

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Annual Meetings held at 10:00am on Saturday 7th May 2022

Chairman: Rev Mark Wallace, Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (AMP)

1. OPENING PRAYER

The Vicar opened the meeting in prayer.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Mrs Bernice Watts was appointed to act as Secretary for the Annual Meetings.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies are recorded in Appendix 1.

4. ELECTIONS OF CHURCHWARDENS

The Vicar expressed a heartfelt thanks to the current Churchwardens, Dr Matt Cox and Mrs Anne Kavanagh, for their commitment this past year. With the many difficulties brought on by the pandemic, we are grateful for the Churchwardens dealing with matters diplomatically and graciously. Dr Matt Cox' expertise in the medical field has been particularly valued.

There were two vacancies and two nominees for the Churchwarden roles; Dr Matt Cox (proposed by Mrs Caroline Sheldrick and seconded by Mrs Elisabeth Wallace) and Mr Trevor Froude (proposed by Mrs Anne Kavanagh and seconded by Dr Matt Cox).

Dr Cox and Mr Froude were duly elected as Churchwardens.

Mrs Anne Kavanagh led the meeting in prayer for the new Churchwardens.

The Vicar closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no further Apologies for Absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE AMP & APCM 2020

1. **Approval.** The Minutes from the meeting held on the 27th April 2021 were approved and duly signed.
2. **Matters arising.** a) (item 5) The PCC is pleased to announce that Mr Peter Wigglesworth has agreed to act as Independent Examiner for the 2021 accounts. His inspection has been marked by thoroughness and great attention to detail, for which the PCC is grateful.

b) Following up on the question on how we can contribute to Living In Love and Faith (item 6), the Vicar has provided positive feedback to LLF as well as reporting that it has not proven easy for churches to engage with the material.

3. CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Vicar thanked Mrs Clare Reid (Electoral Roll Officer) for her upkeep of the electoral roll. The number on the electoral roll had risen from 60 to 72. Of these, 14 are resident in the parish.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ON PARISH ACTIVITIES

1. **Chairman's Review.** The Vicar highlighted the following aspects:

Ministry: It has been encouraging to witness a gradual return to some sense of normality in church life these past months, however, sadly not without leaving scars.

Children's & Youth Ministry: A huge thanks to the Youth Team. The recent growth and development are reflected by the hard work of Mrs Lizzie Wallace and the team, for which we are very grateful.

Church Family News & Pastoral Care: With Mrs Vivienne Depledge taking the lead in the first part of the year, Mrs Lizzie Wallace picked up the work when Vivienne finished her role.

Safeguarding: The Vicar thanked the Safeguarding Committee, and especially Miss Sue Almond (Parish Safeguarding Officer), for putting the expected tasks into practice.

Churchwardens: The Vicar passed on a word of thanks from Dr Matt Cox and Mrs Anne Kavanagh to Mrs Wendy Whitfield for overseeing the aspects on the church building and churchyard.

PCC Secretary: As well as the legal requirement for the report, this section also gives a good sense of what the PCC has been discussing this past year.

Finance: The Vicar expressed a word of thanks to Mr Richard Lawn for his organisation and efficiency. We are very grateful for his commitment as Treasurer.

Deanery Synod: The Vicar extended a word of thanks to Mr Duncan Breckels for his report from the Synod's meetings this last year.

Conclusion: It has been a great privilege to receive recounts on people going out of their way to help others this past year. This has boosted encouragements and added a real hope and excitement as we look to the future. However, we also need to acknowledge that there are new as well as old challenges ahead. The Vicar shared his challenges on balancing his work at St Peter's with the role as Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Maidstone.

In all of this, the church longs to continue their work as to please our Lord through faith and patience.

2. **Questions.** The Vicar encouraged the attendees to communicate any encouragements and challenges they had observed from this past year and to raise any questions.

As examples of encouragements, people drew out Tiny Tots toddler group, the increase in numbers on Sunday mornings, the warm welcome from church members, faithful teaching, people's individual growth in faith, work on trees in the churchyard, developments despite Covid-19 such as electoral roll growth, the online ministry and St Peter's WhatsApp group and the recent confirmation service.

The challenges and questions which people expressed were as follows:

Question: Regarding the vision for church and the transformation of the interior of the building, how can we make this work? (Mrs Caroline Sheldrick & Mrs Lizzie Wallace).

Answer: The redevelopment project is divided into three phases. Phase 1 is more expensive than originally anticipated, but Phases 2 & 3 are less so. The shortage of funds to commission phase 1 involves a time-consuming task of fundraising (the Vicar).

Question: What do you, the Vicar, now see as a probable timescale for the redevelopment work (Mrs Sheila Lloyd)?

Answer: There is a possibility to commission the work in September this year, but we need £40,000 (The Vicar). For some of the work, we are unable to commission the work until we have a faculty (Mrs

Wendy Whitfield).

Question: How much skill is needed for someone to join the Fundraising Committee (Mrs Lizzie Wallace)?

Answer: It requires a degree of business acumen, the ability to fill in forms, to present the cases in the right forums and an understanding of the role of the church (The Vicar).

Question: How about the heating in the church (Mrs Sheila Lloyd)?

Answer: Improving the door at the disabled access will sort out some of the heating issues, but other work needs to be completed first.

Question: What permission is required to use the Hall (Mrs Tash Froude)?

Answer: There is more freedom on what we can do in the Hall compared to in the church building (The Vicar).

Question: Why is it that so many people join St Peter's (Mr Brian New)?

Answer: The Lord provides the growth. We must also remember that people have prayed for growth for decades. Furthermore, St Peter's is clear on what we stand for, which draws attraction in some places (The Vicar).

Question: Why aren't we growing in a more culturally diverse way? Are we doing enough to make people welcomed for them to stick with us (Dr Dan Watts)?

Answer: We shouldn't underestimate how diverse we are becoming on a Sunday. It takes a long time for people to move to a position of leadership. We are currently looking to initiate a new group aimed towards internationals (The Vicar).

Question: To what extent do you, the Vicar, believe that music has as an impact on church growth (Mr Ed Bradley)?

Follow-up: Some neighbours of a different ethnic background didn't find the music at St Peter's lively enough (Mrs Geraldine Joslin).

Answer: There is a great variety in church music, and some churches have different services for different styles. At St Peter's, music is a secondary concern, but we seek to keep a broad appeal, with traditional hymns, organ, piano and other instruments. We also seek to listen to the young peoples' requests for contemporary music. Any feedback or concerns are always welcome. Music has developed over the last year and we are grateful (The Vicar).

5. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. **PCC Members.** There were four vacancies on the PCC and six people willing to stand as PCC member. Therefore, an election was announced. This took place at the Annual Meeting with the plan to notify the church of the results in due course.

Prior to the election, the meeting prayed for the election and for those elected to serve.

Each candidate then gave a brief address on their vision of the church.

Mr Ed Bradley (proposed by Mrs Morvern Cox and seconded by Dr Mick Kavanagh): Ed spoke of the faithful preaching and teaching at St Peter's and his vision for more people to come under the Word.

Mrs Geraldine Joslin (proposed by Mrs Anne Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs Sheila Lloyd): Geraldine shared her thoughts of the importance of remembering the history of our church, as well as the need to look forward and encourage growth.

Mrs Anne Kavanagh (proposed by Mrs Geraldine Joslin and seconded by Mrs Val Morris): Anne spoke of the importance of the church family community and of helping people to grow in grace and faith.

Mrs Val Morris (proposed by Mrs Anne Kavanagh and seconded by Dr Mick Kavanagh): Val expressed the need to support Mark Wallace in his ministry, to be prepared to adapt to changes and to encourage each other.

Mr Brian New (proposed by Mr Derek Drew and seconded Mrs Diane King): Brian spoke of the idea of opening up the church during the week for tourists and of reaching out so that others may become actively involved in the life of the church.

Dr Dan Watts (proposed by Dr Mick Kavanagh and seconded by Mr Alan Gray): Dan spoke of the importance for the church to continue to be compassionately engaged in social actions alongside teaching, preaching and evangelism.

2. **Independent Examiner.** The PCC proposes to the meeting to ask Mr Peter Wigglesworth to once more act as an Independent Examiner of the Accounts. The proposal was agreed *nem con*.

6. QUESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Heating in the church. Dr Dan Watts proposed the general heating issue to be put on the PCC agenda, in order to explore if there are interim measures that can be taken before the heating is fixed. The proposal was agreed. A short discussion followed. Mrs Tash Froude raised the possibility of using the Hall during the winter months. The Vicar mentioned the issues of acoustic in the Hall and the children's groups using the Hall during the services. Mrs Geraldine Joslin raised the concern about damp issues while having no heating on for a substantial length of time. However, the issue lies more in keeping the heating in, once the church has been heated up.

Easter services. Mrs Caroline Sheldrick reflected on the number of new people coming to church over Easter, and observed that we may need something for young children aged 3-9, e.g. an activity bag or similar. The staff team had recently acknowledged these issues and will review this in time before next Easter.

Holy Communion. Mr Duncan Breckels enquired about the plan for the distribution of Communion. The PCC has agreed that as soon as we are in a position to offer individual cups, we will begin to trial this and share bread and wine separately.

Part-time vs full-time Ministry. Mrs Lizzie Wallace proposed that the PCC would investigate whether the Vicar's ministry could become a full-time position. The PCC has brought this question up, but we are currently not in the desired financial position and the question of budgeting is unclear.

7. CLOSING PRAYERS

Various people closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting of the new PCC was postponed for a time when the results of the election come through.

The meetings finished at 11:30am.

APPENDIX 1: ATTENDANCE

Susan Almond		Ann Larkin	apologies
Nicola Bailey		Paul Larkin	apologies
Elisabeth Barker		Andrew Lawn	
George Beeken		Richard Lawn	apologies
Greta Bennett		Sheila Lloyd	present
Edward Bradley	present	Annette Long	
Kristin Bradley	apologies	Heather Loyd	
Duncan Breckels	present	Ursela Maggie	
Audrey Castle		Rosemary Milne	
Ryan Clarke		Jean Moore	present
James Coe		Valerie Morris	present
Sandra Coe		Brian New	present
Matthew Cox	present	Duncan Ng	
Morvern Cox	apologies	Janice Ng	
Kimberly Cullen		Chibuzo Oguguo-Okoro	
Beryl Dark		Chidibere Ogugo-Okoro	
Ruth Downham		Vivienne Osborne	
Derek Drew	apologies	Cherry Palmer	
Elizabeth Dunningham		Barbara Pears	
Anneli El Asla		Clare Reid	present
Natasha Froude	present	Margaret Sawyer	
Trevor Froude	present	Peter Sawyer	
Sandra Gedling		Caroline Sheldrick	present
Alan Gray	present	Christine Terry	
Christine Gray	present	Quinlan Terry	
John Hartwell	apologies	Geoffrey Tomlin	
Maureen Hartwell	apologies	Peter Vinton	
Stephen Harvey		Elizabeth Wallace	present
Timothy Hearn	present	James Wallace	
Margaret Holden	apologies	Peter Wallace	
Peter Holden	apologies	Bernice Watts	present
John Huke		Daniel Watts	present
Patricia Huke		Wendy Whitfield	present
Geraldine Joslin	present	Mary Wyatt	
Anne Kavanagh	present		
Michael Kavanagh	present		
Diane King	apologies	<i>Clergy in attendance</i>	
Ruth Kingsbury		Mark Wallace	present