

## PARISH OF OLD FELIXSTOWE

### St Peter & St Paul with St Andrews & St Nicholas

#### Old Felixstowe Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th May 2021 in the St Andrews Church at 7:10pm

1. Chairman's welcome - this was done at start of the Annual Vestry meeting, (See minutes) Rev. Chris Thanked all who had prepared reports.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Anne & Trevor Ravenscroft, David & Margaret Jennings, Neville & Doris Jarvis, Bernard Seeley, Bridget Ricketts and Ed Copestake.

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 13th October 2020.- Rachel Rogers proposed the minutes were a true and accurate record and this was seconded by Jean Macpherson and passed by the meeting with some abstentions.

4. The annual report of the PCC 2020

Rather than read through the reports Rev. Chris pointed out they were a valuable tool which could be referred to when looking at what we did last year, he then ran through each in turn and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the information shown recorded on the printed reports which had been available to be read, there were no questions from the congregation.

Rev Chris also thanked the organisers of all the other groups.

All details of these Church activities can be found in the Annual Reports 2020.

5. Report on the new Electoral Roll - Neil Shipley: - 4 members of the church family had sadly passed away but 2 people had applied to go onto the roll making the total 141 - 2 down on last year.

6. Fabric reports for last year

See reports in APCM Reports for 2020 booklet.

Rev Chris: - Firstly thanked Mike Dean for the way he had quietly and efficiently maintained the Churches and St Andrews Hall during the year.

St Andrew's church because of its size had been particularly useful during the pandemic with up-to 60 people able to attend socially distanced. The Pre-school usage of St Andrew's Hall had been discussed at PCC level and a contract had been agreed whereby the Playgroup for a small monthly fee would also cover the cost of the consumables and utilities, the Parish would still cover the cost of the up-keep of the building. This would benefit them as they would be able to apply for various grants (and had already successfully done so and had a new vinyl floor installed), this would also

benefit the Parish, the hall had been running at a loss for some time and now the costs would be more predictable and hopefully not run at a loss going forward.

Vivian Peters: - So the Parish would not have use of the Hall?

Rev. Chris: - Confirmed this is what had been agreed in the contract.

Rev Chris: - St Peters and St. Pauls was as per the APCM reports booklet 2020.

Rev. Chris re-iterated his big thanks to all who had worked behind the scenes up-keeping the buildings, grounds and garden of remembrance.

## 7. Financial Report

Rev. Chris thanked Alan Peats for stepping in at very short notice and along with Judy Jones with the help of Mark Davies from Trimley Churches for the work they had all done.

The accounts were now being kept online using an online accounting programme,

Alan wanted our thanks to the Auditors to be recorded, because we had received a large legacy and had to have the accounts processed accordingly, without their prior knowledge of our accounts we would have really struggled.

A big thank-you to Peggy Seeley who had been completing the necessary paperwork and depositing the collection donations into the bank.

A thank-you to all the members of the finance team.

Due to the awful year and the sudden loss of our long-term treasurer getting to this point had been a real struggle and the budget although available on-line was not put before the meeting. Rev Chris. apologised for this not being available.

Thank-you to all the congregation who had given generously, many by standing order which had seen us through this trying time.

Rev. Chris pre-posed we use the same auditor Ensors who had been so helpful this year and this was agreed unanimously.

The meeting confirmed that the accounts had been received and were advised all details were available on the Charities Web-site.

## 8. Election of PCC & Deanery Synod members.

Rev. Chris: - No applications to join the PCC had been received, there were 3 vacancies for PCC members available if anyone wished to be part of this important part of God's mission.

It was proposed by Edith Banks and seconded by Judy Jones that Jean Macpherson should be elected as our representative for the Deanery Synod and this was passed unanimously.

## 9. Election of Sidespeople (Welcome Teams)

A change in legislation meant this task would be undertaken by the PCC.

## 10. Any other matter of Parochial or General Church Interest.

Margaret Macfadyen asked, If we had no use of St. Andrews hall where would the Sunday school meet if required? Rev Chris advised we would address this if and when required pointing out we still had available facilities at St. Peter and St. Paul with the Community centre, the link and the room above the Church. There were no other questions from the congregation.

Rev Chris: -

Firstly, a big thank-you to all who had attended this evening, APCMs are a chance to look back – to report on the previous year – to look at the mission and activity of the parish throughout the previous 12 months. And what 12 months it has been – a year unlike any of us remember, the challenges have been unprecedented and at times unrelenting – we have had to respond and pivot – one of the words of the year – as the situation and circumstances changed rapidly. It has been a year of loss and we are all grieving for people and situations we have missed. We have learnt how to live stream, zoom and broadcast on the radio. In the parish report you can read about how we have responded to the challenge.

It is a year none of us would want to repeat. I hope and pray we are moving towards better times.

The APCM is also an opportunity to look forward – to attempt to encourage us to move forward into what God is calling us to.

Over the course of the year there has been a lot of change and perhaps each of us at times admit that we long for things to go back to where they were before. But the world has changed and I don't think it would be right or possible for us to try to return to exactly as we were before. Research into crises has shown that after things settle down 80% of things stay the same whereas 20% change. Part of the role of those in leadership is to discern what the 80% and 20% are.

When I arrived in the parish just over 3 years ago one of the things that attracted me to the profile was a desire to reach out to new people. To see the church, reach out and allow people to know the outrageous grace and love of God. In order to do this Bishop Martin made clear there would have to be change. Now I know that change is challenging and change for change's sake is neither helpful or beneficial. But if we are to want to be more effective in declaring God's love there are things we need to change.

We have worked hard to engage with our community – partnering with Basic life for the Pop-Up Shop – started after school “come and” – built relationships with schools delivering assemblies and lessons -developed a website and increased our engagement on social media.

Over the last year we have developed our vision statement as a Parish that will help us to discern what the next steps should be.

In Old Felixstowe Parish we seek to: live, show and tell the love of God, becoming like Christ and drawing others to Him.

In order to help us fulfil that calling there are some alterations planned to how we organise worship to help us reach more people. This means that there may well be compromises in what we have always had – but as the PCC have prayerfully discerned how we feel God is leading us we have been aware that our core purpose is to show God's love to all.

This is why as we journey forward we will be planning to hold three services on a Sunday morning that will appeal to a range of people. It is not the desire or purpose that all people will find every service helpful in encouraging them to become more Christ-like. I understand there are different styles of liturgy and music that appeal to different people. The 0800 BCP traditional communion service allows a space and time for people to connect with God using familiar language and liturgy. The 0930 informal service may be more appropriate to invite a family to and be similar to the online services of the last year (we aim to continue to livestream this service), whereas the 11 o'clock more formal service could well appeal to someone who likes a more liturgical style of worship. Our intention to hold the same style service, at the same time, in the same location each week will make it easier to invite people – helping us to draw others to Christ.

The PCC have prayerfully considered and made these plans, at all times, keeping our mission at the forefront. The new pattern will be reviewed once it has been in place for six months when we will again ask the question whether we are fulfilling our core purpose to live, show and tell God's love.

Part of this process has involved the PCC working with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and applying for a faculty to develop the audio and visual facilities at St Peter and St Paul to enable us to reach to our community with the love of God.

We should be excited about where God is leading us – I pray that we will continue to keep seeking what God is calling us to do at this time – that we would be open to His voice as we seek to live out our calling, as His people, at this time!

Terry Smith stepped forward to thank Rev. Chris on behalf of the Parish for all his hard work especially during the extremely difficult last year and congratulate him and all the progress that had been made since his arrival. this was followed by a round of applause.

11. Date of next PCC meeting: Tuesday 8th June 2021.

12. Closing prayer - Rev Chris Hood.

The meeting was concluded at 19:50hrs

