

ST PETER'S CHURCH, TIVERTON

Annual Vestry Meeting Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 15 April 2021 at 7pm
by zoom and telephone

The Revd Robert Gordon was in the chair, and 28 members of St Peter's Church attended.

Apologies were received from Jennifer Palmer, Shelia Richardson and John Speaight.

Annual Vestry Meeting

The meeting opened with prayer.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2020 were approved and signed.

2 Election of Churchwardens

Gill Heard and William Zarrett were elected to serve as churchwardens for the coming year with effect from the date of the forthcoming Archdeacon's visitation.

The Rector expressed his deep gratitude to them both for their outstanding leadership, wisdom and support throughout a very challenging year. Members of the whole Standing Committee had met almost every week during the year, and he had greatly appreciated the opportunity to plan and reflect with them on the wellbeing of St Peter's.

Signed:

Date:

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 27 September 2020 were approved and signed.

2 Electoral Roll report

Catherine Makepeace (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that the Electoral Roll had been reviewed in March, and there were 111 electors, 27 of whom live within the Parish and 84 outside.

3 Safeguarding report

Catherine Makepeace (Safeguarding Officer) reported that, as mentioned at the last APCM, during the early part of 2020, we aimed to ensure that the necessary documents and procedures were agreed for the 'safer recruitment' of people in specific roles within the parish involving contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults. This is required by the Church of England. With the recent resumption of services, and as restrictions on church activities are eased further, efforts will once again be focused on this subject.

The renewal of all eligible individuals' safeguarding training and DBS certificates has carried on as normally.

4 Finance

William Zarrett, speaking on behalf of Chris Shields, presented the Treasurer's report on the finances for the year 2020. The annual report, including the financial statement, had previously been circulated to all members of St Peter's.

The financial statement was received by the meeting, having already been adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 18 March 2021. In response to a specific question it was confirmed that St Peter's had paid in full its contribution to the Common Fund of the Diocese.

5 Fabric

The church wardens reported on the fabric of the church as follows:

'It goes without saying that this year has been unusual for us all and for our beloved St. Peter's church building. Most of the fabric issues have focussed on routine maintenance when we were allowed to do it ourselves or to schedule the annual servicing of the heating system, clock, fire extinguishers, alarm systems, etc. We are pleased to report that all of that has been undertaken.

'We have had to deal with several instances of vandalism during the year, the most significant of which required a bolstering of security around the boiler room to prevent teenagers from entering. While that project has been completed, we find that further damage has occurred and thus the new security fencing will be reinforced.

'The heating system is showing its age (38 years or so) and now appears to require a new control system. A quote has been requested for this work. While consideration was given to replacing the whole system as part of the Reordering, the cost was prohibitive and given the nature of our system, it is more economically efficient to replace individual components.

'The intrusion of water in the east end of the south aisle is a problem. A request for a quote to make the necessary external pointing repairs to that wall and to the external chancel walls should soon be received.

'While the fabric of the church requires frequent repairs and maintenance, we all have a new appreciation of the building due to the limited time which we have been

able to enjoy worshipping in it and seeing our friends over the last year. Hope springs eternal!

6 Elections

6.1 *Deanery Synod*: Joanna Hall-Tomkin was elected to fill the vacant place allocated for a St Peter's representative on the Deanery Synod for the period 2021-23.

6.2 *PCC*: David Catchpole, Emma Down, Jean Jenner, Averil Long and Sally Mundy were elected to membership of the PCC for the period 2021-24.

7 Appointment of sidespersons

The sidespersons appointed for 2021/22, their appointment to be confirmed at the forthcoming Archdeacon's Visitation, are Leslie Boyce, Penny Drysdale, Kate Henshall, Rod Hilton, Alan Hopkins, Jean Jenner, Averil Long, Sally Mundy, Jennifer Palmer, Steve Pillinger, Shelia Richardson, Mary Seaton, Sally Taverner, Rose Tidball, Tina Ware, Roy Webber, Diane and Keith White, Carole and Mike Youngs, and Mary and William Zarrett.

Brenda and Keith Stocker, Peter and Vicki Stuckey had indicated their wish to retire from sidespersons' duties, and the meeting expressed sincere gratitude to them for their much valued service in this role.

8 Appointment of independent examiner

William Zarrett proposed, and it was agreed *nem con*, that Aspen-Waite, within which firm our auditors Apsleys had become a part, be asked to act as independent examiner for the period to the APCM in 2022. This was unanimously agreed.

9 The Rector's reflections

Reviewing the year that has past, and with a keen awareness of his impending departure, the Rector gave the following message to the members of St Peter's:

'We all know that this year has been a year like no other, but St Peter's is still standing and its people are in good heart. We are facing forwards, with our long-awaited re-ordering project wanting only the Chancellor's signature to allow us to sign the contract and get the work done. We have come well through the pandemic and we are well placed to look to the future with confidence.

'I know that I will leave you with first rate, experienced wardens in Bill and Gill whom you have re-elected this evening, and they will be ably assisted by a standing committee and PCC with all the gifts and abilities St Peter's will need in this next phase of its life.

'God does not stand still, and neither will we. All life is change - indeed, change is one of the marks of life. We have seen much change in this past remarkable year, and we will see more in the year to come. Do not fear it! Embrace it, and make it your friend. God is on the move, and if we are not to be left behind we must move with him. Onwards, St Peter's! We are family together, and it's a good time to be alive.'

Gill Heard voiced the thanks of all St Peter's members for the achievement of Robert and Steph in maintaining worship by zoom/telephone during those times when it was not possible for us to meet together in person.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.31 pm.

Signed:

Date: