much maintenance work had been done to both the church and church hall during the various lockdowns so that in the main, we entered the interregnum with the fabric in good order. Further we were able, covid restrictions allowing, to maintain the usual round of services on a Sunday and Wednesday with other occasional services as well as evening prayer three evenings mid-week. This was only possible with the invaluable and selfless support and work of our retired clergy together with our Lay Reader Linda Barnard. Indeed Father Frank even arranged a most enjoyable parish lunch at Thorpe Bay Golf Club to maintain fellowship on which the sun even shone! Our Treasurer Colin continued to oversee the church finances; our church magazine continued to be edited by Geoff Mann and Barbara Black monitored our website and prepared the weekly newsletter. Extra tasks have been undertaken by members of the PCC and congregation to support our warden and the smooth running of the church, sustaining our fellowship in what has been a particularly challenging year.