

Church of the Holy Innocents, Great Barton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Wednesday 10th April 2019

Those Present : Rev'd Manette Crossman, Jane Dalton, Kathy Drakes, Mary Edwards, Tim Frost, Charles Gorer, Beth Harris, Reg Harris, Betty Holdgate, Rev'd Joy Horton, Allan Howell, Molly Lumley, Claire MacKichan, Bryant Maitland, Angela Pearce, Rev'd Brian Raistrick, Doris Sawyer, Kathleen Sewter, David Sheppard, Alison Wakelin, Ann Wallace

Apologies for Absence : Chris Drakes, Sarah Drakes, Jill Maitland, Reinhild Raistrick, Morris Sewter, Pat Sheppard, Tiz and Colin Tiffin

1. *Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2018*

The Minutes were approved

2. *Electoral Roll*

Allan Howell presented the Electoral Roll, for which his report had been on the website and at the back of the Church. It had been completely renewed during February and early March 2019 and the new Roll was solely based on application forms received. Details of the new Roll are as follows :

Resident in the Parish	82
Non-resident	9
Total	91

The numbers on the Roll have varied considerably over the years; in 1990 there were 95, by 2001 there were 154, last year it started at 123 and eroded to 116. There are some significant names missing, and three or more may be added when people realise that they haven't applied. There is a general trend that electoral rolls have gone down, and are probably a more accurate reflection of those actively worshipping in the Church. When it was 154 we had probably gone out to encourage people to register.

Allan was warmly thanked for all his hard work on this.

Deanery Synod Representatives

As we now have less than 100 on the Roll, we can only have two Deanery Synod representatives. David Sheppard has generously agreed to stand down, leaving Betty Holdgate and Angela Pearce as representatives.

3. *Independent Examiner*

Everyone was happy to have Peter Jones continue as Independent Examiner, if he wished to do so. Kathy will speak to him.

4. *Reports on Church Activities*

A common theme running through the reports was the need for more volunteers, both to take over where someone has been doing a job for very many years, and to help where a relatively few people are covering all the work. We need someone to take over the Messenger advertising and distribution from Allan, who has been doing this for twenty years; to help with Church Flowers and at Meeting Point, and we need a School Governor for what is a very rewarding job. Manette expressed everyone's gratitude to all who had prepared the reports and for the valuable work they are doing.

5. *Annual Report and Accounts*

Everyone was happy with the Annual Report and Accounts, and grateful thanks were expressed to Kathy for all her hard work, and thanks also to Tim and Jane for their work on the report. Warm thanks, too, were expressed to David for his indefatigable work on the Parish Giving Scheme which has proved very successful, thanks to his efforts, and also to Tim who has helped with this.

6. *Elections to the PCC, and Sidespeople*

The following nine people were unanimously elected to the Parochial Church Council : Jane Dalton (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by David Sheppard), Kathy Drakes (proposed by Allan Howell, seconded by Bryant Maitland), Mary Edwards (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Jane Dalton), Claire MacKichan (proposed by David Sheppard, seconded by Kathleen Sewter), Linda Scoles (proposed by David Sheppard, seconded by Hilary Aaron), David Sheppard (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Bryant Maitland), Elizabeth Tiffin (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by David Sheppard), Alison Wakelin (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Pat Sheppard), Ann Wallace (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Molly Lumley).

Charles Gorer, who had been appointed Assistant Churchwarden, was unanimously co-opted to the PCC (proposed by Tim Frost, seconded by Kathy Drakes)

Manette extended a warm thank you to Bryant Maitland, who has been a PCC member for forty years, and a Churchwarden during that time, and had decided not to stand for election.

Sidespeople As the form at the back of the Church had been covered up, only two people had signed it (Allan Howell and Reg Harris) – so we will contact the existing sidespeople to see if they are willing to continue. Molly Lumley and Doris Sawyer helpfully offered to be sidespeople.

7. *Vicar's Report*

Manette began by referring to the reading from Romans (chosen by Chris and Anji Dawkins for their talk on Kagera on Sunday 7th April) which speaks of us all being members of Christ's Body with a wide range of talents and qualities, and how we are not just part of Holy Innocents, but of our Benefice and the world-wide Church.

She thanked many people by name for the valuable contribution they make to the Church's life : Tim and Angela as Churchwardens, Kathy for all her work as Treasurer, Tim and David for their work on the Parish Giving Scheme, Jane as PCC Secretary, Peter Robinson for the many jobs he does at Benefice and Deanery level, Betty and her team for Meeting Point, and all who have helped in so many ways over the past year. She thanked Joy Bolwell who has played for many services and led the choirs at a time of difficulty for herself, and spoke of Ali who will give us valuable help in leading the Holy Innocents Choir. She was grateful to our retired clergy, Joy and Brian and others, who enable us to cover the schedule of services and give good different approaches. She was grateful for the way people had stepped in when she had a broken collarbone last summer, and enabled everything to continue.

Manette spoke of Café Church which has been a great success and a valuable outreach, with warm thanks to Sarah Drakes and her team for running it. We have had as many as 57 people attending, and 15 children who come more or less regularly. She also extended grateful thanks to Kathleen Sewter and her Music Group at Café Church, and to everyone who helps.

She noted that over the past year she has continued to be involved with Vocations work; we had Caroline on placement, and Susan our Ordinand in training who will be ordained on 29th June, and Kathy Drakes will begin her Reader training in June.

We had had a Benefice Confirmation Service at Holy Innocents, and there have been three enquiries for a Confirmation Service this year, probably at St. Peter's.

The Holiday Club had been very successful and good fun, on 3 days : Bake-off, a Music Workshop and an Art & Craft Day. This year we hope to add a Sports Day to the programme.

Manette had just been relicensed as a member of the Diocesan Healing and Deliverance Team, and we continue our Healing Ministry. There is a good uptake. She mentioned the strong links we have with Great Barton Primary School, and she thanked Linda M, Linda S and Kathleen who with her manage assemblies almost every week. She spoke of our need for another Foundation Governor, and hoped that someone from Holy Innocents would come forward.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we should all think about what it means to be disciples, and how we can be the Body of Christ in this place. We all have something to give, and Manette hoped that we could have a slightly more pro-active attitude, using our gifts and talents. We all need to be active participants, and volunteers are wanted. We need, too, to strengthen our links as a Benefice, when for instance it comes to attending services in "the other" Church. But all in all it had been a good year, and we hope to build on this in the year that has already started.

Tim Frost warmly thanked Manette, on everyone's behalf, for all the fine work that she does, visible and invisible.

8. *Date of Next Meeting*

Next year's meeting was arranged for Wednesday 22nd April.

The Meeting closed with prayer at 8.40 p.m.