

# Parish of Saffron Walden

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden immediately following the Meeting of the Parishioners on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

**Chairman:** Rev'd Canon David Tomlinson, Clerk to the meeting: Lisa Brook

**Present:** Anthony Armon Jones, Marisa Baltrock, Ian Barclay, Margaret Barnes, Rufus Barnes, David Birchall, Lisa Brook, Hazel Colebrook, Jenny Cottam, Graham Cottam, Heather Finch, Richard Freeman, Sheilah Girgis, Lawrence Gooderham, Lesley Green, Chris Hall, Kevin Halsall, Judith Hasler, Steve Hasler, Joe Horden, Oli King, Kathleen Huey, Pamela Jenner, Peter Karolyi, Jenny Kirkaldy, Alastair Knights, Alison Knights, Lesley Lancaster, Gill Lovegrove, Shawn Martin, Pamela Mugliston, Kate Ollerenshaw, Robin O'Neill, Helen O'Neill, John Pickthorn, Sarah Pickthorn, Tessa Pilsbury, Rev'd Rachel Prior, Christine Ractliff, Charles Ractliff, Anne Rhodes, Pam Russell, Rev'd John Saxon, Noel Starr, Brenda Sheath, Cath Stuckey, Joe Stuckey, Margaret Taylor, Pete Taylor, Denis Tindley, Graeme Walker, Sue Walker, Clifford Want, Charis Withers, Matt Williamson, Nicola Williamson.

**Apologies:** Rev'd Paula Griffiths, Kevin Halsall, Diana Hoy, Martin Hugall, Chris Knight, Bill Rose.

### **A18/1. Confirmation of the Notice convening the Meeting.**

The clerk to the meeting confirmed that notice of the meeting had been properly prepared for all three churches of the Parish.

### **A18/2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 distributed prior to and at the meeting were taken as read. A resolution to approve the Minutes as a true record of that meeting was proposed by Pam Russell, seconded by Helen O'Neill and passed unanimously.

### **A18/3. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **A18/4. Consideration of the Agenda.**

No changes were made to the agenda distributed before the meeting.

### **A18/5. Report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the previous annual meeting.**

Gillian Lovegrove, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the statutory notice advising the parish of the revision of the electoral roll was posted in St Mary's, St James and St John's on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with completed forms to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and the amended roll was subsequently displayed.

Through the year we have lost from the electoral roll 10 people who have died and 13 resignations. However, we are pleased to welcome another 16 people onto the roll. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the total on the electoral was 420, as follows:

St Mary's Saffron Walden	resident	296
	non-resident	38
St James' Swards End	resident	43
	non-resident	8
St John's Little Walden	resident	32
	non-resident	3
Total		420 (previously 427)

Thanks were expressed to Gill for maintaining the roll and appreciation for all her work as Electoral Roll Officer a role from which she is now stepping down.

**A18/6. Annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).**

The report issued prior to the meeting was taken as read and the report was accepted with thanks.

**A18/7. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.**

David Birchall, Treasurer, highlighted elements of the accounts which had been scrutinised by the Finance Committee, examined by Peters, Elworthy & Moore (PEM), approved by the PCC and made available before the meeting. While the accounts show a £116k net decrease of funds, 2017 was actually another good year:

- Unrestricted Funds, decreased by £39k, of which £38k was actually a transfer of surplus reserves from the General Fund to the Buildings Development Fund. The surplus arose because the Christmas fair raised more than we expected, stewardship / planned giving exceeded budget, donations received at 2 memorial services were very generous, the tenants in De Vigier Avenue extended their contact, Christmas collections were huge and the Good Lord continues to look after us.
- Restricted Funds decreased by £77k virtually all due to the cost of the on-going buildings development work. With the help of a £20k legacy, grants amounting to £48k in 2017 and the £25k grant from Friends of Essex Churches a few weeks ago, we are reasonably confident that we can cover all our costs up to the end of the current phase.

Full details are shown in the financial statements. There being no questions David thanked Jenny Cottam to applause for the huge amount of work she does keeping the financial records up to date.

The Rector thanked David, Jenny and the Finance Committee for working hard and successfully throughout the year on the immense task of looking after our finances.

**A18/8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches of the parish.**

The report issued prior to the meeting was taken as read and accepted with thanks to the churchwardens.

**A18/9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.**

The Rector thanked the deanery synod representatives for their work on this increasing important forum.

The Rector thanked Clifford Want for preparing the report issued prior to the meeting which was taken as read and accepted.

**A18/10. Annual Review**

The Rector briefly reviewed the groups and committees who had contributed to the Annual Review published for the meeting and thanked all the contributors and their teams. This included thanks to Jenny Tomlinson and deputy churchwardens Mike Dean and Keith Willey at St James' where its great to see the mission initiative of the youth club continuing. Thanks were expressed to deputy churchwarden Richard Peet and the committee at St John's with the Rector saying a public thank you to Paula Griffiths for her leadership and pastoral care. The worship committee develop and deepen our worship. The Baptism team have a vital role and are often the first point of contact for families; it is great to hear of the increase in baptism numbers. Thanks were expressed to the guild of servers under Noel Starr and the long list of members. It has been another rich and full year musically and the Halleluiahs chorus, having been sung by the congregation for two consecutive Easters, is now a tradition. Thanks to each member of every choir, the brass group and Joyful Noise with an echo of Oli's thanks to Kate Beare, Jeremy (a cornerstone), Bron and all those who enrich our musical life. Oli himself brings dynamism, good humour, interest and commitment to the whole range of music we offer along with his own spirituality. Our bell ringers ring loyally and faithfully for services, weddings and events (and have an excellent Christmas meal!) anyone who'd like to try ringing please talk to Stephen Wood. Thanks to the church flower team and sewing group for all they do. Thanks to Carolyn and the team of drivers for Sunday morning car service. The Prayer team have had a very full year, Evening Prayer is now embedded into our life on Tuesday evenings and there are

and more significant initiatives coming up. Thanks for the stillness and hospitality offered by the Julian group and for the safe and relaxed space at Coffee, Cake and Company. The (one man!) Education committee is particularly important for integrating new people into our small groups provision. Thanks for the Book group. The Social Committee have been busy (via the after service coffee) just before this very meeting and Peter Taylor and the team are a vital part of our hospitality. We will miss both Pete and Margaret when they move away, it will be sad for us although a blessing for their new church. The Communications Committee have done much good work and thanks were expressed especially for Liz Lingley's many years of work as Press Officer (now Clifford Want). Thanks to Rosie in the Parish Office now wonderfully succeeded by Dawn who's doing a great job. The Weddings Coordinator has an important ministry. The Children and Youth Committee has breadth and depth and thanks were particularly expressed to Kathryn Bennett re: safeguarding. Matt packs in a staggering amount including solid church work. Numbers are up in Aftershock and H2H. Joyful Noise and our Junior Choir join our young people into our church life and lead them on in their faith journeys. St Mary's Tinies work energetically and strengthen our links with the school. St Mary's pre-school has just had an outstanding Ofsted report – especial thanks to Pete Taylor for more than ten years chairing, to Judith Hasler as secretary and treasurer and Helen O'Neill as one of the founders. We thank the governors of St Mary's School and pray for the selection of a new head teacher. St Mary's Guiding are very successful groups. God continues to bless Women's Own where there is a consistent welcome and delicious breakfast. Mothers' Union has had another good year. Thanks to both Women Who Wonder and Mens Activities. The Finance Committee has our finances in good shape. The Property Committee have had a good year there were honourable mentions for Joe Stuckey and John Mumford. The Buildings Project task group has done an immense amount of work with servery in operation this morning. The north west corner is almost finished and we will shortly move on to the next stage. The Friends of St Mary's play an important ongoing role and we are particularly grateful for their significant financial contribution. The Transition Project is widely respected with referrals from the CAB and the Job Centre in Braintree. The connection between Aftershock and Jimmy's night shelter is a benefit to us as a church and a great sum was raised by Aftershock at their charity dinner. The Archive group has been instrumental in our receiving the gift of the church record from Nafdas and we greatly miss Gordon and Susan Smith. The Drama group enriched Good Friday. Our Mission links keep us outward orientated and focused on our connection with the worldwide church and we were encouraged to pray for Lyn Treanery and the Gardners.

**A18/11. Appointment of tellers.**

Denis Tindley and Lawrence Gooderham indicated their willingness to act as tellers if called upon

**A18/12. Election of a representative of the laity to the Deanery Synod for two years.**

A nomination had been received for the following candidate:

- a. Shawn Martin proposed by Chris Hall and seconded by Marisa Baltrock.

There being no further nominations, the above representative was declared elected to applause.

**A18/13. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years**

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Richard Freeman proposed by Robin O'Neill and seconded by Stephen Hasler;
- b. Bronwen Ferland proposed by Noel Starr and seconded by Oliver King;
- c. Hazel Colebrook proposed by Denis Tindley and seconded by Lisa Brook;
- d. John Pickthorn proposed by Stewart Hodgson and seconded by Tessa Hawkes;
- e. Hannah Razzell proposed by Denis Tindley and seconded by Pamela Jenner;
- f. Anna Martin proposed by Denis Tindley and seconded by Lisa Brook.

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were declared elected to applause. Hannah Razzell cannot take up her post until October 2018 because she first needs to be on the electoral roll for six months.

**A18/14. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for one year**

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Noel Starr proposed by Christine Lawrence and seconded by James Butler
- b. Jennifer Kirkaldy proposed by Peter Taylor and seconded by Denis Tindley

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were declared elected to applause.

**A18/15. Appointment of sidesmen.**

The following persons were appointed by acclamation as sidesmen:

Alastair Knights, Alison Knights, Anne Filkin, Anona Clarke, Charis Withers, Chris Hall, Clifford Want, Daniele Donelan, David Stanton, Emily Downing, Emma Clarissa Crous, Farida Read, Gerald Gardner, Gill Lovegrove, Gillian Brace, Hamish Walker, Jan Siewertson, Jo Huddleston, Judith Felgate, Judith Hasler, Judy Patston, Juliette Welch, Katherine Ingamells, Keith Huddleston, Lawrence Gooderham, Lillian Maddams, Margaret Barnes, Margaret Helmore, Margaret Taylor, Marisa Baltrock, Mary Adams, Mary Downing, Mary Gardner, Maureen Brown, Mike Felgate, Olwen Linney, Pamela Mugliston, Pete Taylor, Peter Divall, Petronella Oelman, Richard Peet, Robert Rushmer, Roy Maddams, Rufus Barnes, Sheilah Girgis-Hanna, Steve Hasler, Teresa Pitts, Tessa Pilsbury

**A18/16. Appointment of an auditor to the PCC.**

David Birchall proposed the continuing appointment of Peters, Elworthy & Moore (PEM) as examiners / auditors to the PCC and the meeting expressed itself content.

**A18/17. Any other business.**

There was no other business.

**A18/18. Fulfilling our vision – Rector**

The Rector began by expressing appreciation of the commitment and encouragement of ordained colleagues across the Team, especially to his wife Jenny for her love and support. We look forward to the arrival of Alex, our new team vicar, who will be another excellent colleague. Last year we reported that Michael Swindlehurst was withdrawing from public ministry on health grounds and this year we miss him and acknowledge his long, rich mission. Thanks to Anona for all her years as a vergier as she retires this year. Rachel is a joy to have around; her pastoral heart, preaching teaching and ministry are greatly valued. It is great that we persuaded John to return after his placement, he brings a rich experience and lots of wisdom. Rachel's and John's upcoming ordination as priests will be here on the 29th of September (an excited buzz in the church). Thanks to all the retired clergy particularly Derek Bond for his witness in difficult circumstances. Thanks to the licensed lay ministers for Tracy for all she's bringing with her work with people with learning difficulties and for Marisa's pastoral and teaching ministry. Thanks to Jill, an amazingly efficient and supportive secretary, to Judith for immense commitment as pastoral assistant, team coordinator and in many other ways. Thanks to Oli and Matt who the Rector loves working with. The team are fantastic and it's a great privilege to lead the parish.

The Rector made comments on our life together:

The Deanery is an increasingly important arena for our mission and ministry as we look at encouraging shared resources, such as the new buildings officer, encouraging service and ministry, encouraging children and young people and encouraging evangelism. There will shortly be four Thy Kingdom Come prayer evenings between Ascension and Pentecost focusing on praying for people to come to faith and reaching

out with the Good News of Jesus. Allied to this the churches in the Deanery will be having an Evangelism Sunday and in September our Parish Assistant, Charles will join us to work alongside Matt, to support mission and to think about new housing developments. A confirmation service will be held at Christ the King. The Buildings Project can sometimes feel like a slog; lots has been done and we are moving to the next phase – if we pray and give we can rise to the challenge. The Parish Weekend is coming up, part of looking to collaborate beyond our boundaries. We celebrate the Eucharist so we can give thank to God. God loves us! Let's be filled with gratitude to God and look forward with hope!

**A18/19. Vote of thanks – Pam Russell**

Pam thanked everyone for her lovely flowers, which we knew she would appreciate. This was her final duty as churchwarden and tissues were available! Pam thanked Steve Hasler (Batman!) for his help and support when she began her role and Denis more recently. Her thanks and best wishes also go to Gill as our new churchwarden. Thanks for David's outstanding spiritual and pastoral care; we are truly blessed by his tireless work for us the sheep. Although if he ever wants to give up the day job he can join the flower team! (Applause!!)

David responded and wondered if Steve is Batman who that made him?! It is an immense privilege to have such a vibrant community to lead. When he began journeying he thought the destination was the important thing, then he thought it was about the scenery but now he thinks its about the people you journey with.

**A18/20. Any other business.**

There was no other business.

**A18/21. Closing prayer.**