



Great St Mary's

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 12 May 2024 at 11.30 am in the Michaelhouse Chancel

Present:

Lorna Atwell, Marilyn Ballisat, Roger Ballisat, Alexander Berry, Ruth Bridgen, Angela Bridges, Donald Broom, Sally Broom, Canon Jutta Brueck, Philip Burns, Gordon Campbell, Marion Cobby, Brian Corby, Paula Corby, Fiona Cornish, Alex Courtney, Andrew Crawford, Anne Culver, Tom Culver, Katrina Dobson, David Fergusson, Margot Fergusson, Sarah Goff, Michael Allen Goodchild, Kay Goodchild, Jo Hall, Victoria Heward-Mills, Shirley Holder, Jennifer Houghton, Margaret Ingram, Juliet Jackson, Aishwarya Jacob, Margaret Johnston, Gillian Kilgour, Veronica McDouall, Alison McRobb, Orme, Liz, Rebekah Perez, James Quelch, Sam Race, Bruce Ragsdale, Nigel Dominic Rubbra, Dafydd Russell-Jones, Catherine Smart, John Smith, Matthew Vernon, Andrew Watson, Kirsten Watson, Gillian Weale, Stella Weeds, Richard Widdess, Joanna Womack.

1 Welcome and explanation of protocols for the meetings

The Vicar welcomed all present and explained the process of the two meetings to follow.

2 Appointment of Chair for Vestry Meeting

Canon Jutta Brueck was proposed as Chair for the Vestry Meeting by Gordon Campbell, seconded by Fiona Cornish and duly confirmed.

3 Vestry Meeting

3.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayer, led by the Chair.

3.2 Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Marion Cobby was proposed as Vestry Clerk by Fiona Cornish, seconded by Sally Broom and duly confirmed.

3.3 Appointment of Churchwardens

3.3.1 Fiona Cornish and Margaret Johnston had both agreed to stand again as Churchwardens and were unanimously elected *en bloc* as there were no other nominations.

3.3.2 The Chair expressed immense gratitude to them both for everything that they had done over the previous year in their roles at Churchwardens.

3.3.3 It was reported that the Churchwardens had been assisted during the past year by two Assistant Churchwardens, Juliet Jackson and Andrew Watson, which had been hugely appreciated. Although these were not formal positions, all present confirmed their support for these roles enthusiastically and unanimously.

4 Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

4.1 Welcome and explanation of protocols for the meeting

The Vicar outlined the purpose of the meeting as being a summary of our stewardship, reflected in the standard agenda items.

4.2 Apologies for absence

Andrew Dobson, Kate Denmead, Nick Denyer, Marianne Hirtzel, Rodney Holder, Jacob Kidd, Karen Lim, Anne Lindley, Revd Ceri Payne, Sally Vernon.

4.3 Appointment of Clerk

Marion Cobby was proposed as Clerk by Shirley Holder, seconded by Margaret Johnston and duly confirmed.

4.4 Minutes of the previous APCM of 30 April 2023

These were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Joanna Womack, seconded by Anne Culver and carried unanimously.

4.5 Report on changes to the Electoral Roll

4.5.1 The number on the Electoral Roll currently stood at 235: 22 new people had joined since the previous year and 29 names had been removed, of whom 5 had died during the year.

4.5.2 Great thanks were expressed to Joanna Womack and Revd Ceri Payne for their work in moving the records to Church Suite over the course of the year.

4.6 Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and church activities

4.6.1 The overview of the work of the PCC over the past year was in the Annual Report, which had been circulated and which would be filed with the Charities Commission.

4.6.2 Significant events of the year had been the preparation for the recruitment of a new vicar. The January 2023 Away Day had worked on the detail of the Parish Profile and the recruitment process.

4.6.3 The PCC had met every two months, with their work supported by the work of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was noted that the PCC, as trustees, did an excellent job in compliance and stewardship which had been their main focus as the interim vicar role came to an end and the new period of a permanent vicar became embedded.

4.6.4 The PCC would be looking forward to strategic development in the year ahead, having established the foundation stones in the previous year.

4.6.5 The Vicar gave thanks to the PCC for their commitment over the past year.

4.7 Report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2023

- 4.7.1 The Vicar expressed thanks to the Treasurer for supplying management accounts, reports and financial accounts in good time with detailed explanations throughout the year.
- 4.7.2 It was confirmed that the accounts were now audited, due to having reached the threshold required.
- 4.7.3 There had been a surplus on the unrestricted account of £98,000 but some of this had been used to purchase the new property.
- 4.7.4 A new property had been purchased with the proceeds of the sale of the Hanover Court flat, and the mortgage which had been borrowed on the flat had been repaid.
- 4.7.5 £40,000 had been transferred into the Fabric Fund which now totalled £120,000 – this was being built up in preparation for the work on the north roof in the future.
- 4.7.6 Unrestricted donations were up and pledged giving had remained as it was. £26,000 in interest had been made over the year.
- 4.7.7 The balance sheet was healthy, although restricted funds had reduced a little due to some specific donations being spent.
- 4.7.8 The meeting was reminded that all would need to be aware that our costs were rising faster than our income; unrestricted costs had increased by 25% last year, to cover salaries and the ministry share in full; staff costs had risen due to inflation and a rise in the living wage.
- 4.7.9 It was confirmed that the ministry share cost would rise next year due to the Associate Vicar post being filled.
- 4.7.10 It was confirmed that the Trading Company accounts formed part of the full set of accounts, as well as being available on the Companies House website.
- 4.7.11 It was confirmed that the Sansom bequest was being kept back for any urgent special needs that might arise, and that regular fund-raising events had enabled significant donations to be made to causes during the year, such as Ukraine.
- 4.7.12 It was noted that the Children and Youth Minister post was financed by a private donation, for which we were all extremely grateful, but that the long-term aim would be to be able to fund it ourselves.
- 4.7.13 The Chair thanked the Operations Team for their hard work on the Front of Church, tower and shop, to generate the income that allowed us to do what we were able to do; and for their representation of our church to the outside world.
- 4.7.14 The Chair thanked Lorna Atwell for looking after the stewardship work, in the absence of a Stewardship Officer.
- 4.7.15 It was proposed by Joanna Womack and seconded by Stella Weeds that the financial statements should be formally received – this was carried unanimously.

4.8 Report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church ('The Churchwardens' Report') under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

- 4.8.1 Fiona Cornish, as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, reported that a lot of work took place behind the scenes to keep the infrastructure going and expressed her thanks to Richard Summers and the Operations Team for this.
- 4.8.2 The Fabric Fund had grown due to no significant expenditure taking place, although everyone was aware that repairs to the north aisle roof and the tower would be necessary in years to come.
- 4.8.3 The Quinquennial Report had just been received and was being considered by the church architect, Karen Lim.
- 4.8.4 It was confirmed that the inventory was almost complete and that this would include a record of any items that had been removed and where they had gone.
- 4.8.5 The Chair thanked the Churchwardens for their care for the fabric of the church.
- 4.8.6 It was proposed by Gordon Campbell and seconded by Shirley Holder that the report should be formally received – this was carried unanimously.

4.9 Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

- 4.9.1 Three North Cambridge Deanery Meetings had been held in 2023. The Great St Mary's elected representatives were Andrew Dobson, Aishwarya Jacob, Thomas Ware (to May 2023), Kirsten Watson (from May 2023).
- 4.9.2 The main topics of discussion at the meetings had been the Deanery Development Plan (looking at the opportunities arising with the growing Cambridge population) and the debate that had taken place at General Synod on *Living in Love and Faith*; the importance of speaking to issues of gender, sexuality and identity had been recognised, but it was noticeable that there was considerable differing opinion amongst members with some churches in the deanery feeling unable to 'walk together'.

4.10 Election of six parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council for three years

- 4.10.1 The Chair offered her great thanks to those members who were retiring, and for their work during a period of great change – Lorna Atwell, Gordon Campbell, Liz Orme, Catherine Smart and Joanna Womack.
- 4.10.2 It was noted that Talitha Montgomerie House had been seconded onto the PCC in May 2023 for one year, which had now been completed.
- 4.10.3 Six nominations had been received for PCC membership: Alex Courtney, Kate Denmead, Nick Denyer, Clio Edgington, Gillian Weale and Richard Widdess. They were all elected *en bloc* as there was no need for an election and all were supported without objections.

4.11 Appointment of Auditors

- 4.11.1 The Treasurer proposed continuing with Staffords who were very helpful and always did the work in time for our planned meetings, and whose fees were not excessive.
- 4.11.2 It was proposed by Matthew Vernon and seconded by Fiona Cornish that Staffords should be re-appointed as Auditors.

4.12 Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

- 4.12.1 It was agreed that there should be a suggested donation for coffee after the Eucharist of £1 per head, as that was still cheap but would cover the costs.
- 4.12.2 The question of re-introducing the Offertory was raised, but it was confirmed that this would be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- 4.12.3 There was concern expressed about no longer using the communion rail, which was known to be a divisive topic – the Chair reported that it would be potentially difficult to use it, for practical reasons within a large church building.
- 4.12.4 The Vicar expressed her delight in leading the church of Great St Mary's, seeing its great potential and the interactions with such a range of people, work and activities. She gave thanks for the work of all the teams who were represented in the Annual Review and for the joy that came from the wide range of things taking place.
- 4.12.5 The Vicar gave thanks for the personal support she had received and for people's support for recruiting additional clergy colleagues in the near future. She thanked all of her colleagues for what had been achieved over the past twelve months.
- 4.12.6 Margaret Johnston, Churchwarden, thanked Jutta on behalf of the whole congregation for her joy, activity and dynamism over the past year and for what would come in the year ahead.