

**SUTTON WALDRON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman: David Smith  
Councillors: John Ellis, Sandy Millard, Claire Aartsen  
Clerk: Marianne Wheatley

Residents: Christl Pearson, Walter Steward, Sandra Jelbart, Alan Masher, Ian Pinder, Dick Hood, Helen Dixie, Gill Samways, Tony Archer, Caroline Marsden

**08/05/01**      **Introduction** – The Chairman opened the meeting and confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting was new this year and had been convened at the request of the Clerk as something that the Parish should be doing. The Annual Parish Meeting was probably aimed at larger communities where the residents were not so involved in the Community but the idea was for all of the clubs and societies within the village to present a report about what they had been doing and their plans for the next year. The Chairman then invited the clubs and organisations in attendance to present their reports. The written reports are attached to these minutes.

**08/05/02**      **St. Bartholomew’s Church Report** – Ian Pinder one of the Church Wardens confirmed he had given a written report to the Clerk and he had handed this out to the residents present. In addition to that report he went on to say that he was honoured to be one of the Church Wardens who were elected by the electors of the Parish. He therefore represented the electors. He believed that the Church punched well above its weight and there was at least one service a week which was more than some churches in larger Parishes. Last year the running costs of the Church exceeded income by £1000. The Church had to find £15,000 per annum for the running costs. The PCC had raised £2500 through various social and fund raising events but this year the PCC would have to find an additional £2000 to cover the shortfall and the increased amount payable to the Diocese. The finances were not good but this was the same as a lot of parishes. The average attendance at services was 15 people and this was not increasing. It was not easy to find people to lead activities. There were however a significant number of people within the village who supported the Church activities. Thanks to the funds raised by the Friends of St. Bartholomew’s the Church itself was well maintained.

**08/05/03**      **The Friends of St. Bartholomew’s Society** – the written report is attached herewith. Alan Masher spoke on behalf of the Friends of St. Bartholomew’s Society. He confirmed that there were two main pillars within the community the Church and the Village Hall. The Village Hall were supported by a strong Committee and the Church was supported by the PCC. The money raised by the Friends was used to maintain and enhance the fabric of the Church and the Churchyard. Over the last 5 years the Friends had contributed £8500 to maintain the Church and had been able to undertake roof repairs, the eradication of wood worm, and some tree felling. There were approximately 47 residents out of approximately 27 households who were members of the Friends which was good but it would nice if other residents joined.

**08/05/04**      **The Woman’s Institute** – Sandra Jelbart spoke on behalf of the Sutton Waldron Women’s Institute. She read out the report attached hereto and commented that she believed that this was the first time that the Women’s Institute had been invited to come along and speak at a Parish Meeting.

There being no other reports the meeting was closed at 7.20pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated.....

# **Sutton Waldron Parish Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## **St. Bartholomew's Church Report**

### **Introduction:-**

The parish of St. Bartholomew's is part of the Iwerne Valley Benefice. The benefice consists of five parishes; Ashmore, Fontmell Magna, Iwerne Minster, Shroton with Iwerne Steepleton and Sutton Waldron. The vicar of the benefice is the Rev'd David John. There is an associate priest, the Rev'd Jeff Waring who lives in Sutton Waldron. There are four other ordained priests living in the benefice who lead services on a voluntary basis. The benefice also has six Lay Worship Leaders. One of whom, Ian Pinder, currently leads at least one service a month at St. Bartholomew's. Churchwardens of all five parishes meet together on a regular basis throughout the year

### **The P.C.C.:-**

Current membership is:- Ian Pinder (churchwarden), Caroline Marsden (churchwarden and worship co-ordinator), Stuart Asbury, Helen Dixie (treasurer), Amanda Ellis (secretary), Rod Swift (premises co-ordinator), Yvonne Pinder, Rev'd Jeff Waring (Deanery Synod rep.) and the vicar, Rev'd David John. Jane McNeil attends meetings as a representative of the village's Village Hall Committee. The P.C.C. no longer has a member who is a foundation governor of St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School, Fontmell. With the school's change of status to be part of an academy there are fewer governors. The vicar now fulfils that role, as an ex-officio member of the school's governing body.

### **Services/Worship**

The current normal pattern of church services is as follows:- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month = Holy Communion; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday = "Breakfast Church" held in the Village Hall; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday = Morning Worship; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday = Family Communion. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is a benefice communion service held on a rota basis around the five parishes. Morning Prayer is said every Tuesday morning in St. Bartholomew's starting at 9 a.m. "Breakfast Church" started in February 2019 for a six month trial. Numbers attending "Breakfast Church" have been 36 and 33. These numbers are significantly higher than those for other regular services. Attendance at regular church services is showing a downward trend with numbers averaging between 13 and 16 depending on the type of service. However, at special services, numbers have risen. The 2018 Carol Service saw 91 people attend compared to 62 in 2017 and an average of 60 over the past 18 years.

### **Finances and Fund Raising:-**

To simply meet running costs the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) has to raise approximately £15,000 a year. £9,000 of which is the Parish Share payable to Salisbury Diocese. In 2018 the Parochial Church Council ran at a loss (approx £1,000). Several fund raising events and activities are held throughout the year which in 2018 brought in over £2,300. The Friends of St. Bartholomew's Society provides vital financial assistance to assist the maintenance of the church's fabric and premises (see below). The life and work of the church and the P.C.C. continue to be well integrated into the life of the village.

### **Premises/Church Fabric:-**

The church's grounds continue to be well maintained. Hedges are kept trim, grass cut and the old churchyard cared for. The past year has seen the restoration and re-painting of the church railings and main gate, repair work to the boiler and the installation of a heater in the vestry. "The Friends of St. Bartholomew's Society" partly paid for the first of these items and met the total cost of the other two.

Current priorities are to continue to improve the church's internal and external lighting; to improve oil tank security and maintenance and install a sound system in the church. There are concerns over the boiler's efficiency.

### **Ongoing Issues:-**

Our income is not rising. Our church attendance figures are showing a downward trend. The co-ordination and leadership of social and fund raising events and the day to day business of managing the life of the church make significant demands on a small number of people.

We have nobody to lead our work with children and young people.

Our church's interior, Owen Jones, decoration is deteriorating in some areas.

### **Joys:-**

We are blessed with an important, uniquely decorated church as our central place of worship.

Loyal support is received from a significant minority of villagers on special church occasions and at fund raising events.

We receive good support from our fellow parishes within the benefice.

We have access to a number of very able and experienced clergy who value our church and lead services in it.

Ian Pinder (Churchwarden)

April 2019

### **The Friends of St Bartholomew's Society**

(charity no 1083987)

#### Report to the Sutton Waldron Parish Meeting, 8 May 2019

The Friends of St Bartholomew's Society is an independent charity registered with the Charities Commission which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. Its main objective is to support the preservation and repair of the fabric of Sutton Waldron church and its churchyard.

During the past year the Friends have enabled vital works to the church and grounds, contributing to the restoration of the listed railings and gates, and paying for essential boiler and heating repairs. This brought the total amount contributed over the last 5 years to £8,500 which has included roof repairs, woodworm treatment, stone masonry and tree surgery.

The Friends is reliant on the many villagers, both non-church goers and church-goers alike who are members of the charity and support it through their annual membership donations. Membership is open to anyone for a minimum annual subscription of £1 and membership forms are available from the treasurer, Martin Jelbart. (friends@masjelbart.co.uk)

### **Sutton Waldron & Iwerne Minster Women's Institute**

#### **Report for Sutton Waldron Parish Meeting 2019**

Sutton Waldron and Iwerne Minster WI is approaching its 90<sup>th</sup> year. We have 32 members with 4 from Sutton Waldron and other members coming from Bedchester, Fontmell Magna as well as Iwerne Minster. Ages range from the newly retired to 92.

Our monthly meetings have a varied programme reflecting the interests and enthusiasms of our members. Speakers during the last year have included Nicky Stevens from 'The Brotherhood of Man' who won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1976; Cherry Barlow who brought along two of her rescued owls; and Dr Burroughs who talked about the history of glass and bravely allowed us to handle some of his valuable old pieces. At our open meeting in March which non-members could attend, the very enthusiastic Steve Oliver from Dorset Wildlife Trust gave a very enjoyable and informative illustrated talk about the many different rare species found on Fontmell Down.

Last summer we held a garden party to raise money for local breast cancer care which was supported by ladies from surrounding villages. Also during the year we held a pancake supper and a curry night to raise funds. Other activities have included an outing to Moreton and several members and some husbands joining a Dorset beach clean-up at Seatown.