

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 April 2021

Chairman: Rev'd Jeremy Trew, **Clerk to the meeting:** Lisa Brook **Zoom Host:** Steve Hasler

Present: David Birchall, Sue Birchall, Rufus Barnes, Rev'd Chris Bishop, Andy Carlyle, Trevor (Paddy) Carver, Gill Caswell, Rev'd Andy Colebrooke, Hazel Colebrooke, Rev'd Dr Caroline Curren, Mary Downing, Bron Ferland, Kathryn Fiddock, Barbara Flaxman, Gerald Gardner, Lesley Green, Rev'd. Paula Griffiths, Chris Hall, Judith Hasler, Joe Hordern, Kathleen Huey, Martin Hugall, Margaret Jacobs, Brian Kerrison, Chris Kerrison, Oli King, Jenny Kirkaldy, Rosanne Kirkpatrick, Lesley Lancaster, Patrick Li, Gill Lovegrove, Rev'd. Michael Lovegrove, Anna Martin, Francoise Mouchet-Davis, Pamela Mugliston, John Mumford, Robin O'Neill, Helen O'Neill, John Pickthorn, Sarah Pickthorn, Tessa Pilsbury, Christine Ratcliffe, Andrew Robinson, Bill Rose, Pam Russell, Jan Siewertsen, Brenda Sheath, Noel Starr, Rowan Sylvester-Bradley, Sue Sylvester-Bradley, Denis Tindley, Hilary Walker, Sue Walker, Margaret Walter, Clifford Want, Matt Williamson

Apologies: Marisa Baltrock, Gerald Gardner, Edward Gildea, Shawn Martin, Hannah Razzell

A21/1. 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.

A21/2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25th October 2020.

The following amendments to the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25th October 2019, which had been distributed prior to the meeting, were proposed

- the header for A20/7 should refer to the financial statements for 2019 (rather than 2018 which had been carried forward from the previous year's APCM minutes in error) and
- A20/12 should show that the Deanery Synod reps were appointed for a standard three-year term (not one year which again had been carried forward in error).

Subject to these changes being made, the minute were approved by a show of hands.

A21/3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A21/4. Consideration of the Agenda.

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

A21/5. Report on changes to the Electoral Roll since the previous annual meeting.

Clifford Want, presented the Electoral Roll Officer report.

The electoral roll for the parish was revised in October 2020 to contain 307 people. Statutory notice of the new revision, which took place on 10th April 2021, was given in St Mary's Saffron Walden, St John's Little Walden and St James, Swards End and in The Grapevine. One new member has been added to the roll.

Under the new Church Representation rules, people are removed from the roll only in an annual revision. In the revision, the names of two people who had sadly died have been removed from the roll. This leaves the total on the revised roll at 306.

Of these 306 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 April 2021 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.

There were no questions and we thanked Clifford.

A21/6. 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.

A21/7. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2019.

David Birchall, Treasurer, gave a presentation of our finances, stating his intention to be brief as the financial statements and an accompanying summary explanation had been published on our website.

- The Financial Statements for 2020 have been independently examined and signed off by Peters Elworthy & Moore and were approved by the PCC on 17 March 2021.
 - From a financial perspective, 2020 was a very disappointing year for St Mary's. Not only did COVID disrupt our lives it also affected businesses and our church. St Marys suffered quite a large deficit (the General fund ended the year with a deficit of just under £32k – the first deficit for 10 years).
 - Details are shown on the summary explanation; almost every income stream has been severely affected.
 - There were a few cost savings (for example: less money spent on candles, wine, wafers), but also some additional costs (for example: the live streaming equipment (£8k) and hand sanitiser)
 - We were fortunate to have two legacies and a grant for the transition project to enable to them to continue to operate from home.
 - The Treasurer directed us to the pages in the financial statements where interested parties can delve into details should they wish.
 - pages 11 & 12 give the breakdown of income and expenditure
 - page 15 is probably the most useful page – it shows opening balance, plus income less expenses and closing balance on all funds, restricted and unrestricted
 - To end on a positive note – our reserves were in a healthy state and we are very blessed as a church.
- In response to a question from the meeting, the Treasurer explained that we would not, if COVID had not happened, have spent money on other things but would not normally have made a loss.

We accepted the report with our thanks to David for all his work as Treasurer which is much appreciated.

A21/8. 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.

A21/9. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

Jeremy noted that this is an unusually simple report since the ability of Deanery Synod to meet has been severely restricted by the pandemic. Deanery Synod WILL be meeting again so next year there will be plenty to talk about! The report was accepted with thanks.

A21/10. Annual Review

Jeremy spoke about the Annual Review document which goes into a lot of detail about the life of the church, its many groups and activities and how we serve our communities. He encouraged us to read it if we haven't already and then ran through each section briefly for people to discuss or ask about any of the groups.

Noel Starr highlighted that the Guild of the Holy Trinity has been very quiet and that they are looking forward to working together again as services open further. Oli King extended massive thanks to the churchwardens and to SMMA for their support. The Social team is interested in hearing ideas of how things might need to change and what the congregation wants. Last year was a very confusing year for weddings and baptisms and 2021 will be a busy one. The Finance committee emphasised that, following on from the Treasurer's report, the generosity and committed giving from the congregation is what has enabled us to keep all of our six paid staff and is the reason our finances are still in a good state.

The Annual Review represent a huge amount of work by a vast number of people (not just those who write the words) and it is really good to have a time gathered together where we share and acknowledge this. Thanks to all who wrote the reports.

A21/11. Appointment of tellers.

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

A21/12. Election of representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod to fill vacancies for two years.

A nomination had been received for:

- a. Shawn Martin nominated by Anna Martin and seconded by Chris Hall

There being no further nominations, the above representative was approved by show of hands. We continue to have two casual vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives. Speaking with his Area Dean hat on, Jeremy emphasised that Deanery Synod will be an increasingly important place to be represented and encouraged people to get in touch to find out about being involved.

A21/13. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years

Five nominations had been received for six vacancies:

- a. John Pickthorn nominated by Hamish Walker and seconded by Sarah Pickthorn
- b. Bron Ferland nominated by Gill Caswell and seconded by Oli King
- c. Richard Freeman nominated by Gill Caswell and seconded by Lisa Brook
- d. Anna Martin nominated by Marisa Baltrock and seconded by Shawn Martin
- e. Hannah Razzell nominated by Lisa Brook and seconded by Gill Caswell

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were declared with thanks to everyone who served for the last three years whether standing down or continuing to serve.

A21/14. 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 by show of hands.

A21/15. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A21/16. Fulfilling our vision – Chairman

Firstly Jeremy thanked everyone for the welcome he and his family have received from across our congregations as they arrived in Saffron Walden. They came on a very cold day to a very warm welcome with many new faces to get to know. Especial thanks for any eatable welcome gifts (please come and reclaim any bags/bowls!)

Every Diocese has a vision statement and they say similar things. The vision for Chelmsford Diocese Transforming Presence has been the same for a while under Bishop, now Archbishop Stephen. We have a new Bishop now, Guli, who will bring her own view. At the same time, Treasurers in the church will be looking at the effect of COVID on our finances and there will be an impact on the availability of stipendiary clergy. In our ministry, we, as a team, have a vacancy and we will also be losing Paula. We will be developing a Deanery plan; this will probably take more than the next year but it will be very important to be a part of. We are all called to service, visible or behind the scenes, and that's why this sort of meeting is really important. Jeremy has been really impressed by how imaginatively people have served and responded to the pandemic.

There were questions about when we expect to get back to normal services. It is going to be a gradual process and we are already looking at putting on more 8am services, from the start of June we are aiming to have two services on a Sunday. We are looking to open up other things too dependent on what rules we are given. Congregational singing and wine at the eucharist are both really difficult questions and we need to wait for guidance on these matters. There will also be quite a considerable backlog of baptisms as we reopen.

A21/17. Vote of thanks

Denis Tindley thanked Jeremy for being with us. It has been just short of two months (although it may seem to Jeremy to be somewhat longer!) Denis thanked the Rector for the kind comments on our welcome to the Trew family but explained that we feel we have not been able to welcome you in the personal way we would have wished. Due to YouTube and Zoom there are many people who will feel they know you but that you don't yet know. Hopefully in the future that there is a massive party to come!

Denis wanted to comment on impact of the Good Friday service (and the pleasant surprise of Jeremy's fine voice) and the civic service for Prince Phillip last week. He exhorted us as a church to share the Rector with the Deanery; his job is immense so we will be his supportive church family to support him doing God's work.

Jeremy thanked Denis for his kind words.

A21/18. Any other business.

There was no other business.

A21/19. Closing prayer (the Grace which we said to each other on mute)