

**CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
Sunday 18th October 2020 in the Church**



MINUTES

VESTRY MEETING – Meeting for the election of churchwardens

Those present: Tony Evans, Janet Flynn, Karen Friett, Paul Friett, Deborah Gibson, Sharon Jarvis, Richard Mortimer, Olu Ogunoye, Ade Ogunoye, Michael Smith, Janet White, Val Wooder, Sue Stuttard, Jenny Lawler, Dave Foot, Linda Akinshade, Lynne Parkinson, Felicity Monteith, Catherine Mortimer, Tracey Akinlade

1 Appointment of clerk to record the minutes

Sharon Jarvis proposed by Felicity Monteith and seconded by Karen Friett. All voted in favour.

2 Apologies for Absence

Received from Susan Addison, Tony Addison, Jenny Evans, Gill Smith, J Robinson and Gill Houlton.

3 Election of Church Wardens

Deborah Gibson proposed by Val Wooder and seconded by Michael Smith. All voted in favour.
Olu Ogunoye proposed by Michael Smith and seconded Deborah Gibson. All voted in favour.

Rev. Richard Mortimer, as the deputy of the Bishop of Rochester, admitted them both into the office of Church Warden for the parish of Christ Church within the Deanery of Dartford.

Thanks to them both for taking on the position.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Those present: Tony Evans, Janet Flynn, Karen Friett, Paul Friett, Deborah Gibson, Sharon Jarvis, Richard Mortimer, Olu Ogunoye, Ade Ogunoye, Michael Smith, Janet White, Val Wooder, Sue Stuttard, Jenny Lawler, Dave Foot, Linda Akinshade, Lynne Parkinson, Felicity Monteith, Catherine Mortimer, Tracey Akinlade

1. Appointment of clerk to record the minutes

Sharon Jarvis proposed by Felicity Monteith and seconded by Karen Friett. All voted in favour.

2 Apologies for Absence

Received from Susan Addison, Tony Addison, Jenny Evans, Gill Smith, J Robinson and Gill Houlton.

3. Minutes of the 2019 APCM

The minutes were agreed and signed by Richard Mortimer.

4. Matters arising

No matters were raised

5. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer (Sharon Jarvis)

The current Electoral Roll lists 162 church members. The last full review was undertaken in April 2019 which gave a number of 164. Previous numbers in 2018 and 2017 were 183 and 172 respectively.

6. Election of representatives to the Parochial Church Council

The terms of office for PCC members are now as follows:

Elected Members until APCM 2021

- 1 Anthony Addison
- 2 Tony Evans
- 3 Susan Addison

Resignation letter from Joanne Hyett has been received.

Elected Members until APCM 2022

- 4 Michael Smith
- 5 Felicity Monteith
- 6 Yinka Okikiolu
- 7 Ifeoma Emezie

Elected Members until APCM 2023

- 8 Jacqueline Robinson, proposed by Deborah Gibson and seconded by Beryl Hunt. All voted in favour.
- 9 Gillian Smith, proposed by Sharon Jarvis and seconded by Alison Baker. All voted in favour.
- 10 Tracey Akinlade proposed by Janet White and seconded by Catherine Mortimer. All voted in favour.
- 11 Tim Stone proposed by Janet White and seconded by Catherine Mortimer. All voted in favour.
- 12 Dave Foot proposed by Sarah Foot and seconded by Catherine Mortimer. All voted in favour.

7. Election of representatives to the Deanery Synod

Paul Friett proposed by Janet White and seconded by Catherine Mortimer. All voted in favour.

Janet White proposed by Anthony Addison and seconded by Susan Addison. All voted in favour.

A Deanery Synod representative position remains vacant.

8. Approval of proposal for Licensed Readers and LLMs to be members of the PCC

All attendees were in favour of the proposal for Sharon Jarvis, as Lay Reader to be a member of the PCC.

9. Treasurer's report and presentation of examined accounts and annual report for 2019 (Michael Smith)

Church Financial Year 2019 - *The accounts are presented in the usual format, with General, Designated and Restricted funds. The money in the General fund can be used for any purpose. Designated funds are those which have been set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose e.g. the Parish Hall. Restricted funds must only be used for the purpose for which the money was given e.g. Aquabox.*

During 2019 we had a total income of £129,059 and expenditure of £172,835, giving us a deficit of £43,776 for the year. This compares to a deficit of £16,909 in 2018. In addition to a general increase in running costs, we increased our contribution to work of the Diocese by £10,000 and spent an additional £5,000 on church maintenance.

At the end of 2019, our investment with St James's Place stood at £247,591 and during 2019 we transferred £35,000 from that investment.

During 2019, we gave a total £5,630 in charity donations to our Mission Partners and other charities that work in either the UK or abroad. In addition to this, collections or fund-raising activities were held for third parties and the recipients of these collections are listed on page 10 of the accounts.

The Parish Hall continues to cover its costs and runs at a small profit, which is used for maintenance etc.

I would especially like to thank Jacky Robinson, Liz Waterman, Bill Holme, Tony Jay and Tony Addison for their continuing help and support with the regular counting and banking, to Jacky for her additional work as payroll clerk and parish hall treasurer, to Liz as treasurer for the Boys Brigade.

The PCC continues to use a book-keeping service provided by the Diocese, which also maintains our Gift Aid records. This service costs £130 per month, including VAT, but it is working extremely well and definitely providing value for money.

Gift Aid & Planned Giving - *In 2019 we had 67 donors who made at least 1 donation via the Planned Giving scheme for which Gift Aid could be claimed, with a further 19 donors, who were not eligible for a Gift Aid claim. We were able to claim Gift Aid on over 80% on the money given by Standing Order or Envelope Planned Giving, receiving £11,968 in Gift Aid in total.*

If you are a taxpayer but have not signed a Gift Aid declaration form, please talk to me. As long as you pay more Income Tax than the total of all your donations in a tax year, we can, through the Gift Aid scheme, claim back the tax you paid.

If you have signed a Gift Aid declaration for Christ Church, it is important that you let us know as soon as possible if any details have changed. Again, please talk to me if this is the case.

Church Financial Year 2020 – *I think it is fair to say that 2020 is turning out to be a year like no other!*

It's difficult to estimate the financial impact of the last few months on our church, but between 7th March and 30th September, our income (as recorded in our HSBC account) was £101,198 and our expenditure £82,590. However, this includes £40,000 transferred from our St James's Place investment (leaving us with a balance of £189,386 as at 1st October 2020) and an anonymous donation of £5,000.

We are committed to give £52,488 to the Diocese, to support the clergy and other work of the Diocese (an increase of £6,000 on our 2019 contribution) and we are intending to give £6,006 to support charitable work.

We have established a community support fund, using initially £1,250 of our charitable giving money. We have received additional donations to this fund totalling over £500 to date and given out £1,500. Adding in the funds in our Commonwealth Fund, we have a balance of £984 in this fund.

Since the start of the year, in addition to the Community Support project donations, we have received an additional £392 via our various online and digital giving options.

I believe that it is important to look at what we have achieved over the past year as well as how much we've spent. We are called to be good stewards of what we have been given and as we move forward we must continue to be led by God's spirit and not entirely by our budget.

10. Appointment of independent examiner for 2020 accounts

Any charity with a gross income in excess of £25,000 must have outside scrutiny of their accounts.

In view of this, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to make the following proposal - "The PCC has elected to subject the financial statements to independent examination and, therefore, propose Hedley Dunk accountants as independent examiner until the next APCM."

Michael Smith proposed and seconded by Karen Friett. All voted in favour.

11. Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Gill Smith)

As a church we have adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policies and work closely with the Rochester Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The Diocesan Team has seen several changes in this period. Janice Keen has retired, and Greg Barry is now Lead Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. He has been joined by Claire Langridge and Caroline Smith. Contact numbers can be found on the safeguarding posters displayed in church and the church hall and on the Diocesan website.

There has been a National Past Cases Review for all churches to ensure that all cases involving clergy and church officers have been reported appropriately. The review also invited anyone who wished to make a disclosure to come forward. This has been completed at Christ Church.

A safeguarding pledge was launched in February 2020 by Thirtyone:eight as part of a movement of change in safeguarding culture following a succession of investigations and reports into failings by churches to protect children and vulnerable adults. The pledge commits churches to standing in solidarity with abuse survivors and commits them to taking tangible steps towards ensuring a safe environment. This has been signed by Richard on behalf of Christ Church.

We completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Audit in May 2019, which showed only one area out of thirty needed to be developed at Christ Church: the induction of staff and volunteers. This work has begun and there is a new policy, to be introduced in the next few months by the National Safeguarding Team, that covers this area. This will give clear expectations of requirements and will be adopted when published.

Richard and I hosted a local safeguarding meeting for deanery clergy and safeguarding officers in October 2019. Greg Barry spoke about safeguarding requirements and we shared good practice.

In June 2019 Lynne, on behalf of Christ Church, attended the diocesan training about domestic abuse. In October 2020 I attended training about safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Everyone, whose role requires it, has an up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate at the appropriate level. There were 14 people with a new or renewed DBS certificate in the reporting period.

During the pandemic, every aspect of how we meet as church has changed. I have worked with the church leadership team to ensure that all activities undertaken during this time are safe for children, young people and adults who are vulnerable. Advice from the government, Church of England and the Diocese, in regard to safeguarding, has been followed.

To safeguard well we are all responsible: 'speak up, put survivors first, conceal nothing, take responsibility, make change happen and hold each other accountable' Safeguarding pledge with Thirtyone:eight.

12. Youth Pastor's Report (Lynne Parkinson)

This has been a very different and challenging 18 months in the life of the youth and children's ministry. Before reporting on what we have been able to offer during lockdown and this new season we find ourselves in, it would be foolish to ignore all the exciting youth and children's work which was happening between April 2019 and March 2020.

Our JAM and Footfinder children and young people continued to grow in confidence and in their relationships with each other and with the Lord. We continued to have a great relationship with our community including regular work in schools, uniformed group visits to church and our youth club continued to prove popular. The six Guiding groups and our Boys Brigade Company continued to provide a fun and varied programme throughout 2019 and into 2020.

Lynne also continued to assist the Diocese with their safeguarding training and was part of the National C of E Youth and Children's Development group as well as informally mentoring some local youth and children's workers.

One of the real highlights of this period was being able to use a Diocesan grant to train up some young people and volunteers in the area of youth mental health – they each gained a recognised qualification in Youth Mental Health First Aid from MHFA England. We helped

support several of those young people as they went on to organise and run a day for their peers based on what they had learned.

Youth and Children's Ministry in lockdown and this new season:

Youth and children's ministry in this season has certainly been a challenge but our heart was to provide what we could with the resources we had available.

One of our key focuses, particularly in the early stages of lockdown was mental health and well-being – how could we help our children and young people navigate this time relatively in one piece. In practice this took the form of online sessions with games and bible studies for our footfinders. We weren't able to resource an online regular session for our JAM children so looked to provide some activities through the online services and we sent encouraging postcards to them. Also many of the JAM group engaged with holiday club (see below). In addition, a lot of pastoral work happened through welfare/encouraging text messages to our youth club members and church young people. We were acutely aware of the drain that home schooling was having on our families so tried to shy away from yet more online video calling/content where possible.

As it became clear that restrictions on meeting were not to be a short-term situation, we added in a monthly games session via video calling software for JAM so they could at least see each other on screen if not in person.

Boys Brigade, some Guiding groups and Royal Air Force Air Cadets all moved to an online format also. Lynne was able to lead to Chaplain's sessions for the cadets and lead two mental health seminars for the youth stream of New Wine during this time.

Holiday Club at Christ Church has been a key feature for decades but rather than just do nothing this year we were able to put together a pack of activities based on the story of creation from Genesis which provided activities for the whole summer holiday. The packs included a reflection each week with a series of 3 challenges which encouraged fun and healthy habits, as well as spiritual development. This was supplemented with a weekly online games session. This pack was sent automatically to our JAM children and offered to previous attendees of Holiday Club with several opting to join us.

One of Lynne's favourite projects in this time has been our "Back to School" keyfobs. Just under 100 keyfobs were made by a small army of volunteers and delivered with a card to children and young people to remind them they are loved, that God goes into school with them and that we are praying for them.

Whether in person or online, the youth and children's work at Christ Church is overall of a good standard and the children and young people feel happy, safe and loved. We also adhere to recommended safeguarding practice and ensure our volunteers are well trained and vigilant in this matter.

Moving forward, we are looking to reopen our youth club (subject to the frequently changing guidance) in November and we are going to run a monthly JAM session starting mid October. We are in contact with the schools although regular work is unlikely until after Christmas. The tough decision has been made to close 17th West Kent Boys Brigade Company and Lynne will also be finishing her Chaplaincy role with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets at the end of October – these decisions haven't been made lightly and carry a level of sadness with them but they were not made as a result of the pandemic.

Whilst this season presents significant challenges to how we work with our church and community it also allows space for creativity and opportunities to trial things which is both daunting and exciting so please pray for wisdom, energy and creativity.

As ever, a huge thank you is owed to all who have been involved with the youth and children's ministry over the past eighteen months. Thank you for all that you bring to the children and young people that you steadfastly serve.

13. Deanery Synod Report - (Richard Mortimer)

The Dartford Deanery Synod is a forum for the Church of England Churches in the Dartford and Swanley area. It meets three times a year to worship together and promote unity and fellowship in mission and ministry, and to discuss matters of shared concern. In this reporting period (15/4/2019 to 18/10/2020) the Deanery Synod had five meetings scheduled.

On 19/6/2019 we met at St Mary's, Swanley. After worship, led by Father Dane, and an introduction to St Mary's, we had a guest speaker, Helen Stevens, from A Rocha. She introduced a Christian view of the environment and the A Rocha eco-church scheme. This was the first deanery synod I chaired as Area Dean.

16/10/2019 we met at St Peter's Hextable. On this occasion the (then new) archdeacon, Andy Wooding Jones came as a guest to introduce himself, and to give a bit of personal background and a sense of his vision for the role.

On 12/2/2020 we met at St Margaret's Darent. Rev Emma Young led worship and introduced the Darent Valley Benefice. That evening, Rev Kenneth Clark gave an explanation of the synodical government of the church of England, saying how PCCs, Deanery Synods, Diocesan Synods and General Synod function and interact. The intention following that was to identify matters of concern which the Deanery Synod could raise to Diocesan Synod so as to become more proactive in achieving its aims.,

We were due to meet on 17/6/2020 but were still coming to terms with lockdown, and so cancelled that meeting.

We also have a meeting scheduled for 14/10/2020. At the time of writing this has yet to happen but we will use the opportunity, meeting on Zoom, to reconnect and to update reps about the rescheduling of General Synod and Diocesan Synod elections. Deanery Synod reps are being replaced/ re-elected at the current round of APCM's so, when these are in place, we can schedule the next series of meetings and the voting for Diocesan Reps, at the appropriate times.

14. Church Wardens report (Deborah Gibson)

Olu Ogunoye and I (Deborah Gibson) are undertaking another year in the role of Churchwardens for Christ Church, Dartford as due to the COVID-19 situation the last APCM Meeting which should have taken place in April 2020 was postponed. This year, for all of us, has been like no other we have ever known. In March 2020 we had to close down our church building and church hall because of the global pandemic, something that has to my knowledge, never been done before in its history.

For the past year the church buildings have been in a reasonable state of repair. The potential water damage up in the church roof space, was investigated and the problem was felt to be due to the old wooden cross that was on the top of the church. Olu organised for it to be taken down and replaced by a new cross during lockdown. We have had some water damage in the newly decorated chancel area and we are hoping that the work done in the cross area on the roof will have resolved this. There is some water damage in the Church Centre in the main corridor and inside the vestry which may be due to the same problem, but we need to monitor and allow the walls to dry out before replastering and redecorating. The hall has also had a leak in the porch area and the main hall area during the year and the flat roof was re-felted at the front of the hall by the main door. As regards the main hall roof which is tiled, the old vent was removed (and sold for scrap) as it was felt that the interior leaks were running down from this area and new ventilation was put in the hall roof. I can report that so far, during heavy rain, there has been no sign of any further leakage occurring. The hall was also redecorated this year.

During the year, we tackled the historical problems with pigeons on the church roof. Olu arranged for the bell tower to be netted off and thoroughly cleaned by a company and some fire-gels (anti-pigeon discs) were purchased and placed in the groves above the 'old' church door to the side of the church which have been effective. The hall had its quinquennial inspection in July 2018. The Church quinquennial is due in 2021.

At the beginning of 2020, the PCC Facilities Sub-Group were meeting regularly to explore ideas following the submission of the architect's plans for consideration back in 2018 on how we can re-develop and utilise our church to allow for growth of our buildings for future generations. The meeting in March 2020 was cancelled and sadly we have been unable to meet since. There are two on-going faculty proposals; the sanctuary area – this faculty submission has been approved by DAC and has gone forward for public consultation. This is for removal of the curtain from the sanctuary, moving the altar table forward and for use of free-standing LED uplighters; the second is the nave area – we have a temporary licence which is due to expire in January 2021. Before lockdown we were at the experimental stage with this and because we have not been able to implement this during the current climate, we have applied for a faculty to maintain the situation as it is for a further 3 years to give us time to explore further options. The pews that were removed are currently being stored on the stage in the hall. We would like to thank Michael Smith for all his hard work with the application of these two faculties and preparing the public consultation documents.

Just before lockdown we had some extensive tree work done in the church grounds, as one of the trees was very diseased and had to be removed and some of them had got extremely tall and had spread out, affecting our neighbours, so these were cut back.

Olu and I would like to thank people for their continued attendance and participation at the Work Party in March; we are indebted to this group of volunteers and would love to actively encourage more people to join us. It is a time of great fellowship looking after our beautiful church. Sadly due to the pandemic, we did not have our June work party but we look forward to welcoming you all to join us when we are able to meet again.

During the period between March – Oct (and on-going) a Lockdown Leadership Team was formed to deal with the difficult job of closing down and opening up the church again for firstly private prayer and then our 9 a.m. Sunday Service and other urgent business on how to keep in contact and support our congregation during these challenging times. We have been able to offer an on-line service and a phone-in service on Sundays. Some of our usual Teams have not been able to meet, including the Buildings Committee Team and Standing Committee and the PCC have managed to meet twice via Zoom. Some of the members of the church House Groups have continued to meet via Zoom for bible study. The hall was unused for 4 months but the Pre-School returned in July 2020 and very recently the guides and brownies, who were meeting in the hall and church grounds, have been able to resume their activities inside the hall.

We would like to thank Andy Hulme the Buildings Supervisor and Colin Gibson the Caretaker for all their hard work and support and a special thank you to Jacky Robinson who has dealt with the bookings and has been the General Manager to the Parish Hall for many years. She is stepping down from this position, but has carried out these duties to an exceptional standard and will be greatly missed in this role.

Rachael Sheen became one of the Assistant Wardens but moved away from the area during lockdown and Tony Addison, who has been an Assistant Warden for many years has decided to step down from this role. Olu and I would like to thank them for their support to us during the last year and especial thanks to Tony who has been in this role for many years and has been a real asset to the Warden Team. Yinka Okikiolu and Ifeoma Emezie are in post as Trainee Wardens and we would like to thank them for their support.

We would like to thank Richard Mortimer, Laura Faturoti, Lynne Parkinson, Sharon Jarvis and Michael & Gill Smith our fellow members of the Lockdown Team who have been an incredible support to us; our co-workers in a really difficult time in the Church's history - their wisdom, tenacity, love and care have been invaluable.

The Terrier and Inventory (record of church belongings) has been updated and along with the Log Book (record of works) are presented to the Meeting should anyone want to look at them.

It was also noted at the meeting that there had been a break-in at the Parish Hall during the Covid-19 lockdown. Nothing of value was taken.

15. Clergy report (Richard Mortimer)

*I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.*

*I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.*

Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:19-23

Looking back to our last APCM on 28th April 2019, it was a time, even then, of transition with old members moving on and new ones arriving. I wrote:

With these changes, the way we do things at Christ Church will also inevitably change. But we need to view this as God's way of bringing new life. Jesus said of the Father that, 'He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.' (John 15:2) This reminds us that God is with us in the life's struggles and is working among us to bear fruit, although that can often take time to be evident. I see this as God birthing a new church from the old, and would encourage us to be prayerful and active to ensure that the abundance and blessing of God's plans are fulfilled.

Over the intervening year-and-a-half, much more has changed than I could ever have ever imagined. At the end of last year our long-term worship leader Tim felt called to move on and so Catherine took up that role. Sharon then took up the admin role that Catherine had done for seven years. (Where did the time go?!) So my especial thanks go to Tim for his service over the years, to Sharon for taking up the admin and to Catherine who was so faithful as administrator and has proved to be so anointed in the worship leading role.

From December 2019 to the present we have been studying Luke's gospel in our Sunday worship. The aim was two-fold: firstly, to root us more firmly in God's word but, also, to refocus our Christian walk on Christ himself. To grow as a Christian is to grow more like Christ! I am also looking at re-wording our church mission statement to keep that focus on Christ at the centre – something the PCC has already begun to look at and will revisit once our new PCC is in place.

Last year also we took our facilities review to the next stage. Having consulted about options how best the building could be used, and re-ordered, for that purpose, temporary faculties were obtained to allow experimentation with the church layout. The communion table was moved forward, and the curtain behind the table removed and replaced with LED uplighters. The chapel was made a bit more distinct and better furnished to make it more suitable for prayer and the rear pews were removed to enable the back of church to be used as a café area. We are still looking at these questions and we are taking a new faculty out in order to continue the experiment. The motivation for these innovations is to be better equipped to fulfil our threefold vision of being a house of prayer, a healing place and a training place.

All these plans have been impacted – but not stopped – by the dramatic events of the last sixth months.

From 22 March to 2 August Christ Church was forced to shut for Sunday worship. This is unprecedented in the history of Christ Church, and indeed, the Church of England. But we complied with the Bishop's guidelines and government legislation, so as to play our part in overcoming the threat of coronavirus.

At the start of this I was on sick leave but Laura (as Curate), and the wardens, Deb and Olu, teamed up with Sharon, Lynne, Michael and Gill to form a lockdown leadership team. From week one they established online worship, which is still continuing. This was later supplemented by a phone-in service (from 19th April) and then a 9am Communion service, commencing 9th August. The aim throughout has been to make worship accessible to as many people as possible. I remain eternally grateful to the team for sharing the burden of responsibility at a time when legislation was changing daily and making the wrong decisions could cost lives.

As a church we have kept in contact with one another by the buddy scheme, as well as printed prayer booklets, newsletters, zoom meetings, phone calls and socially distanced chats. We have sought to support the community, providing Aldi vouchers to a local school for families in need, as well as utilising the commonwealth fund to support families in difficulty. We have continued to support the foodbank at this time of need. The night shelter will continue this winter but with the council funding the key worker and providing bed and breakfast for twelve clients. It is a mark of the trust the shelter has established that the council is happy to partner in this way, and Michael has been crucial in facilitating this. We are also continuing the tradition of collecting shoeboxes of Christmas gifts, but this year it's through the charity Amen Trust, run by Gareth Boulton, a local Christian and missionary, and a good friend to Christ Church.

I have thanked the lockdown team but many others have helped at church looking out for other people, helping to staff events, like the prayer afternoons, and continuing to serve behind the scenes. Three of our volunteers, who are now standing down, deserve particular mention: Sarah Jay as PCC secretary, Tony Addison as Assistant Warden and Jacky Robinson as Hall Booking Secretary. These tasks are being reallocated, and an important aim for the coming weeks is to widen participation so that the core team are not overburdened and everyone can express their gifting and worship through acts of service.

As I close, I want to acknowledge the huge loss many have borne in these recent months. Many have lost dear friends or family members, others have experienced lasting damage to their health, many have faced isolation, mental health difficulties or loss of employment. And yet, also, God has been at work. We have had four people, to date, start coming to events at Christ Church, having seen our online worship. And others are testifying to deepened family relationships through having concentrated time together, and others again have found it a time to seek God in prayer.

As I quoted in my opening verse, we have hope because, even in adversity, God is faithful and His nature is to have mercy – upon that we depend.

*God bless,
Richard*

16. AOB

A proposal of thanks was given to Rev. Richard Mortimer by Michael Smith for his diligent leadership and encouragement. All were in favour of this proposal.

17. The Vicar closed the meeting with prayer