

St John the Evangelist, Highbridge APCM 2020 SPECIAL SIGNPOST

APCM

Sunday 18th October

9.30am – Harvest

Parish Communion

10.30am APCM Meeting

DEAR FRIENDS

We want to make sure you all know that you are very, very welcome to attend the annual church meeting. It doesn't matter if you only ever come along to a couple of family services, or just once a month, you are still very much part of this church family. It is an important meeting. **We believe we can safely accommodate all who wish to attend and retain our COVID risk-reduced provisions.** There is a lot of business to be done, but it is also an occasion to say a big thank you to those who work hard throughout the year. You may be eligible to stand for election to the PCC. We would encourage you to consider it and are very happy to chat it through with you. You can read about the various roles and the groups on this newsletter. *Rev Dan Crouch and Chris Perry*

Questions for you to consider

Is your name on the Electoral Roll?

Do we have your contact details?

We currently have six vacancies on the PCC and this year need to elect our two representatives for deanery synod. You may like to fill one of those vacancies.

We are also looking for a second church warden. Is that something you would like to try?

Would you like to be a sidesperson?

Would you like to be considered for the role of PCC Secretary this year? Training will be given.

If you are new to St John's you may be asked to join the Electoral Roll. This is a record of those who are eligible to vote at the annual meeting or to be nominated and elected on to the PCC. You may also be asked to fill out a contact form. This means we can stay in touch with you. But we never give your details to anyone else. We take the security of your personal details very seriously. Filling in a contact form or joining the Electoral Roll can feel like a big step for someone new to Church. If you would like to know more, please have a word with a PCC member, or with Rev Dan.

But you don't need to sign up to anything if you don't want to. You will still be welcome to attend Church. We are not like a club with a membership list.

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Mr Chris Perry 783753

Office: 780633 stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com

How we operate

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is a group of up to fifteen people who hold the responsibility of ensuring that St John's is well run, is a safe place to be, and is serving our community in the way God is calling us. We aim to ensure most members are not expected to devote more than one evening per month to church meetings. Members may have additional tasks between meetings. Tasks are also shared with non-council members using their skills, gifts and time, which means we can all play our part within our church family. PCC members must be over 16. This year we have tried to operate without working groups to reduce the number of meetings. This has had varied success. For the coming year, we intend to reintroduce the working groups as outlined below.

Working Groups: The main areas of ministry have been divided into three specific but not distinct areas. The work of these groups is brought together at the main PCC meetings where we will receive reports from the groups. Significant decisions are always made by the full PCC.

Outlook: This group is our outward looking group. It is important for St John's to be well known in the community and to have a presence on social media. We try and get regular features in Local Reach and on Burnham-on-sea.com, as well as ensuring our colourful posters are seen across the town. We try to ensure we have a number of social events throughout the year. They are fun for church members but are also a great way to meet up with those that don't often get to church on a Sunday. These events are also an important way to raise essential funds to keep St John's open and our ministry well-resourced. The group is dependent on lots of volunteers helping at the fundraising events.

Nurture & Worship: This group considers the ways in which we encourage and support people in their faith development. We need to work harder on this, to ensure that our children's ministry is well resourced. We ensure a number of opportunities exist for development of faith such as the Pilgrim Courses. The group considers the development of lay pastoral ministry, lay worship leaders and baptism friends ensuring that safeguarding is in place for all of our ministry.

The group also gives consideration to our times of worship and how we develop and evolve ensuring a balance of consistency and innovation. In the coming year, addressing responses to our parish survey regarding service times and worship style.

Buildings & Finance: This group keeps a close eye on how our finances are looking. It makes recommendations to the PCC about the companies we use for utilities. It addresses repairs and ongoing development of our buildings and grounds. The group ensures we comply with matters such as health and safety, accessibility, employment law, insurance and public liability.

The Standing Committee: The wardens, secretary, treasurer and vicar (or curate during the vacancy) are sometimes required to make decisions between meetings of the main council. In an age of email these decisions can usually be shared and circulated with all members but it is the standing committee who has the responsibility should anything urgent require action. The standing committee (via email) also agrees the agenda of PCC meetings, although any member can request that an item is raised.

Key Leadership Roles

Church Warden: Wardens are elected each year at the APCM by the members of the Electoral Roll. They are Bishops Officers and are admitted to this office by the Archdeacon at the annual deanery visitation. They share in the leadership of the church with the vicar and act as a critical friend. They maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service. They also keep an up-to-date inventory of church property, fabric and ornaments. In a vacancy, legal responsibility for the church belongs to the church warden(s).

Secretary: The secretary works closely with the wardens and vicar to call PCC meetings, to draw up the agenda and to keep a record of the business of the PCC. The secretary ensures PCC members have the information they need so that meetings are run smoothly and efficiently. The secretary also acts as main contact for much diocesan correspondence and has an important role in passing on information to the right people or ensuring information is

returned to central diocesan services. We would be open to considering a shared PCC secretary role.

Treasurer: It is the responsibility of the treasurer to record all financial transactions carried out on behalf of the PCC and ensure they are properly authorised and to draft an annual budget to assist the PCC to plan how it will fulfil its objectives for the coming year and to alert the PCC of any potential difficulties. It is not the responsibility of the treasurer to raise the money, that responsibility lies with the PCC and wider church. The treasurer prepares the annual financial statements for approval by the PCC and submission to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, ensuring that they comply with current Charity Commission requirements.

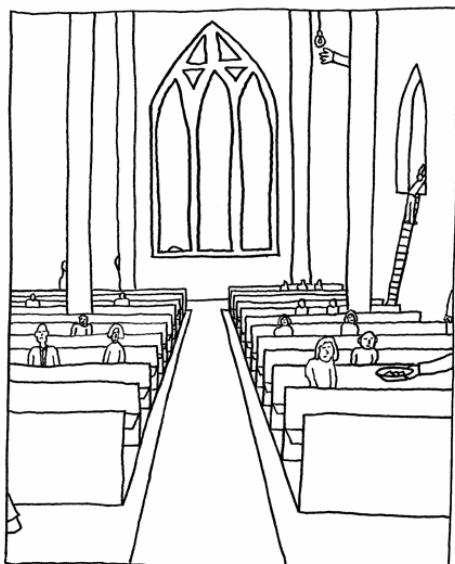
Deanery Synod Representatives: St John's church is part of Axbridge Deanery. The Deanery meets as a synod four times a year and is a place of sharing information. The deanery seeks to resource parishes for effective ministry and mission through sharing in training and other events. Deanery Synod Members also form part of the Electoral Roll for Diocesan and General Synod, which is the Governance of our national church. We need to elect our two Deanery Synod Representatives this year for a three-year term of service.

SIDESPERSONS

THESE ARE A SPECIAL CLASS OF PEOPLE WHO LURK UNSEEN DURING THE SERVICE BUT THEN SPRING FORTH AT MOMENTS OF LITURGICAL OR PRACTICAL NEED

SIDESPERSONS OFTEN GO UNDETECTED BY THE UNTRAINED EYE

HOW MANY CAN YOU SPOT IN THIS PICTURE?



CartoonChurch.com

Sidespersons: We also elect sidespersons at the APCM. A sidesperson is the person who provides a friendly welcome at the door and is there is help and support anyone who needs it during the service. They often take up the collection and after worship will assist in tidying the church. If you become a sidesperson (a welcomer) you would be asked to be "on duty" about once every 4-6 weeks.

Persons under 16 can also be assistant welcomers.

For a full list of current PCC Members please see the Annual Report