

St. Mary's Church Theydon Bois

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022

Rev. John Fry was in the Chair and a total of 21 parishioners were present.

Apologies had been received from Beryl Denney, John & Ruth Eaton & Rev. Carol Newnham

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 21st April 2021

These were agreed and signed by Rev. John.

Approval of Minutes:

Proposed by: Hugh Meteyard

Seconded by: Sam Spencer

Unanimously approved.

2. Adoption of Electoral Roll and Report from Electoral Roll Officer

The report of Sam Spencer (Electoral Roll Officer) confirmed that as at 6th April 2021 the Roll was as follows:

Roll 152

Non-Resident 13

Sam was thanked for her work in compiling the roll.

3. PCC report.

All reports had been circulated beforehand and were available on the Benefice website. Rev. John introduced Andrea Crombie as the Church Safeguarding Officer.

4. Vicar's report.

Rev. John summarised his report and commented that the APCM was being held in a season of change. He felt it was time for a big vision – but one that would include everybody. He thanked the community for being a generous one and congratulated Lisa Debenham and Kery Ells for all their work which has resulted in St. Mary's being awarded a bronze award as an EcoChurch. Rev. John encouraged all to be open to where the God of surprises is leading us and ended by thanking everyone.

5. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council.

Tony Dawsons' period of office had come to an end, resulting in one vacancy. Hugh Meteyard had been nominated and was duly elected until 2025.

6. Presentation of Examined Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 and Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Andrew Tunks presented his report and the accounts. He reported that there had been a generous donation of £10k during the year. However, events income was greatly reduced, but an increased tax rebate had been received. Parish giving was up and a donations of £2k had been received for the new railings around the church yard. The Parish Share had been paid in full; there is £70k in the COIF account and £30k in the current account.

Thanks were given to Andrew Tunks and the PCC for all their work.

Acceptance and Approval of the Accounts:

Proposed by: Mary Gill

Seconded by: John Philip

Unanimously approved.

Andrew announced that Greville Norman had stepped down as the independent examiner. Mike Coggins had kindly agreed to take on the role.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Mike Coggins

Proposed by: Rev. John Fry

Seconded by: Andrew Tunks

Unanimously approved.

7. Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church (the Churchwardens report)

The Church Wardens thanked everybody for all their support, including the Church Hall team and John and Ruth Eaton for their work leading the Churchyard working group.

8. Report on the Proceedings of Deanery Synod

No formal report had been posted, but all 3 meetings had been conducted on Zoom through the year. A presentation had been received by Citizens UK and organisation of the church had been reviewed.

9. Questions.

Richard Risdon asked about the maintenance of the undergrowth where the Church Hall meets Coppice Row. Rev. John would action this with the Hall committee.

Carol Risdon asked if the monthly news sheet would be resurrected, but this would only be possible if someone would volunteer to take on the role following the death of Vicki Rowlands. Concern was expressed about the state of the back room of the Church Hall.

The meeting also heard from Hugh Meteyard who sang about what the choir had done during the past year.