

# ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETING

## Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 7.45p.m. at St Mary's Church

<b>Present:</b>	Malcolm Rogers	Chairman
	Jenny Troll	Church Warden
	Colin Firth	Treasurer
	Sue Adams	Secretary

Olivia Arthur, Margaret Ashton, Trevor Ashton, Carol Beeton, Nigel Beeton, Lance Bidwell, Hazel Bidwell, Carolyn Blackman, Derek Blackman, Joy Blake, Geoff Brown, Janet Brown, Edward Coningsby, Elizabeth Coningsby, Ray Cope, Mary Edwards, Ann Exell, Robin Goodchild, Trish Goodchild, Dorothy Haile, Jeremy Hill, Penny Hill, Daniel Holt, Matthew Lawson, Melanie Mills, Stephen Mills, Andy Morgan, Alison Rogers, Georgina Taylor, Sandy Tillet, Craig Young

### Apologies

Paul Dean, Virginia Dean, Hazel Morgan, Ro Perham, Robert Sainsbury, Jean Turner

The meeting commenced with a reading and prayer.

### 1 Minutes of the meeting on April 16th 2013

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman

### 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Ownership of the Great Churchyard – Agreement documents have still not been signed.
- 2.2 The impact on car parking for St Mary's due the Shire Hall development remains uncertain and a concern.

### 3 New Kitchen Development

Philip Orchard gave an update of the latest plans and progress. The plans were available for viewing at the start of the meeting.

- 3.1 Philip gave a presentation of the re-siting of the cenotaph and explained that there was still room to process around the cenotaph into the Chapel and elsewhere. He also gave details of how the memorials and colours would be re-sited. The stone floor would be re-laid and moveable pews would give flexibility to the area.
- 3.2 Philip then gave a presentation of the latest plans of the kitchen. After the cenotaph has been moved the floor and walls at the west end would be cleaned and made good. Plans had been drawn for a fully equipped kitchen with a ceiling above incorporating sloping glazed windows and lighting so that the windows and brasses could still be seen. Dark wood would be used and the style would be in keeping with the other wood in the church. The present kitchen would be made into two men's toilets. Various questions were asked including about the practicality of cleaning the ceiling glass and the efficiency of the extraction fans, which Philip answered to the satisfaction of the meeting.
- 3.3 The cost of the project was also asked and Philip said it would be in the region of £85K, including VAT, and assuming the Listed Places of Worship scheme continues after March 2015 when it is currently scheduled to end. Some of the costs of moving the cenotaph were originally included in the kitchen estimate, thus appearing to reduce the cost.
- 3.4 The question was raised as to whether the kitchen could be deemed to be 'fabric' and, if so, funded from the Fabric fund. Colin explained that the Porter and Rae bequests were for maintenance and restoration only whereas the kitchen may be deemed to be a change to the building.

- 3.5 Malcolm thanked Philip for the presentation and his work on the project. The Finance and Fabric committees need to look at the detail and the PCC then needs to approve after which a faculty could be applied for.

The proposal to the meeting was that the AGM supports the application for a faculty for the installation of the kitchen and associated toilets. If the faculty is successful there would be an appeal launched to raise the funds.

In favour 25 Against 0 Abstentions 1

## **Annual Reports**

### **4 Vicar's Report**

- 4.1 Malcolm's full report is in the April View, filed with the minutes.
- 4.2 The 4 points of the St Mary's Vision statement were considered:  
Overall numbers are encouraging and the 9.30am and 11am congregations are increasing.  
The aim to 'be a church of small groups' was being achieved by the many successful house groups.  
Friday evening youth groups and Refresh are successful and thanks were expressed to Dan and Matt.  
Growing outwards means that occasional visitors must be made welcome. This is done well by the team of stewards and by wardens etc. at civic and special services.
- 4.3 Craig Young has taken on the role of team leader for the 11am service.
- 4.4 The Lady Chapel needs to be kept tidy and in order.
- 4.5 Robin has offered to organise concerts and events on an ad hoc basis, as and when he is able. Malcolm thanked him for his work last year as EVC.
- 4.6 A caretaker, Daniel Holt, had recently been appointed to ease the burden on the churchwarden.
- 4.7 There had been a nomination for a deputy warden to support the churchwarden.
- 4.8 Tom Fifield wishes to go forward for Reader ministry. The meeting were in agreement to support this.
- 4.9 Malcolm wishes to introduce a one way system in and out of church. It was agreed to trial for 6 months starting after the cenotaph has been moved.
- 4.10 It was suggested that bibles should be put in the pews rather than be given out with the service sheets. There was some discussion re the practicalities but the idea was agreed by the meeting.
- 4.11 Malcolm expressed his thanks to Matt for his ministry and support during his time as curate.
- 4.12 Malcolm said he was very grateful to all the staff, especially to Jenny and the duty wardens for all the work they do. Thanks also to the stewards and the cleaners and all who contribute to church life.

### **5 Finance Report**

- 5.1 Colin Firth presented the Annual Accounts as far as they related to St Mary's and a copy of the papers provided is filed with the minutes. His narrative report will be published in the April issue of The View, a copy of which will also be filed with the minutes.
- 5.2 Robin Jackson from Churchgate Accountants has a copy of the accounts and will undertake an independent examination.
- 5.3 There had been a deficit of £28627 of the General Fund for the year, an increase of £20374 over 2012. The major factors were a decrease in giving of £7424 and an increase in expenditure of £12950. In 2013 the Parish Share had increased by £11524 but this was a transitional year and the contribution will not be as great in the future.

- 5.4 The pew heaters had been the major Fabric Fund expenditure, costing £17045.
- 5.5 The overall increase in funds was £19229. Without the £51003 rise in the value of investments, the decrease in assets would have been £31774.
- 5.6 Colin ran through the details of the report supplied for the meeting and invited questions.
- 5.7 People were encouraged to consider the level of their giving and to Gift Aid it if possible.
- 5.8 Sincere thanks were expressed to Colin Firth and his team of helpers.

## 6 Fabric Report

- 6.1 Robert had provided a written report for the meeting, a copy of which is filed with the minutes and in Robert's absence, Malcolm outlined the main points.
- 6.2 The kitchen project, if it proceeds, will significantly add flexibility to St Mary's as a facility in the centre of Bury St Edmunds and it is hoped the congregation and others will support this improvement when fundraising commences.
- 6.3 The first phase of the pew heating had been installed and was agreed to be a success.
- 6.4 St Mary's Committee have authorised the extension to row 27 and the cost, including the necessary electrical upgrade, will be in the region of £14400 plus VAT.
- 6.5 The cenotaph and associated memorial and colours will hopefully be moved in time for the WW1 memorial service on August 23rd although the timetable is tight. Malcolm hopes that the bishop will be able to re-dedicate it during the service on the 23rd. The Regimental Committee fully support the move and may contribute towards the cost, which is likely to be in the region of £30000.
- 6.6 Daniel Holt has been appointed Caretaker with effect from March 17th.
- 6.7 Malcolm added that a fire retardant curtain had blown onto a heater and smouldered. Guards had now been put on heaters to prevent it happening again.
- 6.8 Malcolm thanked Ivan Sharp and Mary Edwards for making the gardens look so nice and, as a token of thanks, £100 had been given to them to purchase further plants.

## 7 Nominations

Churchwarden	Jenny Troll	Proposer Secunder	Nigel Beeton Trish Goodchild
Deputy Warden	Ray Cope	Proposer Secunder	Jenny Troll Nigel Beeton
PCC (until 2017) (1 vacancy)	Trevor Ashton Nigel Beeton	Proposer Secunder Proposer Secunder	Margaret Savege Edward Coningsby Jenny Shuttleworth Peter Shuttleworth
St Mary's Comm'tee (until 2017)	Joanna Smye Robin Goodchild	Proposer Secunder Proposer Secunder	Edward Coningsby Alison Rogers Gordon Sefton Alison Rogers
Deanery Synod (until 2017) (1 vacancy)	Olivia Arthur	Proposer Secunder	Mary Young Sue Adams

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.40pm.