

PAROISSE DE ST. MARTIN ECCLESIASTICAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

An Assembly of Principals, Officers and Electors of the Parish of St. Martin was held in the Public Hall on Tuesday, the 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm to: -

- 1) Receive and, if deemed advisable, approve the Minutes of the Ecclesiastical Assembly of 16th May 2019.
- 2) Elect one Churchwarden for one term of office.
- 3) Elect one Almoner for one term of office.

The Rector, Reverend Jonathan Scott, presided over the assembly and was supported on the platform by Church Administrator and note taker Christine Willing. 26 people were present; apologies were received from Felicity and Peter Searle, Helen Witts and Fiona Sangan. The meeting opened with prayer and then the convening notice was read by Christine Willing.

The Rector opened the assembly by outlining the background to the meeting. He explained that in a normal year an Ecclesiastical Assembly would have been held in May at which the annual Tresor accounts would have been presented and a full complement of Church Wardens and Almoners been elected. This would have been preceded by an annual congregational meeting in church where the church accounts would have been submitted for approval.

Due to the pandemic restrictions all parishes were prevented from doing this, and so dispensation was given for church accounts to be submitted to the Deanery without congregational approval, but having been independently examined instead and we are grateful to Geoff Cook for having examined the accounts this year.

Dispensation was also given to the existing church officers to remain in office for another year until an annual Ecclesiastical Assembly could be held in the spring of 2021. The Rector is grateful to the existing officers for having agreed to continue in their service until that date.

St Martin has, however been in the unique position of having one church warden off the island since Graham Tuckwell emigrated back to Australia in the autumn of 2019. Graham continued to give wisdom and support from afar until a replacement could be elected earlier this year - but this was unable to happen. The Rector thanked Graham Tuckwell for continuing to serve well into 2020 and presented him with a gift of thanks from himself.

The Rector said now that we are able to gather again, the Dean has advised that we may hold an Ecclesiastical assembly for the sole purpose of appointing a churchwarden to ensure the continuity of governance at the church.

In addition, it is felt important to bolster the team of officers with an additional almoner. Whilst two almoners are the minimum required for church governance, many churches have more than two, and St Martin would like to do likewise. During lockdown the church found it would have been beneficial to have a broader team of officers supporting the work of the church especially should

any officers had the need to self isolate or be caught in quarantine for an extended period.

This assembly then is the opportunity to remedy both governance issues and the Rector thanked all present for coming to support the parish in this endeavour.

Item 1: - Receive and, if deemed advisable, approve the Minutes of the Ecclesiastical Assembly of 16th May 2019. Peter Germain proposed that the minutes were approved; the motion was seconded by Joan Richard and agreed by all present.

Item 2: - Elect one Churchwarden for one term of office. The Connetable, Karen Shenton Stone proposed Mrs Jackie Edwards be appointed as Churchwarden. She said that she first met Jackie Edwards a few years ago through the Church. In fact, using the phrase 'met' lightly, as she saw Jackie working hard for the Church Community on many occasions before she actually had the pleasure of meeting her. Jackie was previously involved with the Christian Unity Group, Street Light and Open the Door; all ecumenical initiatives. Jackie has always enjoyed being with children, whether her own grandchildren, children at Church or school children. As Jackie says 'It is wonderful to be able to support them in their early years and enlighten them of God's unconditional love for them'. Over the years, Jackie has been involved in volunteering her time as a school assistant in the classroom, swimming with those with special needs, working with Street Light, leading Sunday School and being Island Co-ordinator for Open the Door. Jackie first came to worship at St Martin's Parish Church in 2013 and since that time she has worked as a secretary/administrator; helping to set up the church office and volunteering her time as administrator, she has worked with S'Marteenies and S'Mart After School, led the church prayer group and been involved with church rotas, mission and council. In 2018 Jackie directed the highly successful nativity performance on Christmas Eve, the Connetable was a very reluctant shepherd, but despite her reluctance Jackie's enthusiasm was infectious and she directed a very diverse group, of all ages and abilities, and ensured that the performance was a success. Not an easy task. The Church was full to bursting. The point being is that Jackie pulled the cast together and gave them the conviction that they could do it. Anyone who knows Jackie will know that she has a very deep and strong faith and along with being hardworking, she is committed to the Church and is resilient and resourceful. She thanked Jackie for what she has done for the Church so far and was delighted to nominate Jackie as Church Warden, wishing her every success. Fiona Sangan seconded the proposal. As she was unable to attend the assembly she requested Peter Marett to read her proposal. He read "It gives me great pleasure to second Jackie Edwards' nomination for Church Warden. Since moving to the Parish and becoming a regular member of St. Martin's Parish Church congregation, I have come to know Jackie, first as Church Secretary, than as a member of the Church Council. During that time Jackie has been very active in promoting, co-ordinating and working with our S'Mart Children's Group, developing a range of seasonal activity days during the school holidays. She has put a lot of time and effort into these fun days, making them accessible for a broad range of ages, and encouraging older children to interact with and help the younger children develop their understanding of the bible stories, and of the love of God. Jackie has also been responsible for and active in promoting 'Mission' within the church. Sadly many of the events she has regularly organised have been unable to go ahead this year because of the Covid pandemic. They have been sorely missed. Jackie has regularly organised our Novena prayer week, sourcing the literature, thought provoking displays and interactive activities. And of course, the fabulous boundary prayer walk and picnic, an annual challenge which many have come to look forward to. Jackie's commitment and dedication to our church, her concern for, and empathy with people, and

her seemingly unstoppable energy make her an ideal candidate for the position of Church Warden. I have therefore no hesitation in seconding her nomination. There being no other nomination from the assembly Jackie Edwards was elected unopposed and warned to be available for swearing in at the Dean's Chambers at 10.30am on Monday 9th November.

Item 3: - Elect one Almoner for one term of office.

The Rector invited Peter Marett to propose Joan Richard MBE, for election as Almoner. Peter said that he was delighted to propose Joan Richard MBE for the post of Almoner.

He could not think of anybody better to fulfil this role. Joan is committed to St Martin's church; she is well-known and well-liked by the congregation and more widely in the parish and island. She also brings great knowledge to the role. In reality, Joan already does some of the tasks involved: she attends Church Council and is a competent duty officer at services.

Joan's history of service in our community is second to none and an example to all Christians. The fact that she was awarded an MBE was a just reward for her work. Despite Joan's busy schedule in the community, especially when she was chair of Cancer Relief, she has always maintained her service to St Martin's church and she is a much respected leader of the Ladies' Group.

We are blessed that Joan is prepared to share her skills and give of her valuable time. He had no hesitation in proposing her as an Almoner. The nomination was seconded by Paulette De La Haye who said that she had known Joan Richard her entire life: she is a hard working and well organised person who is devoted to the life of the parish of St Martin. There being no other nomination from the assembly Joan Richard was elected unopposed and warned to be available for swearing in at the Dean's Chambers at 10.30am on Monday 9th November.

Thelma Emberson added her thanks to Graham Tuckwell for his support during his tenure as Churchwarden.

The Rector thanked all attending for their support and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm with all joining together in saying the grace.