

# ST MARY'S ANNUAL MEETING

## Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2015 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, Jenny Aston, Mark Aston, Colin Ball, Jan Ball, Nigel Beeton, Hazel Bidewell, Joy Blake, Liz Bollworthy, Geoff Brown, Janet Brown, Andrew Buttress, Dawn Buttress, Edward Coningsby, Elizabeth Coningsby, Ray Cope, Paul Dean, Mary Edwards, Vivien Gainsborough-Foot, Robin Goodchild, Trish Goodchild, Dorothy Haile, Chris Hood, Ann Howard, Stewart Howard, Doreen Ladbrook, John Ladbrook, Adrian Marple, Cheryl Ogden, John Pearce, Clive Paine, Rosie Perham, Alison Rogers, Robert Sainsbury, Margaret Savege, Tim Savege, Peter Smye, Jean Turner, Graham Woolhouse, Craig Young

### Apologies

Margaret Ashton, Trevor Ashton, Carol Beeton, Lance Bidewell, Ann Cutter, Ann Exell, Jeremy Hill, Penny Hill, Christine Paine, Sue Woolhouse

The meeting commenced with a reading and prayer.

### 1 Minutes of the meeting on March 18th 2014

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Ownership of the Great Churchyard – Robert Sainsbury reported that this matter is still in progress.
- 2.2 Car parking for St Mary's due the Shire Hall development – The Shire Hall car park will be closing at the end of June and the one at Records Office car has already closed. Parking SM end of town is needed.

### Annual Reports

### 3 Vicar's Report

- 3.1 Malcolm's full report is in the April View, and a copy filed with the minutes.
- 3.2 Malcolm reflected on the ten years since his appointment, the changes that had occurred and the things that had remained the same. The wide range of activities and outreach was presented on a handout.
- 3.3 The 9.30 service has grown significantly, without affecting numbers at the other services. The Big Subject at the 6.30pm service was very successful and thanks were expressed to Dorothy Haile for her input. The 11am remained the traditional morning service with the choir and the 8am also remained the same.
- 3.4 Peter Tryon is to retire as Director of Music as from May. During the past 32 years his dedication to the choir has been outstanding and he has been a faithful and reliable part of the team. His final service will be Choral Evensong on May 3rd. Adrian Marple will be taking over as the new Director of Music.
- 3.5 John Pearce, who is coming off the rota at the end of May, was thanked for his ministry. The parish Pentecost Service on May 24<sup>th</sup> will be his last sermon apart from 'emergencies'.
- 3.6 In July, Laurence Smith will be joining the staff team as curate, based mainly at St Mary's and working with the young people and choir families. From September, Nick Alexander will be joining the staff as the second minister, based at St Peter's.
- 3.7 The caretaker, Daniel Holt, who was appointed a year ago, has made a real difference to the day to day running of the church.
- 3.8 Robin was thanked for the displays, concerts and events he had organised.

- 3.9 Andrew Buttress wishes to go forward for Reader ministry. The meeting were in support and the PCC will need to give its agreement.
- 3.10 Jenny Troll is standing down as Warden after 3 years of service and Malcolm expressed his thanks to her for all the work she had done in that time. Ray Cope is standing down as Deputy Warden and he was thanked for his work during the past year.
- 3.11 Malcolm thanked all those who contribute to the life of the church in so many ways.

#### 4 Finance Report

- 4.1 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 is published in the April issue of The View, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.
- 4.2 Robin Jackson from Churchgate Accountants has agreed to undertake an independent examination, at only moderate cost.
- 4.3 There had been a surplus of £8659 on the General Fund for the year, by comparison with the deficit of £28627 in 2013, hence a significant improvement in finances of £37286. The major income factor was an increase in giving and tax recoveries of £14201. A decrease in Parish Share of £11000 and reduced staff costs of £15380 were the major factors in the reduction of expenditure.
- 4.4 Bequests and donations in memorium amounted to £153639. The largest of these was a bequest of £139524 for Fabric, plus three bequests totalling £14000 for General Fund.
- 4.5 The overall increase in funds was about £137900. Without the £19100 rise in the value of our share portfolio and the bequests of approximately £153500, the decrease in assets would have been £34700. This can be attributed to Fabric Fund expenditure which included heating £19450, moving the cenotaph, £48850.
- 4.6 Colin ran through the details of the report supplied for the meeting and invited questions. He was asked to consider whether a better rate of return could be obtained on bank balances.
- 4.7 People were encouraged to consider the level of their giving. The second minister will mean an additional £50K pa will be due to the Diocese to fund the post and previous pledges will need to be fulfilled. Gift Aid is encouraged, if possible.
- 4.8 Sincere thanks were expressed to Colin Firth and his team of helpers.

#### 5 Fabric Report

- 5.1 Robert gave a report of the work done by the Fabric committee during the year including the re-ordering of the front of the church, the moving of the cenotaph, pew heating, south aisle pews and risk assessments of the fire alarms.
- 5.2 The DAC have given their agreement in principle for the kitchen project to go ahead. Heritage bodies have been informed and may have objections. The public notice was posted outside the church for a month before Easter and no objections were received.
- 5.3 Questions relating to the kitchen were answered. The costs do include the toilets and it is hoped that the £100K is in excess of the amount required. Clive Paine said that a grant may be available from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.
- 5.4 Robert thanked the members of the Fabric committee for all their hard work and support during the year.
- 5.5 Malcolm thanked Ivan Sharp and Mary Edwards for making the gardens look so good.

The following proposal was put to the meeting:

*This annual meeting authorises the Fabric committee to spend up to £100K of Fabric funds for the necessary capital works on the new kitchen, subject to a faculty being granted. The required funds for equipping the kitchen will be raised by an appeal to the congregation. Any excess of appeal proceeds over the costs of equipping the kitchen will be used to meet part of the cost of building the kitchen. Carried unanimously.*

## 6 **Presentation by Chris Hood**

Chris has been our Ridley student for the past two years and he gave a presentation on his perception of St Mary's, the things he has been involved with and what he has learnt from his experiences.

As a second minister has been appointed, Malcolm will then be able to focus on Sunday worship at St Mary's and he wanted the meeting to discuss various topics about the future of St. Mary's:

The meeting broke into small discussion groups with these topics to consider:

Why do we come to church, what are we here for?

How can we best build bridges between congregations to become one church?

What do we consider to be our community and how can we reach out to those who are not churchgoers?

The various groups' answers and ideas were noted for further consideration:

Is church attractational or missional? Do we need to be more prepared to go out?

Are we the yacht club or the life boat society?

Use of kitchen for provision of drop in

What is it that congregations can unite around?: coffee time, small groups, men's breakfast?

Should we do a social audit?

We need encouragement: possibly via small groups

Work with strengths: welcome of people

Come for support.

## 7 **Nominations**

|  |                              |  |   |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| Churchwarden                                 | Susan Metcalfe               | Proposer<br>Second                       | Robin Goodchild<br>Jean Turner                                    |
| Deputy Warden                                | Graham Woolhouse             | Proposer<br>Second                       | Elizabeth Coningsby<br>Clive Paine                                |
| PCC<br>(until 2018)<br>(1 vacancy)           | No nominations               |  |   |
| St Mary's Comm'tee<br>(until 2018)           | Edward Coningsby<br>Ray Cope | Proposer<br>Second<br>Proposer<br>Second | Nigel Beeton<br>Dorothy Haile<br>Robin Goodchild<br>Alison Rogers |
| Deanery Synod<br>(until 2018)<br>(1 vacancy) | No nominations               |  |   |

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.50pm.