

Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

16th April 2024

Those Present : Rev'd Benjamin Edwards (*Chair*) Kathy Drakes, Timothy Frost, Betty Holdgate, Richard Jarman, Angela Pearce, Joop Van Der Toorn, Jane Dalton

Apologies for Absence: Mary Edwards, Molly Lumley, Claire MacKichan, Reinhild and Brian Raistrick, Peter Robinson, Tiz Tiffin

1. *Minutes of the Last Meeting, held on 30th May 2023*

These were approved. Proposed by Kathy Drakes, seconded by Angela Pearce, all in favour.

2, *Electoral Roll*

Peter had sent a helpful review of the Roll and its preparation, and the Roll was approved. We are happy for the Churchwardens to have Record copies. We were all very grateful to Peter for the work he has put into it.

3 *Annual Report and Accounts*

Fr. Ben read his illuminating Annual Report, making comments as appropriate on its content. He thanked the Churchwardens for their hard work in the past year, and said how pleased he is that they are both happy to continue, and he thanked Peter Robinson for all that he does to support both Churches and his own ministry. Kathy Drakes' licensing as a Reader is very valuable, and she is a woman of much holiness. Fr. Ben noted that Tiz Tiffin is standing down from the PCC due to ill health, and Molly Lumley is withdrawing from organising fundraising events and Bangers and Bingo after many years (the effects of age) – we are very grateful to them both. And Fr. Ben commented on the death of Jill Rood, leader of Mothers Union and such a lovely person, who gave so much to our community in both Churches. He ended by saying that he would like us to focus on everything that gives joy in our church community, and lift it for all to see, the glory of God shining through the darkness.

Finance Kathy presented her helpful financial report and the accounts, which will be audited in the next couple of weeks, then submitted to the PCC for approval.

The last £22,000 of the late Freda Ridgewell's bequest has to be invested, and Kathy has been in touch with the S.S.A. – action on this will shortly be taken.

4. *Appointment of Independent Examiner*

Kathy reported that we are looking into this. It would be good to have all the Benefice accounts under one umbrella, so we are going to explore what St. Peter's are doing.

5. *Reports of Church Organisations*

We have received a wide range of helpful and informative reports, which were considered by the meeting, and these have been published on our website. Bangers and Bingo has been good, held twice a year, and the 200 Club is doing well, with 109 members. Colin Tiffin's report on the Friends was good, and they had made a very helpful contribution towards the Church windows. Tim had done a very informative Fabric report.

6. *Election of PCC Members*

Mary Edwards, Tiz Tiffin and Richard Jarman are standing down, and Richard explained why to the meeting, which was helpful. He doesn't feel we really work together as a team and, only meeting every three months, if you have to miss one meeting you don't see people, get together, for six months. Emails are not a substitute. He feels it is seen as an exclusive group, but it should be very clear that it serves the Church and doesn't make decisions "from on high" – it serves the congregation.

The following people were elected : Kathy Drakes (proposed by Mary Edwards, seconded by Linda Scoles), Jane Dalton (proposed by Angela Pearce, seconded by Tim Frost), Betty Holdgate (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Kathy Drakes), Claire Mackichan (proposed by Angela Pearce, seconded by Jane Dalton) Linda Scoles (proposed by Betty Holdgate, seconded by Mary Edwards). Peter Robinson was co-opted on to the PCC with the agreement of all present.

7. *Deanery Synod*

Betty Holdgate and Angela Pearce are happy to continue on the Deanery Synod, and they were happily re-elected. Betty proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Jane Dalton; Angela proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Kathy Drakes.

Fr. Ben closed the APCM with prayer.