

# Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

## 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

This year's Annual Parish Meeting took the form of an informal Brunch. Cllr Rick Bailey opened the meeting by thanking all for attending. It was well attended, with refreshments being served and Parish Councillors were on hand to provide updates on village initiatives over the past year.

### F&HDC Cllr Tony Hills

addressed the meeting, providing an update on his year and inviting comments and questions. Subjects covered ranged from potholes, the region's flood defences and future proposals for a mini nuclear reactor at Dungeness.

### F&HDC Councillor Clive Goddard

sent his apologies but provided an update by email on highlights of his year which was provided as a handout at the Brunch. This covered his support for Ivychurch Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan and the Romney Marsh Litter Pickers. He also mentioned that Lydd Airport are to get an airline in place this Spring, and he continues to chair the Planning Committee, and watches with interest any applications referring to Ivychurch.

### St. George's Church Warden's report

This was also provided as a handout, and is reproduced here in its entirety.

St George's Church, with the Bell Pub, Village Hall and Village Green form the heart of the village.

The church clock, which Robin Button winds twice weekly, draws the eye to the splendid tower. Occasionally Robin is happy to accompany people up the tower to enjoy what is a magnificent view over the Marsh and beyond.

The churchyard surrounding the church is kept in good order by The Mighty Mowers, a volunteer band of village residents, advised by Celia Heritage who ensures that the churchyard encourages sustainable wild life, flowers that bees love, and in raised beds, which will again be planted with herbs for anyone to pick and use, and water!.

Well behaved dog walkers are also welcome!

The church is open daily from 9.30 am until dusk and all are welcome to visit, and, of course, to attend services. As there are so many churches on Romney Marsh there is currently only one service regularly each month; Evensong on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Additionally throughout the year there are other services; on Easter Sunday a short Family Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt, a Remembrance Sunday Service, Carol Services during the Christmas period, and Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.

Many community activities take place in the church. There is a space where children can, at any time, draw, read and play, a book and children's toys swop a table where our many visitors can make themselves a drink, a display set up by village resident and genealogist Celia Heritage where people can research family links to Ivychurch, and, in the north aisle, a display of agricultural machinery, some dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was donated by the Frith Family who had farmed in Ivychurch from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, until Eli Frith's retirement early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Additionally, Concerts, Art Exhibitions and the Annual Harvest Supper are held in the church.

This year, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August there will be a Barn Dance in the church. This is likely to be a very popular event so book tickets from Sarah Wreathall on 01797 343929 or [sarahwreathall@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahwreathall@btinternet.com).

For any other enquiries contact Margaret Waite on 01797 344283 or [mlwaite@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mlwaite@hotmail.co.uk), or Rev Christopher Hodgkins on 01797 335003 or [ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk)

**Margaret Waite  
(Churchwarden)**