

Church of the Holy Innocents, Great Barton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Tuesday 27th October 2020
at 7.15 pm

Those Present : Rev'd Manette Crossman, Jane Dalton, Tim Frost, Charles Gorer, Reg. Harris, Betty Holdgate, Allan Howell, Claire Mackichan, Graham Mothersole, Angela Pearce, Brian Raistrick, Reinhild Raistrick, Linda Scoles, Kathleen Sewter, Alison Wakelin, Ann Wallace.

Apologies for Absence: Morris Sewter, Tiz Tiffin

1. *Minutes of the last Meeting*

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 10th April 2019 were approved (proposed by Tim Frost, seconded by Reg Harris)

2. *Electoral Roll*

Allan Howell presented the Electoral Roll, which is revised annually. There are now 92 people on the Roll, 80 resident in the Parish and 12 non-resident. Allan asked everyone to encourage new people in the Parish to join, and to approach him. Allan is happy to continue looking after the Roll, and Manette thanked him for all his work. His continuing is much appreciated.

3. *Annual Report*

The Meeting considered the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019. Tim commented that without the surpluses made from Café Church and other activities, we would have shown a deficit.

Manette extended our warm thanks to Kathy for all her work on the Accounts, and thanks too, to Peter Jones for his auditing. He is happy to audit our accounts for this year, and everyone was happy to appoint him.

4. *Reports from Church Organisations*

Manette mentioned many of the Reports, springing from the wide range of activities

of the Church and expressing so much generous help. Sally Veal and the Bellringers are so good in normal times, (and even now), and likewise Ali and the Choir, and Manette also thanked Wendy Jones for all she does for the Flowers, Colin Tiffin and the Friends, as well as those who have helped at Meeting Point and Men's Breakfast. The Messenger is under threat at the moment, but a little group is looking into the best way forward. Tim's helpful and comprehensive Fabric Report was noted, and Kathy's Financial Report likewise. And Kathleen's helpful report on the Primary School, which has been through a very challenging ten months. And they need a Foundation Governor who is not a parent. Lastly Tim's informative report on the 200 Club was noted, Peter's invaluable help with the website, and GDPR, and Claire's help with Safeguarding issues. There were interesting reports from Pat Sheppard on Mothers Union, from Janet Hill on the Handbells ringing, and from Betty Holdgate on Meeting Point.

Everyone was very happy with the Reports.

5. *Election of PCC Members*

The following people were unanimously elected to the PCC (proposed by Linda Scoles, seconded by Betty Holdgate) : Kathy Drakes (proposed by Ann Wallace, seconded by Jane Dalton), Mary Edwards (proposed by Angela Pearce, seconded by Peter Robinson), Charles Gorer (proposed by Ann Wallace, seconded by Jane Dalton), Betty Holdgate (proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Ann Wallace), Claire Mackichan (proposed by Ann Wallace, seconded by Jane Dalton), Peter Robinson (proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Angela Pearce), Linda Scoles (proposed by Tim Frost, seconded by Jane Dalton) David Sheppard (proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Tim Frost), Tiz Tiffin (proposed by Jane Dalton, seconded by Charles Gorer), Ann Wallace (proposed by Charles Gorer, seconded by Jane Dalton)

Jane Dalton was unanimously co-opted onto the PCC as Secretary

6. *Deanery Synod Representatives*

Betty Holdgate was unanimously elected (proposed by Ann Wallace, seconded by Jane Dalton), and likewise Angela Pearce, unanimously elected. We are very grateful to them both for representing us.

There was discussion of a new rule that limits representatives to serving only two consecutive terms of three years. However this Meeting can make a resolution disapplying the rule, and this was agreed (proposed by Tim Frost, seconded by Jane Dalton, David Sheppard abstained). Representatives can stand down at any time.

7. *Vicar's Report*

Manette began by saying what we all felt – that it was strange to be looking back to 2019 when we are ten months into 2020. But it was a legal requirement to hold an Annual Parish Church Meeting – and she gave a lively and very interesting report.

2019 was another busy year, and Manette thanked everyone – Churchwardens, Assistant Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary, and the many others who work, often behind the scenes, on behalf of the Church, often with simple tasks like cleaning, making coffee and in other ways, those who deliver the Newsletter and pew sheets to the housebound or those without internet, our bellringers, our website administrator Peter, and many more. She gave a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone. And she has been very grateful to her retired colleagues for their help, support and encouragement.

2019 had been another successful year for Café Church, with many young families coming, and so many people were involved – with Gill Rood doing the shopping and many others setting up, providing breakfast, and leading worship. She gave special thanks to Kathy and Sarah, Susan Allison and Linda Scoles, and to Kathleen Sewter and the Music Group for playing (not just at Café Church) and to Joy Bolwell, Chris Bartrop and Jeremy Harding for covering most of the services between them and to Ali and the Choir for all their hard work.

The PCC had received a letter from Ali with her resignation as Director of Music from the end of November. We will be sad to see her go, and Manette thanked her on everyone's behalf for all she has contributed in so many ways, from the music in the Benefice to lending horses to enable Manette to pay socially distanced visits in the parish, and for using her professional experience to help Manette to produce on-line worship during the months of lockdown. She also thanked her daughter Katharine for the many hours she had spent editing film footage for this.

Attendance at Holiday Club 2019 had been disappointing, even though the team had put together three brilliant sessions enjoyed by those who came. It had been decided to review the format for 2020, little knowing that it could not go ahead.

We had launched our new contemporary service “Sacred Space” in August 2019 which had got off to a very good start, thanks to Ali, Jeremy and Gerhard with wonderful music. Sadly it has had to be put on hold until February.

Kathy began her Lay Reader training last September and is now in her second year.

“Dare to Do” had been really good – it was a wacky idea, but worked really well. The Vicar’s challenge had been to ride a horse up the Church path, and around 90 people turned up for this. Funds were raised for St. Peter’s Church and the new toilet at Holy Innocents.

Manette spoke of the strong links we have with the School, with the Scouts, and Montana – she had made several visits there on horseback, much appreciated by the Sisters and Residents.

She spoke of her appointment as Rector of a new Benefice, with her licensing date being 14th December. She had been our Vicar for just over five years – very fruitful years and a lot of fun, as well as hard work and challenging. She recommended that we offer our new incumbent much needed administrative help, and create more realistic expectations of what can be achieved, remembering that ministry is not just the Vicar but the whole Body of Christ working together in this place. Tim Frost, on behalf of the Parish, thanked Manette for all she had done. The Parish must now bind itself together, and try to come together as a Benefice. Manette had been the first Vicar to take on both Parishes, and coming together is a long process – we are very different parishes.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next APCM will be held on 20th April 2021, in the evening.

The Meeting ended at 7.45 pm.