

## Lay chair's report to the PCC meeting on Monday 21st March 2022

As requested by Father Stephen there were announcements to the congregation as to the position reached in the appointment of a new incumbent following the PCC meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> January

Thereafter, on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 9 00am I met Helen Dimmock the Ecclesiastical Secretary at the Cabinet Office at Thorpe Bay station for a parish visit. Over coffee with Phil and our Area Dean Louise, there was an in depth discussion about the parish and its vacancy. Phil and I took her to see our church, the hall and vicarage and then drove her round the parish boundaries. After lunch we then drove her to the station to catch the 2 00pm train.

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February Phil, Louise and I met with Archdeacon Mike Powell to consider the four applicants who had responded to our advertisements and three were agreed suitable to go forward to interview. Subsequently one of the three withdrew for 'personal reasons' and unfortunately one of the two then contracted covid and could not attend the interview day on the 14<sup>th</sup> March attended by Helen Dimmock, Area Dean Louise, Archdeacon Mike, Phil and myself. So but one viewing of the parish and interview has taken place and the postponed interview will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

We celebrated our Patron, the Queens Accession to the throne on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February with champagne after the 10 00am service. A relaxed and enjoyable social occasion. And our services have been enlivened by the role play of Father Stephen and Allen Littlejohns in place of a sermon on 2 occasions with 2 more to come. Our regular pattern of services continue with the support of our retired clergy

Phil drafted a stewardship letter which has gone to members of the congregation.

Linda Barnard has continued to produce the service rotas in consultation with the clergy and has also taken on the task of investigating the current Safeguarding requirements. Dawn Holley tells me we are up to date but need now to complete another round of compliance. I have spoken to Gail Geary who, because of babysitting commitments, is not willing to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer. The PCC will have seen the email from Karen Kindley and the lack of volunteers re Junior school so this policy may seem somewhat academic. Her investigations will also be found very disappointing to our clergy, particularly Father Stephen who is naturally anxious that junior church should recommence now formal covid restrictions have been lifted.. Whilst the safeguarding process covers children it is also applicable to vulnerable adults so needs to be addressed. In the Parish Safeguarding handbook there is a model checklist which appears to indicate inter alia that an appropriate insurance policy should be in place. Assistance can no doubt be obtained from the appropriate officer in the Diocesan office

There remains outstanding the vacancy for a second warden as well as for an administrative assistant, the latter being a paid role.

