

ST PETER'S CHURCH, GOODWORTH CLATFORD

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on
Thursday 22 April 2021

Peter Eastwood opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes were proposed by Jane Eastwood, seconded by Mary Graham, and unanimously agreed that they were a true record of the meeting.

2. Elections and Appointments

a) *Deanery Synod*: Peter Eastwood continues in his current 3-year tenure. He was thanked for his sound representation, diligence and his comprehensive reports. We are looking for a second representative – please see Peter Eastwood or John Milne if interested.

b) *Parochial Church Council Members*: Thanks were given for their tremendous contributions to St Peter's and particularly to Hilary Ditchburn who is standing down at this meeting. Willing to continue in their current 3-year tenures are Mark Haszlakiewicz and Belinda Jones. Louise Wodehouse (proposed by Belinda Jones, seconded by John Milne) and Becky Stevens (p: Jane Eastwood, s: Peter Eastwood) had come to the end of their current tenure and were nominated to stand again, along with new nominations for Elizabeth Collinson (p: Jane Eastwood, s: Peter Eastwood), John Jarvis (p: John Milne, s: Cherry Milne), Sandra Hopwood (p: Jane Eastwood, s: Peter Eastwood) and Martin Jourdan (p: John Milne, s: Cherry Milne). All were unanimously voted in as members. There is 1 vacancy on the PCC and anyone interested in joining should contact the Churchwardens.

c) *Sidespeople*: Huge thanks to Mary and Stephen Graham (and big thanks to Mary for all the organising of the sidespeople; Val & Martin Jourdan, Cherry & John Milne, Geoff Scard, Belinda & Ed Jones, Cecilia Haszlakiewicz, Liz Collinson, Chris Jenkins, Adrian Robley and Jane Eastwood for their invaluable support of services. Particular thanks were given to Adrian and Geoff who stood down during 2020. For those continuing on as sidespeople, they were proposed by Pam Morgan, seconded by Elaine Price, and unanimously supported to continue.

d) *Independent Financial Examiner*: John Milne thanked John Jarvis for his service, and notably as he stands down with his appointment to the PCC. Those assembled unanimously supported the proposal that the PCC press ahead to appoint a new Examiner.

3. Safeguarding Report

John introduced the Safeguarding report and showed the report on the screen. He noted the importance of this, in particular that Eleanor Jakeman had taken up the role of Safeguarding Officer, with Tessa Cross in support as Safeguarding Administrator. It was noted that all training and requirements are fully up to date.

4. Receiving the Annual Reports and the Summary Annual Report

The Summary Annual Report including the Financial Report and Audited Accounts has been available via the Benefice and village websites for the past two weeks.

Accounts: John paid great thanks to Mark Haszlakiewicz for his hard work on the accounts, particularly given the COVID-affected year. He paid further thanks to all those who

contributed through planned giving which makes a very positive impact on financial health of St Peter's. The Treasurer outlined various aspects of the accounts for 2020:

- a) COVID has affected the finances – both expenditure and income
- b) The Fete contribution was missed, made up in part by Stephen Graham's Quiz (and he has contributed a huge financial amount over the years) and Geoff Scard's Cycle ride, both of which went ahead –and huge thanks to them.
- c) The full parish share was met by taking £4k out of Reserves; balanced out by the value of our investments being more than this, so overall there was a slight increase to the funds.
- d) We are in a good financial position with net assets of £96k.
- e) Normally we would have a stated Reserves Policy; and there had been an intention to re-write the Reserves Policy during 2020. However, due to COVID, Katrina's departure and the proposal to restructure the Benefice, it was felt inappropriate to change the Policy at this time. It would be kept under review.

Annual Report: John noted the vast range of activities and use of innovation that had taken place during 2020, despite the restrictions brought about by COVID. Tributes were given to all involved, including those running the Way Inn, Paul Timms and the choir, Angela Rice and the school, the Open the Book team, and Becky Stevens with Messy Church.

John opened the meeting up to questions and comments. Martin Jourdan asked whether anything was being done to thank Angela Rice for her time and this is currently being considered. Liz Collinson thanked John Milne and Jane Eastwood for their daily email missives since March 2020, which have kept everyone going. Stephen Graham paid tribute and gave his thanks to Mark Haszlakiewicz who had contributed in many ways to the Quiz as well.

5. Pastoral Overview

John Milne noted that Diocesan finances have generally dropped significantly not least of which due to COVID. 22 clergy posts have gone from the Diocese as a result of this. Overall the number and style of services across the Benefice will change. Katrina is going to be replaced, so at a local level, there will be a firm contact point. Across the Diocese larger benefices are being assembled, and proposals are being firmed up. For St Peter's, it is likely that it will join with 8 other parishes. Discussions are continuing to find a workable solution to the structure going forward. He highlighted 2 models under consideration – (i) a single parish containing 9 churches, 1 PCC, 1 pair of Churchwardens; or (ii) stay as we are but create a joint council above us – with responsibility for worship, with finance remaining at the lower level; noting this option would leave the clergy with a significant administrative burden. The aim is for worshippers to see as little outward change as possible.

The vacancy for Katrina Dykes is being processed quickly, and the draft job description is currently with the Bishop. Ideally it is the intention to have someone appointed and in post by the Autumn 2021.

John finished by paying tribute to the Worship Team – Nicky, Tim and Peter – for all the food for thought given to us all, the calming and thoughtful words given. He also offered thanks to Jane Drew, Honorary Secretary for all her work.

6. Closing Prayers

Nicky Judd closed the meeting by leading all those assembled with the Grace, at 2023h.