

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of All Saints, Hertford
Held in St John's Hall on Sunday 10th April 2016**

Present: As for Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

As for the Vestry Meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. The Vicar's Report

Jo gave special thanks to Ginni Dear, Janet Bird, Geoff Oates and Gerry Booker, the Ministry Team, for their excellent preaching and taking services throughout the year.

She thanked Janet Oldham and Helen Harvey-Wright for their hard work and dedication as wardens during the year. Also thanks to Martin Penny for his work as parish administrator and director of music; to Kay Povey-Richards for her help with paperwork and administration; to Colin Bird for his outstanding work as treasurer; to Kath Oates for leading Messy Church and the newly formed Youth Group; to Martin Bird for his reflections and intercessions, and his work with young people.

To Derek Westwood for the amazing number of years he has successfully led the work party, and to Brian Dilley and Dave Dean, who have taken over, for all their help in keeping the church in good repair. To Marion Hassell for her work as deputy churchwarden.

To the Choir for their amazing standard of music; to Michael Stephens-Jones for his organ playing and to David Ford for his work as associate director of music.

To the PCC for their hard work and thoughtful decision making; to Megan Roworth for running St John's Hall; to Tony James for assisting Megan, doing the Hall accounts and helping to audit the other groups' accounts. To Dorothy Toyn for her wonderful work with the Flower Club.

To Wendell Newbold for his dedicated work in the sanctuary, and his amazing work with publicity. To Andrew Povey-Richards for his work as Electoral Roll Officer, organisation of the Easter Journey and general help in the background. To Don & Rosemary Graves for their dedication and hard work ensuring that the Thursday 11.00 am Communion services run smoothly.

To Chris Benham for organising the wonderful Soundbites concerts, and to Ann Stephens-Jones and the Soundbites caterers.

To Nick Hoyle for his work as a bell ringer and help with Messy Church and the Youth Group.

To the Mothers' Union for their prayerful care of all of us at All Saints; to Linda Dye for ensuring that the church linen is beautifully cared for; to Rosie Dean for the wonderful activities following the monthly Family Service; to Tony & Sandra Weeden for keeping the church brass so clean and shiny; to Malcolm & Judy Oughton for their hard work with stewardship over many years; to Julia Gough for her help with donations; to Richard Toyn for his work with health & safety and his skills with technology.

Also thanks to the Social Team, the Cleaning Team, the servers, coffee makers, bell ringers, everyone working with young people, lesson readers and intercessors, vergers, sides people, the Pastoral Care Group, the Easter Journey Team and the Gardening Team. It is due to the hard work of everyone that keeps All Saints running so smoothly.

Jo would like us, over the coming year, to think about Growing Together, and she read the following passage from Ephesians 3. 17-19:

“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

She hopes that in the coming year All Saints will grow in faith, grow in numbers, grow in serving and grow in unity with one another.

Jo also said we should make space in our lives – making sure our worship is special through prayer, study and fellowship. We should be open to others, making sure we really do welcome people. We should encourage everyone's sense of belonging with graciousness, invitation and generosity. We should serve God, our community and creation, supporting one another as Team All Saints and providing ministry to all our members.

Jo concluded her report by reiterating the prayer from Ephesians.

5. Election of PCC Members

The following have one or two years remaining of the three year cycle:

Marion Hassell – proposed by Janet Oldham and seconded by Dorothy Toyn.

Rosemary Bolton – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Derek Westwood.

Dorothy Toyn – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Derek Westwood.

Kay Povey-Richards – proposed by Jakki Shepherd and seconded by Dave Francis.

The following were elected to serve for a three year period:

Andrew Povey-Richards – proposed by Jakki Shepherd and seconded by Dave Francis.

Edwin Godfrey – proposed by Helen Harvey-Wright and seconded by Rosemary Bolton.

Wendell Newbold – proposed by Helen Harvey-Wright and seconded by Dorothy Toyn.

Judy Oughton – proposed by Dorothy Toyn and seconded by Rosemary Bolton.

Martin Penny – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Helen Harvey-Wright.

Renee Booker – proposed by Ann Stephens-Jones and seconded by Helen Harvey-Wright.

Helen Harvey-Wright – proposed by Kay Povey-Richards and seconded by Janet Oldham.

All were in favour.

Jo thanked Tony & Sandra Weeden, who had elected to stand down after three years, for their hard work on the PCC. She said that if anyone else would like to join the PCC they would be very welcome and could be co-opted during the year. The PCC will be holding an Away day later on in the year.

6. Election of Sides persons

Richard Toyn thanked all the current sides people for the valuable support they give to the smooth running of our church services. At times, there are some behind the scenes activities that go unnoticed; however, the welcoming friendly face, especially for visitors and new members of the congregation is extremely valuable.

Richard proposed that the following members of the congregation be accepted as sides people for the coming year:

Mr Ajao, Mrs Barron, Mrs V Cole, Mrs Janet Bird, Mr Martin Bird, Mr Dilley, Mr & Mrs Dean, Dr & Mrs Earle, Mr Huxford, Mr & Mrs Graves, Mrs J Kruger, Mr & Mrs Leech, Miss E Nailer, Mr Newbold, Mr Poole, Mr Rice, Mr & Mrs Toyn, Mr James Toyn, Mr Weeden and Mr Westwood. He welcomed new sides people: Mr Stuart Neale, Miss Isabel Hurley, Ms Julie Deakin, Mr Richard Haworth and Mr Malcolm Fry.

Proposed by Richard Toyn and seconded by Andrew Povey-Richards – all were in favour.

Richard also thanked those members of the congregation, even though they are not on the list of sides people, but give assistance in times of need, for the support they give.

If anyone would like to know more about how they could help by being a sides person, they should speak to one of the Churchwardens, one of the sides people, or to Richard.

7. Financial Report for 2015

The Treasurer, Colin Bird, reported an extremely good financial year. However 2016 had started with the need to repair the vestry roof.

Income was £61,500 compared to a budget of £60,000. Tax was slightly less than budget. St John's Hall gave the PCC £6,000. Donations held up well, including one off donations. Soundbites contributed £3,500 to the PCC. Baptisms, weddings and funerals brought in around £9,000. The Magazine suffered a small loss due to the timing of bill for cover printing. Other events (social) produced £5,686 against a budget of £6,000. Total income was £111,856 which was on budget.

The 2016 budget is much the same as 2015, being cautious on giving, but otherwise little difference. We have so far received £9,000 for the vestry roof repairs which is excellent.

Regarding expenditure, clergy expenses were virtually on budget. Service materials were slightly lower as was insurance, although we have budgeted the same amount this year. Heating costs were £8,462 against a budget of £17,000 (the amount we paid in 2012). 2015 was a record warm year. Part of this saving was due to a new boiler and joining the Parish Giving Scheme.

Reginald Cull had left £30,000 some years ago, the income from which has to be spent on heating. Electricity, organists and administration were in line with budget. The diocesan contribution of £65,725 was paid in full. We gave £1,500 to two local charities – Street Pastors and Future Hope. Overall we spent £105,271 against a budget of £111,710.

Out of the surplus of £6585, £4,000 was transferred to the Fabric fund and £1,500 to the Organ fund.

The PCC, as trustees, have approved the accounts and they have been signed off by Independent Examiner Geoffrey Rice.

Restricted funds - the Fabric fund started with £21,636, had donations of £23,273 and spent £16,000 for the lighting in the Memorial Chapel and £11,300 on the new boiler. £4,000 of the General Funds surplus was transferred into it. At the end of the year we had £20,171.

The re-ordering fund started with £5,000. We have spent £1,300 in 2016 to create the space at the back of church and it now has around £3,700.

The MDF started with £13,402. Net income from Soundbites was £5,839. The MDF granted £1,400 in scholarships, £2800 on teaching and gave £3,500 into the PCC. At the end of the year it had £11,700.

The organ fund has £7,487, having had £1,500 transferred from the General Fund surplus.

The heating fund is the residue of monies given to pay for the heating in 2012 and is currently holding £2,683.

Overall, we have £47,016 in restricted funds.

Church Activities

Memorial Fund – This started with £32,000 and ended with £31,000. This fund paid for the new chairs in the meeting room and the choir chairs.
Sworder Grave – We gave £800 to the Town Council as they help to maintain the churchyard. Other monies go to the areas they were set up for eg dealing with the poor, the organists and the Hall. Jo receives £5 for preaching a sermon on Thursdays. Shepherd Fund – this has expired and could be used for the repair to the Memorial garden.

St John's Hall – The Hall income was £2,200 more than 2014 at £20,200. They made a surplus of £6,400 and transferred £6,000 of this to the church. This is a good result.

Junior Church – a small deficit of £18. There is £359 in the bank.

Flower Club – The total income was £1,580. This was less than 2014 as there was no Posy Festival. Weddings make a difference. The surplus for the period is £27 and the club now has £680 in the bank.

Art Group – This group does very well with an income of £550. Total expenditure was £600. It has a minor deficit of £50. The bank balance is £449.

Mothers' Union – There is £603 in the bank. There was a minor deficit in 2015 as they lost a member.

Colin explained that all these groups are self-funding and there is no cost to the PCC. All the accounts have been approved.

All the 2015 accounts are displayed at the back of the church and the PCC accounts will be posted on the Charity Commission website within a week.

Jo thanked Colin for all his hard work on the accounts and for an excellent and clear presentation.

Colin thanked Judy & Malcolm Oughton for all their hard work on stewardship over the years as this is a position of huge trust. They will be standing down at the end of June and Julia Gough has agreed to take over this role.

8. Election of an Independent Examiner for the accounts

Geoffrey Rice was proposed as the IE for the PCC and St John's Hall by Janet Oldham and seconded by Jo Loveridge - all in favour.

Tony James has taken over examining the other group activities accounts.

9. Reports

Reports relating to Deanery Synod, Junior Church, Churches Together, Safeguarding, The Choir, Mothers' Union, Flower Club and Art Group are available at the back of church.

10. Churchwardens' Report

Helen Harvey-Wright reported the appointment of a new architect, Francesca Weal, who is based in Welwyn Garden City. Soon after her appointment, Francesca discovered the damage to the vestry roof. Following an appeal which began on Easter Sunday, we have so far received donations of £9,000. We have also applied for a grant but won't know the outcome of this until late June. We will be looking at other grants in the near future. It is hoped that work will start on this in the summer holidays.

Following the removal of pews, we hope to get a permanent faculty and also remove pews from the north side of the church. Some front pews may also be removed, but this may be difficult as we need to retain the Mayor's pew.

Helen thanked the work party and the cleaning team, who work very much in the background, for keeping the church clean, tidy and maintained. Helen also thanked Janet Oldham for her work in the garden and said that any help with this work would be gratefully received.

Helen thanked everyone for their support to her during the year. She is sorry she is unable to continue as warden but both hers and John's health is deteriorating.

Janet Oldham reminded everyone that the Assistant Rural Dean had inspected the church and was very impressed.

Janet reported on social events during the year. In June a group went by coach to St Albans and attended a service with Justin Welby. This was followed by a picnic on the lawn.

In July we had a lovely afternoon tea in Colin & Janet Bird's garden. The proceeds from this went to the Ancient Charities of Hertford and All Saints Church. A successful barbecue was held in September, and later that month a coffee morning with tower opening combined with Bike 'n Hike.

In October we held our Harvest Supper followed by a Toyn family quiz. Janet thanked Dorothy & Richard for their hard work on this.

The Winter Bazaar was very successful at which the Wheatcroft School Choir gave an outstanding performance. We also held our Advent Carol Service and Nine Lessons & Carols, both followed by drinks and nibbles.

We held a successful January Jolly and special thanks go to Nick Hoyle, the Oates family and Doug Loveridge for the entertainment. In February the St Albans Cathedral Choir gave a concert in the church.

In March we held a successful coffee morning, utilising the newly acquired space in the church which proved very beneficial.

We are looking forward to our coffee morning and annual plant sale on 21st May – a good opportunity to stock up our gardens.

Janet thanked Wendell Newbold for his superb publicity material and forward planning. She also thanked Team All Saints for continuing to maintain our reputation as a welcoming church.

Janet also thanked the congregation for supporting the social occasions and helping to replenish the coffers.

Janet said she had enjoyed working with Helen and thanked Colin for stepping up as churchwarden as well as continuing as treasurer.

11. Any Other Business

Jo said it is important that we make jobs “doable” and we will be looking at how we can share the workload.

Ginni thanked everyone, especially Jo, for her awesome curacy. She also thanked everyone for their support during some very difficult times. Ginni also thanked Martin & Mary Penny for their help with her singing and music.

Helen thanked Jo for her wonderful work as Vicar; for her spiritual and prayerful guidance to us all, and for her lively presence at social events.

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm with the Grace.