

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 25th October 2020

Chairman: Denis Tindley **Clerk to the meeting:** Lisa Brook **Zoom Hosts:** Judith Hasler, Steve Hasler

Present: Marisa Baltrock, David Birchall, Margaret Barnes, Rufus Barnes, Trevor (Paddy) Carver, Gill Caswell, Rev'd. Andy Colebrooke, Hazel Colebrooke, Christine Coughlan, Janet Divall, Peter Divall, Mary Downing, Judith Felgate, Mike Felgate, Bron Ferland, Kathryn Fiddock, Barbara Flaxman, Gerald Gardner, Mary Gardner, Sheilah Girgis-Hanna, Lesley Green, Rev'd. Paula Griffiths, Joe Hordern, David Hoy, Diana Hoy, Kathleen Huey, Martin Hugall, Chris Kerrison, Brian Kerrison, Jenny Kirkaldy, Rosanne Kirkpatrick, Alison Knights, Lesley Lancaster, Patrick Li, Gill Lovegrove, Rev'd. Michael Lovegrove, Shawn Martin, Pamela Mugliston, John Mumford, Robin O'Neill, Ruby Parsons, John Pickthorn, Tessa Pilsbury, Bill Rose, Pam Russell, Brenda Sheath, Noel Starr, Rowan Sylvester-Bradley, Sue Sylvester-Bradley, Diana Tyler, Graeme Walker, Hilary Walker, Sue Walker, Revd. Angela Want, Clifford Want, Matt Williamson

Apologies: Rev'd Dr Caroline Currer, Oli King, Jan Siewertsen, Edward Gildea

A20/1. 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.

A20/2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 7th April 2019

The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 7th April 2019 distributed prior to the meeting were taken as read. A resolution to approve the minutes as a true record of that meeting, proposed by Rufus Barnes and seconded by Robin O'Neill was passed by general acclamation.

A20/3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A20/4. Consideration of the Agenda.

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

A20/5. Report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the previous annual meeting.

Clifford Want, presented the Electoral Roll Officer report.

A new electoral roll for the parish containing 322 members was created in April 2019. Since then 4 new members have been added to the roll.

Under the latest Church Representation rules, people are removed from the roll only in an annual revision. Statutory notice of the revision, which took place on 10th October 2020, was given in St Mary's Saffron Walden, St John's Little Walden and St James, Swards End. In the revision the names of 6 people who had moved away were removed as well as the names of 13 people who had sadly died. This leaves the total on the revised roll at 307, 95% of the number in April 2019.

Of these 307 people, 19 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Little Walden and 37 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Swards End, because of where they live or worship. The names on the new roll have been displayed in the churches or made available from 11th October for the correction of errors and omissions.

The new roll will be open again for new admissions after the APCM and all members are invited to encourage others to join the roll.

Denis thanked Clifford for his report and for all his work on the electoral roll; there always seem to be procedural changes but Clifford is an expert and we are very grateful to him.

A20/6. 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.

A20/7. 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 on 11 March 2020 and made available before the meeting. From a financial perspective, 2019 was a good year for St Mary's; the General Fund ended the year with a surplus (excluding investment gains) as did the Buildings Development Fund and the Fabric Fund. He outlined the main reasons as below

- General Fund Surplus of £57k: mainly due to a legacy of £50,000 but also, Stewardship was £4,500 higher than budget and expenditure overall was £2,000 lower than budget,
- Buildings Development Fund surplus of £7k: mainly due to the wonderful Flower Festival which raised a net £9k, and
- Fabric Fund surplus of £28k: mainly due a legacy of £20k.

The Treasurer also highlighted the pages of the financial statements which interested parties could refer to if they wish to delve into further detail. There were no questions. Denis thanked David for the excellent way he maintains, presents and explains our accounts and talked about how much it supports the Churchwardens to be able to rely on David as Treasurer.

A20/8. 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.

A20/9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

Denis thanked Kevin Halsall for preparing the report on proceedings of Deanery Synod and explained that Kevin would be stepping down as one of the representatives from St Mary's. Denis thanked all the reps and particularly Kevin for their work. The Deanery Synod report issued prior to the meeting was taken as read and accepted.

A20/10. Annual Review

Denis commented on the Annual Review as a memory of times before COVID and thanked everyone who worked to support (and who now continue to support) the rich life of St Mary's. The document is a testament to the community we have. He particularly highlighted music, with the Easter 2019 especially wonderful, the Flower Festival with thanks to the team that made it happen and the launch of the ECO Church initiative. He remembered Charles Cowper, how wonderful it was to have him and how we are sure he will become a very fine priest. He talked about the Rector's sabbatical, huge thanks being due to Rachel for stepping up in this time, and of the knees up and farewell service we held for him on his return. He

talked of other members of the congregation also sadly departed and he welcomed more recent new joiners. On a personal note, he expressed many thanks for all our prayers during his operation and to Gill for her support and for keeping things going.

A20/11. Appointment of tellers.

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

A20/12. Election of a representative of the laity to the Deanery Synod for one year.

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Judith Hasler nominated by Michael Dean and seconded by Christine Ratcliff
- b. Clifford Want nominated by Denis Tindley and seconded by Rufus Barnes

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were declared elected to applause and we therefore have three casual vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives.

A20/13. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Steve Hasler nominated by Mike Felgate and seconded by Barbara Flaxman
- b. Rufus Barnes nominated by Martin Hugall and seconded by Hazel Colebrook
- c. Robin O'Neill nominated by John Pickthorn and seconded by Karen Game
- d. David Birchall nominated by Martin Hugall and seconded by Paddy Carver
- e. Matt Williamson nominated by Gill Caswell and seconded by Denis Tindley
- f. Lisa Brook nominated by Denis Tindley and seconded by Gill Caswell

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

A20/14. 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.

A20/15. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A20/16. Fulfilling our vision – Chairman

Denis spoke about the year we have just had and looked forward to what will come next. He covered how unexpected the events of 2020 have been, our great sadness in having to close the church building during parts of the global COVID pandemic and the gratitude both Churchwardens feel for everyone's forbearance and support. It was uncertain whether people would want to come to church, when allowed to under the pandemic rules, and it was wonderful to be at the full capacity safely allowed each week. Many plans and activities have been paused, including the work on the Audley tomb but we hope that they will resume in the coming year. He thanked the clergy team, Oli and our staff for all their efforts and gave special mention to Caroline Goulder's challenging work this year supporting wedding couples trying to plan their marriages in such rapidly and frequently changing circumstances. Thanks also to Judith Hasler and Andy Colebrooke. Looking forward, Denis encourages us to pray for the process to recruit a new Rector and to be open to radical thinking in future as a post COVID world will bring us many changes in our mission to share God's love.

A20/17. Vote of thanks – Rufus Barnes

Rufus spoke to note that normally at this point the churchwardens would offer thanks to the Rector. This year it would be good to end the meeting with thanks to the churchwardens instead. COVID 19 was not what Denis and Gill were expecting to have to deal with when David moved on and we in the church are enormously grateful for the tremendous amount of work they have done and their special role during the interregnum. Rufus thanked them for their steadfastness and faithfulness and prayed for the Lord to bless them and keep them.

There were further thanks from the floor and Diana Hoy spoke to reassure Denis and Gill of our trust in them and the wider group looking for our new Rector, our support for everyone involved in the process and the church's willingness to wait and help everyone keep going until we find the person God wants.

A20/18. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A20/19. Closing prayer.