

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of All Saints, Hertford
Held in Church on Sunday 29th April 2018 at 12.10 pm**

Present: As for the Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

As for the Vestry Meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising, apart from adding the same names as the Vestry meeting to the attendance list.

4. The Vicar's Report

Jo referred to the excellent welcome All Saints gives to people and gave a number of examples.

Jo thanked the following for all the time and effort they had put in during the year

Colin Bird, Janet Bird, Richard Toyn, Gerry Booker, Martin Penny, Geoff and Kath Oates, Brian Dilley, David Dean and the Work Party, the Choir, David Ford, Julia Gough, the PCC, Megan Roworth, Tony James, Dorothy Toyn, Kay Povey-Richards, Don and Rosemary Graves, Ann Stephens-Jones, Helen Harvey-Wright, Linda Dye, Rosie Dean, Martin Bird, John Norris, Chris Benham, Wendell Newbold, Rosemary Bolton, Tony and Sandra Weeden, Doug Loveridge, Andrew Povey-Richards, Messy church helpers, the Vergers, the Cleaning Teams including Luella Gracias, the bell ringers, the welcomers, the social team, Mothers' Union, the Easter Journey team, the coffee makers, the lesson readers, the sides people, the Pastoral Care team.

Many people also work quietly behind the scenes and Jo said that everyone makes a significant difference to the life of the Church.

Jo said we have been thinking about what we are as a church and particularly the need to flourish. There have been discussions with HeartEdge to help formulate a way forward to make All Saints sustainable, particularly financially. She said we need to reach out and develop a Mission based culture, being consumer orientated and asking 'what does it take to be with us?', 'what does it need to be part of the All Saints family?' And sharing in the breaking of the bread and sharing the wine.

She said the Diocese is holding a Vision Day at Harpenden on May 12th to discuss how

to establish Christ centred communities in parishes. She also said we need to develop Mission shaped ministry. Kath Oates has been exploring this and will be making a presentation to the PCC.

Although the accounts are going quite well, we need to ensure that we grow in numbers and use the space, including the Church Hall and Annex.

We will be looking with HeartEdge to make our building pay. Jo hopes and prays that everyone will engage with the mission of the church. The Mission Group will be “hands on”, not a committee. We are also planning a Pilgrim Course in September for those who want to explore their faith. We are focusing on key services where we can invite people who don't usually come to church; the Mothering Sunday service was successful in this respect and the next one will be Harvest.

5. Election of Parochial Church Councillors

The following have one or two years remaining of the three year cycle:

Wendell Newbold – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Graham Jones.
Martin Penny – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Julia Gough.
Marion Hassell – proposed by Gabriela Matosevic and seconded by Renee Booker
Janet Oldham - proposed by Renee Booker and seconded by Leon Ajao
Rosemary Bolton - proposed by Graham Jones and seconded by Renee Booker
Ann Stephens-Jones - proposed by Helen H Wright and seconded by Gabriela Matosevic
Cheryl Massey - proposed by Janet Oldham and seconded by Julia Gough
Jonathan Bates - proposed by Colin Bird and seconded by Jo Loveridge

The following were elected to serve for a three year period:

Andrew Povey-Richards – proposed by Renee Booker and seconded by Leon Ajao.
Nerine Chalmers - proposed by Fiona Earle and seconded by Janet Bird
Mary Penny - proposed by Colin Bird and seconded by Julia Gough.
Andrew Belfield - proposed by Colin Bird and seconded by Mary Penny.
All were in favour.

Deanery Synod Representatives

The following were elected to serve until the APCM 2019:

Janet Bird – proposed by Julia Gough and seconded by Leon Ajao.
Colin Bird – proposed by Leon Ajao and seconded by Renee Booker.
Dorothy Toyn – proposed by Leon Ajao and seconded by Renee Booker.

All were in favour.

5. Election of Sides persons

Richard Toyn thanked all the current Sides people for the valuable support they give to the smooth running of our church services. At times, there are some behind the scenes activities that go unnoticed; however, the welcoming friendly face, especially for visitors and new members of the congregation is extremely valuable.

Richard proposed that the following members of the congregation be accepted as sides people for the coming year and this was seconded by Geoff Oates:

Mr Leon Ajao, Mrs Roz Barron, Mrs Val Cole, Mrs Janet Bird, Mr Martin Bird, Mr Brian Dilley, Mr & Mrs Dean, Miss Julie Deakin, Mrs Fiona Earle, Mr & Mrs Graves, Mrs Helen Harvey-Wright, Miss Isobel Hurley, Mr & Mrs Leech, Miss Edwina Nailer, Mr Stuart Neale, Mr Wendell Newbold, Mrs Janet Oldham, Mr Geoffrey Rice, Mrs Dorothy Toyn, Mr James Toyn, Mr Mark Bartlett and Mrs Caroline Bartlett and Richard Toyn. Fiona Ingram was added to the list.

All were in favour.

The number of members of the congregation that are Sides people is falling. To be able to sustain our current six teams, we need to increase the number of Sides people. Hence, if anyone would like to know more about how they could help by being a Sidesman, they should speak to one of the Churchwardens.

7. Financial Report for 2017

Colin said income had increased in 2017 by £10,000 compared to 2016 due in part to increased donations. St. Johns Hall had been able to donate an extra £1000 and the Christmas Fair result was good.

On the expenditure the Parish share had risen by £1,400 to £69,600. The bills for gas, electricity and water had increased slightly, but were still low compared with some previous years.

Soundbites had contributed £3,500 and there had been transfers of £2,500 to the Fabric Fund and £1,500 to the Organ Fund.

Overall there had been an increase in General Funds of approximately £800 to £34,900.

The Fabric fund stood at £15,500 after £3,300 had been spent on electrical repairs at the back of church.

The MDF had income of £8,500 from Soundbites and transferred £3,500 to the General Fund and spent which included £570 for scholarships, £2,600 for teaching. It ended the year with £11,400.

The Memorial Fund had £43,800 after a legacy of £1,000.

St. John's Hall had a deficit of £460 after giving the church £7,000. Reserves stood at £33,900.

All Church based groups had a satisfactory financial position.

Colin predicted a £9,200 loss due to income being down from 2017 due to giving being down to £62,000. Costs would rise primarily because heating costs had been set at £12,250, above the £10,800 spent last year as we needed to allow for the possibility of worse weather. The Diocesan contribution had risen £2,800 approximately.

He drew attention to the proposed budget predicting a substantial deficit of around £9,200. He felt it was a realistic assessment and had recommended it for approval by the PCC. In the first quarter of 2018 there had been a deficit of £2,400 compared with a budgeted deficit of £1,800.

In summary we only made a small loss due to a request for donations in the autumn 2017 – he did not consider this to be a sustainable method of operation. We are heavily reliant on too few people making sizeable donations. We do not have sufficient money in our Fabric Fund to pay for any substantial works. Our Organ Fund is woefully short of what is needed to keep the organ in good repair.

8. Election of an Independent Examiner for the Accounts

Geoffrey Rice was proposed as the Independent Examiner for the PCC and St John's Hall by Colin Bird and seconded by Leon Ajao – all were in favour.

9. Reports

Reports relating to the Flower Club, Safeguarding, Mothers' Union, Art Group, Junior Church, Deanery Synod and Music are available.

10. The Churchwardens' Report

Richard highlighted the continuing problems we have with the south aisle roof leaking in heavy rain. Investigations have been undertaken but the exact nature of the problem has not been found.

The Work Party continue to undertake lots of small jobs in the Quinquennial Report and save us a lot of money.

He stated lead flashing had been stolen from the vestry roof which had resulted in a considerable amount of rain leaking into the choir vestry, such that robes had needed to be moved. A temporary cover had been put in place to help reduce the scale of the problem.

He thanked Dorothy Toyn for repairing hassocks which arose particularly when children played with them during Christmas concerts.

The fuse box at the back of church had been up-graded.
The north porch had been cleared so that there was no longer any fire hazard there.

Richard posed the question – how do we get more people into church to make it more sustainable?
Richard said he was standing down due to increased work commitments and travelling abroad at times.

11. Any Other Business

Rosemary Graves asked when should the church gates be left open, when should they just have the chain wrapped round and when should they be locked? Jo said they could be left open on a Sunday, wrapped around when there were still cars left in the car park and locked when there were no cars in there.

Don Graves asked if a notice could be erected to say the main church gates did not provided access to St. John's Hall.

Mollie Day asked if the church could be open more often to try and encourage more people to visit it.

Pauline Gearing asked if the Clock was going to be started soon as it had stopped a number of weeks ago. Jo said she would contact the Town Council as it was their responsibility.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm.