

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Chairman:** Rev'd Jeremy Trew, **Clerk to the meeting:** Lisa Brook

**Present:** Rufus Barnes, Margaret Barnes, David Birchall, Paddy Carver, Gill Caswell, Vivian Falk, Mike Felgate, Bron Ferland, Heather Finch, Richard Freeman, Karen Game, Gerald Gardner, Mary Gardner, Richard Garvey, Sheilah Girgis, Lesley Green, Lawrence Gooderham, Chris Hall, Judith Hasler, Steve Hasler, Joe Horden, Kathleen Huey, Martin Hugall, Oli King, Jenny Kirkaldy, Lesley Lancaster, Patrick Li, Anna Martin, Pamela Mugliston, John Mumford, Gwynneth Nicholas, Tracey Nicholls, Robin O'Neill, Jan Siewertsen, Noel Starr, Bill Rose, Denis Tindley, Alison Trew, Clifford Want, Matt Williamson,

**Apologies:** Marisa Baltrock, Rev'd Andy Colebrooke, Hazel Colebrooke, Edward Gildea, Gill Lovegrove, Shawn Martin, John Pickthorn, Sarah Pickthorn, Hannah Razzell, Brenda Sheath, Pam Russell, Hilary Walker

### **A22/1. Confirmation of the Notice convening the Meeting.**

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

### **A22/2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

The minutes of the APCM held on 25th April 2021, distributed prior to the meeting and online, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and approved by show of hands.

### **A22/3. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **A22/4. 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 between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and now includes 304 people, a reduction of 3 people. Statutory notice of the revision was given in St Mary's Saffron Walden, St John's Little Walden and St James, Swards End from 13<sup>th</sup> March and in *The Grapevine*. The names on the new roll have been displayed in the churches or made available from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for the correction of errors and omissions.

13 members have died, moved away or asked for their names to be removed and 10 new members have been added to the roll. Of these 304 people, 18 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Little Walden and 38 also qualify to take part in proceedings at Swards End, because of where they live or worship. 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.

### **A22/5. Annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).**

The report and the accompanying Annual Review have been circulated and there were no questions. Jeremy said a thank you to everyone who contributed to the which represent a huge amount of work in our community, including behind the scenes. He encouraged people to read the reports and pray for the different groups in our community.

**A22/6. Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**

David Birchall, the treasurer commented that 2020 was a grim year which ended with a deficit. In contrast, for 2021 we still have a deficit but only about £5k. David then talked through the Treasurer's report and highlighted particularly useful pages in the accounts for those who wish to look at more details:

- The Financial Statements for 2021 have been independently examined and signed off by Peters Elworthy & Moore and were approved by the PCC on 16 March 2022.
- The General Fund ended the year with a deficit of just under £5k – thankfully much better than the £32k deficit in 2020 and not too bad considering the church and parish rooms were still closed at the beginning of the year. As mentioned in the stewardship letter earlier this year we have lost about 30 of our regular givers through death or moving away. This amounts to an annual reduction of £20k in our income from stewardship. So 2022 will be another tough year. Our reserves are still good at present but we do need to reverse the deficit trend as soon as possible.
- The Restoration Fund was used in 2021 to commence paying for the Chancel Roof repair. £66k was paid out with the balance to come partly from the Restoration Fund and partly from the Fabric Fund.
- Endowment Funds – one of the endowment funds was specifically for Chancel repairs so it was sold last year for £14k and the money transferred to the Restoration Fund.
- Legacies:
  - The General fund benefitted from two £5k legacies in 2021

There were no questions and we accepted the report with our thanks to David for all his work as Treasurer which is much appreciated.

**A22/7. 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 all who keep all of our three churches in repair especially Steve Hasler for his recent work in keeping St Mary's watertight.

**A22/8. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.**

The report was accepted with thanks.

**A22/9. Rector's Report**

The Rector encouraged people to ask questions now or at other times and emphasised that he is accountable to us as well as to God and the Bishop!

There were questions about the pressures of ministry and a request for an update on the curate's upcoming arrival. The Rector spoke about being part of a team supporting each other and of support for clergy coming through from the Diocese. We need to bolster some of our groups as we move out of COVID measures and the Rector asked us to continue to pray for him and with him.

Ella is coming to be our curate and will be licensed in early July. She is not here to take a burden from anyone; she is here to train and learn how to be an ordained person and become equipped to in future become an incumbent. There is a blessing and a cost to having a curate.

There was a discussion of some continuing COVID measures, the use of nave altars and the high altar covering community, accessibility, symbolism and theology. People will have differing views and practises will be subject to negotiations and discussions. There were questions and explanations about the plans for the services on the first Sunday of the month and trying to bridge the gap between family services and the

regular Eucharist. We will be trying things each month and finding what will be the most helpful and looking to achieve a breadth of offerings across the spread of a month. Jeremy won't be doing it himself- he will be taking input from others and if we find that things don't work then we will change it - everyone's feedback will be really important. In response to this there was then a discussion on the use (or not) of the pulpit for preaching!

**A22/10. Annual Review**

There was an opportunity to ask question about the groups shown in the Annual Review. Anna Martin highlighted that we now have had no mental health group for over a year and spoke about the need for this sort of support. Jeremy noted the feedback, highlighted that there is an upcoming session planned at Deanery Synod looking at a mental health based charity and reminded us all that everyone is welcome to join Deanery synod meetings.

**A22/11. Appointment of tellers.**

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

**A22/12. Election of representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod to fill two casual vacancies for a one year term.**

Nominations had been received for:

- a. Anna Martin nominated by Bron Ferlend and seconded by Noel Starr
- b. Steve Hasler nominated by Gill Caswell and seconded by Pamela Mugliston

There being no further nominations, the above representatives were approved by show of hands. Upcoming focus at Deanery Synod will include new allocations of parish share.

**A22/13. Election of representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years**

Nominations had been received as below:

- a. Noel Starr nominated by Bron Ferland and seconded by Alison Lawrence
- b. Edward Gildea nominated by Mike Felgate and seconded by Karen Game
- c. Martin Hugall nominated by Lesley Green and seconded by Kathleen Huey
- d. Paddy Carver nominated by Mike Felgate and seconded by Lisa Brook
- e. Karen Game nominated by Edward Gildea and seconded by Lisa Brook
- f. Denis Tindley nominated by Gill Caswell and seconded by Pamela Mugliston

The above representatives were elected by a show of hands with thanks to everyone who served for the last three years whether standing down or continuing to serve.

**A22/14. Election of 1 representatives of the laity to the PCC to fill a casual vacancy for a 2 year term**

One of the vacancies at the 2021 APCM was not filled leading to a casual vacancy for 2 years to which Patrick Li was nominated by Hilary Walker, seconded by Gill Caswell and was elected by show of hands.

Steve Hasler's and Anna Martin's election to Deanery creates 2 new, casual vacancies on PCC (for one and two years respectively). We also have a vacancy for 2 years created by one of the PCC members appointed at the 2021 APCM stepping down after 1 year.

**A22/15. Appointment of an auditor to the PCC.**

David Birchall proposed a change in independent examiner this year in response to a review of our cost. This will move us from a large Cambridge based firm to Bentens, based on Saffron Walden and also save us money. The meeting expressed itself content by show of hands.

**A22/16. Any other business.**

There was no other business.

**A22/17. Vote of thanks**

Denis thanked Jeremy on behalf of all of us, commenting on the difficult, but also exciting year we have had in which we've got to know each other better. We feel deeply that we weren't able to welcome Jeremy Alison and their daughters as we would have wished when they arrived during the pandemic. We have serious upcoming challenges, particularly that we are short of people and of money, and we are together on this journey. Denis said that Jeremy really belongs to this church family and the good discussion we had earlier shows how like any family we can have lots of debates! Jeremy thanked everyone for Denis's kind words.

**A22/18. Closing prayer**