

St Giles' Church West Bridgford
Annual Church Meeting Sunday 21st April 2024

Minutes

1. Opening prayers

Parish Meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed – Al Ferraro, Seconded – Richard Crawley.
Agreed unanimously
3. To elect churchwardens:
A meeting of parishoners on 14th April had decided that the six year rule should not apply, so Jude Hill was eligible to stand.
Al Ferraro: Proposed – Sarah Lesowiec, Seconded – Maureen Swann
Jude Hill: Proposed – Richard Crawley, Seconded – Angela Fifer
Both were elected unopposed.

AGM

4. Elections to the Deanery Synod: 2 places were available to serve for two years.
Doreen Ottway: Proposed – Hilary Walters, Seconded – Richard Crawley; elected unopposed. One place remains unfilled; we may co-opt in due course.

Thanks were expressed to Michelle Darkin-Price who was standing down. Especial thanks were recorded to Roger Ottway, both for his service on Deanery Synod and also for his service and commitment to so many aspects of the life of St Giles' over the years. Joanna was grateful that she was able to meet Roger and get to know him before his death last year.

5. Elections to the PCC: 5 places were available to serve for three years. The following were elected unopposed:
Barry Clarke: Proposed – Lizzie Battrum, Seconded – Sam Burgess
Martin Crew: Proposed – Flo Lowther; Seconded – Richard Tanner
Barry Hayman: Proposed – Anne Tanner, Seconded – Chris Bell
Chris Lane: Proposed – Jonathon Ayres, Seconded – Richard Crawley
Katherine Rooke: Proposed – Anne Tanner, Seconded – Kirsty Thomas

One place was available to serve for one year.

David Dunford: Proposed – Dizzy Prentice, Seconded – John Prentice; elected unopposed.

Thanks were expressed to all PCC members for their hard work. Special thanks were expressed to Catherine Elliott and Sarah Slack who were standing down. Catherine in particular had given much time and effort during the interregnum as one of our representatives on the team working to appoint a new rector.

6. 2023 Accounts and Finance for 2024: Chris Lane had been Treasurer for eight years, enjoyed the role and was pleased that he could serve St Giles' in this way. His report was tabled.

He commented on the accounts for 2023. The aim was to produce a break-even budget each year. In 2022 the year ended with a surplus of £30k, partly as a result of a legacy which we have not yet spent and are aiming to use for a suitable project. The remaining £11k was earmarked for spending on repairs to the fabric as identified in the Quinquennial report; this work was done in 2023, so the deficit shown in that year was in fact covered by the surplus from 2022.

Income in 2023 was reduced as expected and costs rose, but this was rectified by a very successful giving campaign. Thus we were able to significantly increase our Parish Share and meet increased utility costs etc., which are now expected to come down. We have a healthy financial position with £100k in the bank. The recent giving campaign at the beginning of this year means that we can afford to employ a youth worker.

Thanks were expressed to Chris for his hard work and for the clarity of the accounts.

Thanks were expressed to Richard Crawley for his work over the years overseeing planned giving and the Electoral Roll. Richard now wishes to step back from these roles, so Barry Clarke was going to take over Electoral Roll; we intended to use Church Suite to digitise the planned giving administration and Chris will oversee this.

We recognised the amount of work needed to manage the church's finances; we intend to recruit a team to support Chris in his work. Volunteers were needed.

7. Reports: the 2023 Annual Review was tabled.

Electoral Roll: the correct figure for the number on the roll should be 223.

PCC and Parish Activities: Joanna thanked Hilary Walters, PCC secretary.

Fabric: heartfelt thanks were expressed to the Building team especially Brendan Sprakes for their hard work.

Deanery Synod: there were two possible recruits to fill the vacant position.

Safeguarding: thanks were expressed to Dizzy Prentice for her hard work in this important area.

Ministries: there were very many people to be thanked in many areas of church life: Doreen Ottway for Seniors, Ellen Dann for her work with the youth and with children and families. Ellen had co-ordinated an amazing team of people and had effectively been doing two jobs in the absence of a youth worker. The Diocese has been so impressed by our youth work that they will help to fund a youth worker.

Thanks also to: Lisa and Will for the Worship team and Chris Ebborn for the choir; Daphne Carter for pastoral work (where a team is also needed); Katie Connolly for co-ordinating House Groups; the Outreach team for their enthusiasm; the team running Alpha. Joanna had been amazed at the amount of work being done, even in a vacancy.

8. Rector's Report: Joanna expressed further thanks to: the church wardens, Peter Watkins and Christopher Wheaton for their work during the vacancy and to all who

have given time, energy and money to support church activities. She very much appreciated the warm welcome received from the church family.

Special thanks were expressed to Claire Sheard for her amazing work. PCC has agreed to increase Claire's hours, although it was acknowledged that this in fact simply recognised the work that she was already doing.

God has provided for and sustained St Giles' going forward. New people were attending church services and other activities. Our curate Graham Baker and his wife Sarah and baby Joanna were already in residence in West Bridgford, although his appointment will not take place until July. We are in a position to write a job description for a youth worker and begin advertising the post.

9. AOB: Sylvia James expressed thanks to Joanna for all she has done since arriving in the autumn.

Hilary Walters
PCC Secretary
21st April 2024