

The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Baldock

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Sunday 18th October 2020

AGENDA

Meeting Of Parishioners

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Meeting of Parishioners, held on Sunday 28th April 2019.
2. To elect two churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on Sunday 28th April 2019.
2. To receive a copy of the revised Church Electoral Roll.
3. To elect three representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod.
4. To elect four representatives to the Parochial Church Council to serve for three years.
5. To consider the annual reports:
 - (a) The proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
 - (b) The financial affairs of the parish, and adopt the accounts/
 - (c) The fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.
 - (d) Safeguarding
6. To approve the Parish M.A.P.
7. To appoint:
 - (a) Sidespersons
 - (b) Independent Examiners of the Accounts
8. To receive the Rector's Report
9. To consider any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

Minutes of the Annual Meetings of
St. Mary's Church, Baldock
held in the church on Sunday 28th April 2019

Present: Rev'd Canon Andrew Holford – in the chair Mr P Charsley – Churchwarden
Miss E Wilkinson – Churchwarden
Mr A Clark – P.C.C. Secretary
Mr C Page – P.C.C. Treasurer

17 parishioners in total

Reverend Canon Andrew Holford opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Meeting Of Parishioners

Action

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on Sunday 15th April 2018**

Mrs J Woolnough proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th April 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Mrs A Balmer, and carried.

2. **The Election of two Churchwardens**

Two nominations had been received for churchwarden: Mr Phil Charsley and Miss Emma Wilkinson.

There being no other nominations, Reverend Canon A Holford declared that Mr Charsley and Miss Wilkinson had been duly elected to serve as churchwardens for St. Mary's throughout the coming year.

The Meeting Of Parishioners

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on Sunday 15th April 2018**

Mr R Benny proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15th April 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Mr C Page, and carried.

2. **The Receiving of the New Electoral Roll**

Mr A Clark (Electoral Roll Officer) reported that, following the recompilation of the electoral roll, the total number of St. Mary's members stood at 107.

3. **Election of Members to the Parochial Church Council**

There were four places vacant for three years, and two for two years.

The following were elected for three years: Mrs Chris Caine, Mrs Sharon Cooper, Mr Matthew McNeil and Mr Steven Thompson. Mrs Joan Brasier was elected for two years.

The meeting suggested that Mr Danny Adams be co-opted until he became eligible to be elected.

4. **Consideration of the Annual Reports**

(a) **The Parochial Church Council**

Mr Clark spoke about the proceedings of the P.C.C. during the previous year.

This report was accepted by the meeting, and thanks were expressed to Mr Clark.

(b) **The Financial Affairs of the Parish**

Copies of the annual report had been circulated before the meeting, and Mr Chris Page spoke about the accounts. The church had had a slight deficit the previous year, but there was a 'cushion' in the general fund. Stewardship was also down, but planned giving had seen new people join. Income from weddings and funerals was also up, but general donations were down, particularly as the Fifteen Houses Charity had not been able to contribute as much as before. Fundraising had decreased, especially that from the Christmas Fair – due to letting people in free, and the church hall had made a slight profit. There was a lot of money in the fabric fund, although this was restricted.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Page.

(c) **The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

Mr Charsley said that an application to H.L.F. in 2017 for the work on the roof had been declined, but they intended to apply again (now that new methods of selection were in place) this year. The damp in the church walls was still a concern, but having the thermostat set at 11 degrees permanently was helping. A survey of the church drains would be done. (The council had already flushed them out and done some repairs.) New L.E.D. lights had been installed in the church shop, but some of those previously put in the hall had failed and needed to be replaced, so ones with a longer warranty would be used. Some gravestones had been repaired, as well as the corbels around the north porch door. The hall lift was now inspected regularly.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Charsley.

(d) **Safeguarding**

Miss Wilkinson said that all the church policies were up to date. Guidance changed frequently, but this was adhered to. All D.B.S. checks had also been done – a large number had been needed for those helping with the community sponsorship project.

5. **The Election of Sidespersons and Independent Examiners of the Accounts**

(a) Sidespersons

It was agreed that the churchwardens be allowed to choose appropriate sidespersons.

(b) Independent Examiners of the Accounts

It was agreed that Mrs J McDonald be appointed as Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

6. **Team Rector's Report**

Reverend Canon Andrew Holford said that the Good Friday event at Tesco had been a success: 340 leaflets had been given out and about 30 children, and the same number of adults, had taken part in the craft activities. He spoke about the current M.A.P., saying that it was hoped that the Syrian family would be more-or-less independent in two years' time. They had already been to Messy Church and the Tiny Tots Service.

The restoration of the nave and chancel roof would hopefully be made possible by a grant from H.L.F., and, after that, the P.C.C. was looking to decorate the church, possibly change the seating arrangements and improve the sound system. A survey was being done to see what people's views were on this.

It was intended to further develop worship for all ages on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month (Messy Church and All Age Communion). Messy Church now usually had about 50 people attending, and All Age Communion had seen 4 new families in the last year. He felt the church was growing, and was pleased, but didn't feel this growth was entirely secure yet.

The Praise Be Band was singing and playing again, and a new Youth Communion service was to start, once a month. The church had a new website, and there were four ecumenical events planned for the coming year.

Thanks were expressed to Reverend Canon Holford.

7. **The Parish M.A.P.**

Details of the Parish M.A.P. (Mission Action Planning) had been distributed to all those present. The meeting approved the Parish M.A.P..

8. **Any Other Matters of Parochial or General Church Interest**

It was said that more volunteers were needed for many of the church activities.

All business being complete, the meeting closed with the Grace at 11:48am.