

DIOCESE OF EXETER

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GILES, LITTLE TORRINGTON.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Church Meeting, held on

Thursday 4 April 2019 at 7.30pm in St. Giles Church, Little Torrington.

Present: Rev. Peter Bevan, Martin McVinnie & Pat Grimwood-Taylor (churchwardens), Shirley James (Electoral Roll officer and FOSG representative), Gwyn Thatcher, Elizabeth Wiseman, David Cobbledick, John Watkins.

Apologies: Sonia McVinnie, Barbara Terry, Stephen Ramsden, Helen Packer, Theresa Harper.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners –

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 April 2018 were distributed and read and approved unanimously. Rev. Peter Bevan signed the minutes as a true record.
2. Election of Churchwardens – 2 nominations were received from Martin McVinnie and John Watkins, who were elected unanimously. Rev. Peter thanked Pat Grimwood-Taylor for serving during the past year.

Annual Church Meeting-

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2018 were distributed and read. Pat GT proposed acceptance, seconded by Elizabeth Wiseman and were approved unanimously. Rev. Peter Bevan signed the minutes as a true record.
2. Electoral Roll Officer's Report – was presented by Shirley James. The new roll stands at 21. Rev. Peter outlined qualifications for joining the roll, which can be done at any time in the year.
3. Secretary's report on PCC proceedings – was distributed and outlined by Martin McVinnie (Sonia McVinnie, secretary, being unable to attend due to illness). Martin emphasised the PCCs aim to make St. Giles a welcoming church with new services, pastoral outreach etc. A copy is attached to these minutes.
4. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for year ended 31.12.2018. Pat GT (on behalf of official joint treasurers) outlined the finance report and the accounts (balance sheet, income & expenditure analysis and budget for 2019), which had been distributed. There were no questions. Martin McVinnie proposed adoption of the accounts, Shirley James seconded the motion and the accounts and finance report were adopted and approved unanimously. The accounts had been examined by David Large, and thanks were extended to him.
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner – it was proposed by Pat GT that David Large be asked to remain as independent examiner, and this was unanimously approved.
6. Election of Parochial Church Councillors – Pat Grimwood-Taylor (no longer being Churchwarden and an ex officio member of the PCC), was nominated and unanimously approved. Barbara Terry was also reappointed unanimously. Both will serve a 3 year term until 2022. (John Watkins, as new Churchwarden, is now ex officio member of LT PCC until APCM in 2020).
7. Sidesmen - current Sidesmen are Shirley James, Helen Packer, Jackie Dean and Tony Butler. It was unanimously agreed that they be asked to remain as sidesmen.
8. Churchwarden's report on the fabric, goods & ornaments of the church - Martin McVinnie presented the report on fabric (part of the Annual Report, which is attached). The Quinquennial Inspection has been completed; report is due from architect but he has verbally advised that no matters are highlighted for urgent attention. Repairs to Chancel roof should be considered in the medium term; repairs to the vestry floor will be undertaken once completely dry and following advice from our architect. Church tower clock is problematical currently; thanks to Robert Dean who is monitoring it and winding, but it may need outside expert repair in the future. The formal church inventory has also been fully updated. Sincere thanks were also expressed to Tony Butler for his excellent work in caring for the churchyard and church.

9. Deanery Synod report was presented by Gwyn Thatcher, who had attended 2 meetings. EIG insurers had made a presentation, as had a missionary. Rev. Peter also noted that the Diocesan Finance Director, Neil Williams, had attended a meeting and acknowledged the difficulties faced by parishes in managing budgets. There is a vacancy in the PCC for a representative, however Gwyn Thatcher and Rev. Peter attend and can also represent LT PCC.

10. Safeguarding – Gwyn Thatcher highlighted a manual and poster received, which are in vestry. Gwyn and Peter had also attended a day course on domestic abuse and further recommendations will be issued in due course. It was also noted that the correct title for Gwyn is Safeguarding Representative (not 'officer').

11. Closing remarks by the Vicar - Rev. Peter expressed sincere thanks to Gwyn Thatcher, John Carvosso and Ben Luck for their attendance and support at services at St. Giles, and more recently also Peter Scott (retired Royal Marine). The restoration project continues to move forward (thanks to Pat GT). Positive Joint Wardens' Meetings continue to help all the churches. Joint Benefice services are also well supported and the worship and fellowship, without boundaries, is vital to all of us. Rev. Peter also referred to the recent issue of grave reservations and noted that some responses had been received; he is allowing a little more time for further enquiries and will then progress the matter. Thanks were expressed to James Grimwood-Taylor for his articles and expertise as archaeological consultant. We have also explored different forms of service and this will continue. Publicity (reaching out to all residents) still needs to increase and Rev. Peter's suggestion of speaking to individuals to expand the contact list was unanimously approved. Thanks were also extended to Tony Kent, our marvellous organist, for his continued support. Rev. Peter also advised the vacancy of Benefice Administrator due to retirement of Wendy Porter after many years' service.

Rev. Peter closed the meeting at 9pm, with the Grace.