

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 7th April 2019

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

Present: Martin Hugall, Mo Pullen, Mary Knight, Hilary Parry-Jones, Lesley Green, Kathleen Huey, Juliette Welch, Judith Hasler, Steve Hasler, Charis Withers, Tessa Pilsbury, John Mumford, Marisa Baltrock, Luciane Baltrock-Nitzsche, Shawn Martin, Chris Hall, Gill Lovegrove, Gillian Ram, Ronald Ram, Paddy Carver, Heather Finch, Alun Thomas, Noel Starr, Bron Ferland, Jim Butler, Pamela Mugliston, Mary Downing, Oli King, Jan Siewertsen, Farida Read, John Read, Mary Gardner, Gerald Gardner, Ruby Parsons, Rev'd Rachel Prior, Matt Williamson, Gill Caswell, Pamela Jenner, Clifford Want, Denis Tindley, Jenny Kirkaldy, Robin O'Neill, Lawrence Gooderham, Rufus Barnes, Margaret Barnes, Helen O'Neill, John Pickthorn, Sarah Pickthorn, Jenny Cottam, Graham Cottam, David Birchall, Hannah Razzell, Sue Birchall, Mike Felgate, Judith Felgate, Carolyn London, Christine Cowling, Lesley Lancaster, Kevin Halsall, Christine Ratcliffe, Diana Tyler, Gill Gibson, Roger Mance, Rev'd Paula Griffiths, Hazel Colebrooke, Rev'd Andy Colebrooke, Rev'd Angela Want

Apologies: Rev'd Canon Jenny Tomlinson, Rev'd John Saxon, Anna Martin, Richard Freeman, Jack and Diana Golding, Pam Russell, Bill Rose, Brenda Sheath

A19/1. 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.

A19/2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22nd April 2018

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22nd April 2018 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 passed by general acclamation.

A19/3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A19/4. Consideration of the Agenda.

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

A19/5. Report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the previous annual meeting.

Clifford Want, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that a new electoral roll for the parish has to be created every six years and this is one of those years. To create the new roll, we attempted to contact all members of the old roll to inform them that a new roll was being created, and the statutory notice was given in St Mary's Saffron Walden, St John's Little Walden and St James, Swards End. The number of members on the new electoral roll is 300, that is 74% of the number on the old roll. The total of 300 includes 31 people who were not on the old roll. Of these 300 people, 20 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Little Walden and 40 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Swards End, because of where they live or worship.

The new roll was displayed from 24 March to 7 April 2019 for the correction of errors and omissions. The new roll will be open again for new admissions after the APCM and it is expected that 22 people, whose applications were received after the deadline of 10th March, will be added to the roll at the PCC meeting immediately following this meeting. The 22 additional names include 11 more people who were not on the old roll. This will bring the total to 322 or 80% of the number on the old roll.

Thanks were expressed to Clifford.

A19/6. 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.

A19/7. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2018.

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. From a financial perspective, 2018 was a good year for St Mary's; the General Fund ended the year with a surplus of over £7k and we completed phase two of the Buildings Project with funds to press on with phase three.

- General Fund Surplus of £7k (total income of £260k less total expenditure of £253k)
 - Total income was £260k of which Stewardship accounts for £195k (around £4k up on 2017). This represents 72% of our income. General collections were steady at £15k and general donations amounted to just over £12k (with £5,700 of this donated in the blue safe by visitors). Letting income from the parish rooms generated £4k (up £1k on 2017) and fee income (weddings and funerals) was £9,800 down from £14k in 2017
 - Total expenditure was £253k (about £2k lower than budget); the Finance Committee keeps a watchful eye on the expenses!
- Movements in the Buildings Development Fund are summarised on page 15 of the accounts:
 - There was an opening balance of £81k (bank and deposit account balances). We had £114k of income, £207k of expenditure (final payment for the servery, WC & cupboards along the west wall), £70k of transfers (a £61k legacy which was moved in from unrestricted funds & £9k being the 2017 surplus from the General fund) leaving us with £58k carried forward.

Full details are shown in the financial statements. In response to a request for more information as to what the Revaluation Reserve related to, the Treasurer explained that some of the fixed assets were in the accounts at cost and therefore depreciated, whilst the parish rooms and verger's cottage were in the accounts at a valuation, hence the revaluation reserve. David Birchall 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 their hard work which they do superbly well.

A19/8. 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.

A19/9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

The Rector thanked the deanery synod representatives for their work on this important forum, a place for discussion and learning across our Mission and Ministry Unit. The Rector thanked Kevin Halsall for preparing the report issued prior to the meeting which was taken as read and accepted.

A19/10. 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 the team at St James' Swards End with thanks to Judith, Mike and Keith the deputy wardens, the other committee

members and to Jenny for her ministry. Thanks also to Richard and the committee/church at St John's which has had a solid year. Thanks were expressed to the Worship Committee and gratitude to the Baptism team which offers an important ministry and is often the first direct encounter people have with the church. Thanks to the strong team in the Guild of the Holy Trinity which serve in our worship and to the Welcome teams who are a key part of our commitment to offering generous hospitality and a warm welcome.

There is another rich report from Oli about Music this year and David echoed Oli's thanks to Kate for establishing Joyful Noise and Anne Cass for taking it forward. It is great to have had Elliot, our organ scholar, and his family around and wonderful that he is staying for another year. Thanks to every member of every choir and especially to Oli for his work, sense of fun and the sensitivity with which his music enriches our common life and worship. We are grateful to Jeremy and to Bron for her work with SMMA. The bellringers loyally and faithfully ring for our services (and had an excellent summer BBQ!). We thank the church flowers team and eagerly look forward to the upcoming festival. Thanks to the sewing group and to Carolyn Mann for coordinating the important and greatly appreciated Sunday morning car service. The Prayer team has had a full year and the next Thy Kingdom Come event will be even better - thanks. We miss Margaret Taylor on the prayer team and are grateful all the Taylors gave before moving away. Thanks to the Julian group and to the team behind Coffee, Cake and Company which continues to meet and offer a gentle, safe space and prayer. We are grateful to Tracey and the Prospects team- a flourishing group received with joy. A significant piece of work has established new Home Groups this year, due in no small measure to Rachel. Thanks to the continued hospitality of the Book Group. Thanks to everything Carolyn has done this year with the social committee - hospitality is so important. Much work has gone on with the Communications committee including a revamp of the Christmas card and new website - we also acknowledged John Sibson stepping down from Parish News with a huge thank you.

Thanks to Dawn for her energetic leading of the Parish Office team and to all the volunteers serving this church and others across the team ministry. Our weddings coordinator, Caroline, is doing a great job - please pray for our wedding couples. We are grateful that we can offer such a breadth and depth of activities for children and young people - thanks to Kathryn Bennett as PSR and especially to Matt for his work supported by Nicola and Charles (including his admirable filling of Alison's shoes at Tinies during her holiday). St Mary's Pre-School has again been rated Ofsted Outstanding and Sandra Marsh is perfectly equipped to lead the team. St Mary's primary school has a new headteacher starting in September - please pray for him. Thanks to the school governors and the team leading school assemblies. Our various Guide groups are popular and successful. We looked back over the 14 years that Women's Own has been running and acknowledged all who have played their part which has been appreciated by hundreds during that time. Thanks too to the Mothers Union, Women Who Wonder and the team behind Men's activities.

Our finances are in good shape thanks to the Finance Committee with Michael Lovegrove now chair. Thanks were offered to the Property Committee including Joe Stuckey who has now moved away. The work of the Buildings project team (servery, cupboards and WC) is proving its worth and we've recently been given Highly Commended award by DAC. Thanks for the ongoing work of Friends of St Marys including their generous financial support of the buildings project. The Transition project has been faithfully supporting those who are unemployed. We have a mutually beneficial relationship with Jimmy's shelter - thanks to all who support it. Thanks to the archive group and to the newly established camera group combining faith and photography. Please continue to pray for our missionary link Lynne in South Sudan and for David and Sari's translation work (with thanks to Gerald Gardner for his report on their work).

The thickness of the Annual Review is testament to the richness and diversity of our life together!

A19/11. Appointment of tellers.

As we did not anticipate a contested election we agreed that it would not be necessary to appoint tellers.

A19/12. Election of a representative of the laity to the Deanery Synod for one year.

There was no nomination to be a representative on Deanery Synod and as a result we continue to have a casual vacancy for one year.

A19/13. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Martin Hugall nominated by Rufus Barnes and seconded by Clifford Want
- b. Noel Starr nominated by Rufus Barnes and seconded by Judith Hasler
- c. Jan Siewertsen nominated by Eunice Harris and seconded by Gill Caswell
- d. Paddy Carver nominated by Denis Tindley and seconded by Lisa Brook

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were declared elected to applause. Two vacancies for lay members of the PCC remain as only four people were nominated for six places.

A19/14. Appointment of sidesmen.

The following persons were appointed by acclamation as sidesmen:

Mary Adams, Marisa Baltrock, Rufus Barnes, Gillian Brace, Maureen Brown, Anona Clark, Peter Divall, Daniele Donelan, Emily Downing, Mary Downing, Judith Felgate, Mike Felgate, Barbara Flaxman, Mary Gardner, Sheilah Girgis-Hanna, Lawrence Gooderham, Chris Hall, Judith Hasler, Steve Hasler, Susan Hodgson, Jo Huddleston, Keith Huddleston, Katherine Ingamells, Chris Knight, Olwen Linney, Gill Lovegrove, Lilian Maddams, Roy Maddams, Pamela Mugliston, Petronella Oelman, Judy Patson, Richard Peet, John Pickthorn, Tessa Pilsbury, Farida Read, Andrew Robinson, Bill Rose, Robert Rushmer, Pam Russell, Jan Siewertsen, Denis Tindley, Alun Thomas, Hamish Walker, Clifford Want, Juliette Welch.

A19/15. 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.

A19/16. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A19/17. Fulfilling our vision – Rector

David began with a few more thanks, expressing gratitude to our verger Pam, our cleaner Bruno and our sacristan Mark. He also thanked his ordained colleagues commenting that it has been a great joy to welcome Alex Jeewan this year. Rachel is a generous and supportive colleague and her prayerfulness, teaching and preaching are greatly appreciated; it's great to see her leadership skills develop. Thanks also to John Saxon for his huge contribution to Debden and Wimbish and the great care he takes in all the work he does. It was one of the highlights of the year when Rachel and John were ordained here. David gave a special mention to his wife (and as she was not able to join us asked us to tell her so!) We are going to miss her, are grateful to all she has given and look forward to her preaching on Easter Day and to raising a glass to the future Archdeacon of Birmingham.

Thanks were also expressed to the retired clergy with special remembrance of the late Bishop Derek. Thanks to Tracey Nicholls in her many roles and wide encompassing ministry, to Marisa Baltrock for her

pastoral work and teaching, to Jill Hrouda David's great supportive and efficient secretary and to Judith Hasler.

A special mention was due to parish assistant Charles Cowper, David is so pleased that Charles emailed various churches asking to come and that he responded with such alacrity. Thanks are due to Charles's hosts Graham and Sue. We all appreciate Charles's readiness to serve and feel he is going to make a fine priest (applause).

It is good to have the work in the west end of the church complete and the next stage is the move and renovation of the Audley tomb, a nationally important monument, making it more accessible to people. The PCC will also be looking at improvement of the parish rooms – growing usage means there is increased need.

There has been important progress this year in the development of home groups. Our next weekend away to Belsey Bridge will be 12-14 June 2020 - do book up quickly when more info comes out. A deanery wide Gospel Sunday is planned for 30 June 2019 please think of someone to invite and pray for them in the lead up to this event.

David is going on sabbatical. His last Sunday will be Easter Day and he will be back on 4th August (which will be Charles's last day). He is waiting on God to reveal his future and anticipates that this will be his last annual meeting here. He asked us to support the wardens and Rachel during his sabbatical, to pray for him and promised to pray for us. He reflected on Christ giving us his peace and closed with a prayer of St Francis.

A19/18. Vote of thanks – Denis Tindley

On behalf of all of us, Denis thanked David for his leadership, always focussed on our mission, and said we are blessed by having him as our Rector. David's energy is infectious and motivates us all in our work for the church. Denis has known many priests in his lifetime but few have possessed David's combination of management, teaching and pastoral skills. Denis hoped that David will enjoy the time on his sabbatical whether that be cycling, researching his second book or maybe signing copies of his first and more importantly discerning his own future. David should not worry about us and come back refreshed. We be in good heart, will pray for him and look forward to his return. Denis ended by thanking David for all he does for God's work in our parish. (APPLAUSE!)

David returned thanks for Denis's encouraging words and said it would be hard to go. (Emotional applause.)

A19/19. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A19/20. Closing prayer.