

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, IPSWICH – ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Church Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Church.

**Present**: Margaret Woodward, George Woodward (Chair), Phil Hall, Ron Llewellyn, Carol Klug, Helen Prior-Townsend, Stuart Quinton, Melanie Quinton, Belinda Gledhill, Richard Howse, Liz Howse, Geoff Spiller, Mary Ridd, John Grierson, Jean Greirson, Gill Jackson, Richard Jackson, Nick Jacob, Frederike Jacob, Shirley Girt, John Girt, Mary Johnston, Heather Jasper, Bernard Jasper, Sarah Milner, Andy Turpin, Norman Conder, Maggie Conder, Angie Cable, Philip Murphy, Tim Lockington, Inge Lockington, Peta Lowin, Anna Brennan, Edward Phillips, Connie Welham-Phillips, Mark Phillips, John Rendle, Charles Croydon

Apologies for absence – Anne Whitear, Peter Youngs, June Youngs, Margaret Llewellyn, Andrew Peck

The meeting began with a prayer, then it was agreed by those present that in the absence of a vicar, George Woodward would chair the meeting.

George welcomed all present.

**Minutes**

1. Minutes of the 2222 annual meeting – Angie Cable’s apologies had not been minuted, but otherwise everyone agreed that it was a true record.
2. Election of the church wardens:

Only one nomination for church warden – Margaret Woodward, who was duly elected. This is the only time that we’ve only had one church warden.

George appealed for another nomination given that the post will be less onerous due to the fact that we have come to the end of the interregnum.

4. Electoral roll report – Andy Turpin.

Roll was 135, now 145, 82 in parish, 63 out of parish. The Electoral Roll has been displayed for the required period at the back of church. Appeal for another person to take on responsibility for this from Andy.

5.Election of:

PCC – three nominations for the PCC had been received and these were duly appointed. Peta Lowin, Anna Sawyer Wright and John Grierson deemed to be elected.

Deanery Synod reps – three nominations received, three vacancies (due to electoral roll size). Gill Jackson, George Woodward, Andy Turpin – deemed elected.

6. PCC annual report and accounts – Phil Hall

Thanks goes to Heather Jasper and Andy Turpin. Also to John Rendell (independent financial examiner) who stepped forward last year. John Grierson has said that he will be treasurer going forwards.

Treasurer’s report:

An overview was given in a presentation. Net outgoing appears large due to planned expenditure, but in fact our position is good.

We have paid our parish share in full and because of our healthy finances we have declined the deprivation allowance. Over the year, giving reduced by 0.8% - £820. Giving has declined, but good news is that it isn’t by too much, given the difficult economic situation. Thank you to all who give, but it is a worry that our costs are going up and that the giving trend is down overall.

Key items; Church Centre rent has increased significantly – exceeding pre-covid levels.

Cost of utilities has increased too, of course, for both the church and the church centre.

Overall, things are not looking too bad.

Questions?

* Investment? Not been addressed recently but may be by incoming treasurer.
* Social club – what are we going to do with it? Provision has been made to deal with this in the future.
* Ron, on behalf of us all, expressed thanks to Phil for his oversight and hard work doing the accounts.
* Was there a likelihood of new expenditure due to new vicar? Yes - Mission and youth work potentially.

Those assembled reiterated their thanks to Phil for his work.

Acceptance of accounts as shown – duly accepted

7. Election of an independent examiner:

This person cannot be a member of the PCC or related to a member. They have should be deemed appropriate by the church members. John Rendell is a retired accountant.

Decision to accept him as the independent examiner

8. Church Warden’s report:

Margaret outlined the challenges and the joys of what has been an extraordinary year and said that she had learned a lot. She described the process of finding clergy to cover all of the services during the vacancy and thanked those who had volunteered and helped St Margaret’s to continue uninterrupted during this time.

Above all, she expressed huge thanks to Phil.

9. Safeguarding

Helen stated at the outset that she had decided to continue in the role of Chief Safeguarding Officer in order to support our new Priest in Charge.

Helen explained the importance of safeguarding and its purpose in the church, then outlined the Church of England safeguarding principles.

This year we have done training, DBS checks, Safeguarding Sunday, Notice board, Forms, and dealt with some concerns.

Helen outlined the plan going forward, which includes ensuring that all the right people have DBS checks done and that training needs are met.

Thanks were expressed to Helen and Sarah Milner, her deputy.

10. Deanery Synod Report

Margaret stated that this would be circulated electronically and that there were also copies of the written report available at the back of church.

11. Message from Sarah, our new priest in charge.

12. Open discussion:

Helen wanted to thank Maggie, Carol, Anna and Victoria for all of their help with Rise and Shine this year.

Comment on the accounts; no expenditure on the night shelter or with the befriending; this is disappointing.

Re befriending: Gill Jackson explained that original model for befriending is not now ok re safeguarding, so she would like the funds to be re-purposed.

Night shelter – we need to pass the money on. Acknowledgment that we should be doing more but that the wardens ran out of capacity to initiate projects during the vacancy.

Question about slow speed of communion, and request that stewards to hasten communion; Margaret explained that this has happened due to injury.

Maggie added that warm space was not provided by the church but the mother’s union has been offering their own assistance and emphasised that we do care and want to take care of everyone who is needy in the parish.

George thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed with a prayer.