

All Saints' Spelsbury

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 17th May at 7.30pm in church.

Present: Rector; the Reverend Mark Abrey (Chair) , the Reverend Ilona Cheyne, Ken Wakefield (Churchwarden), George Bailey (Treasurer), Andrew Griffiths, Elizabeth Llewellyn Smith, Graham Beacham, Chris Galloway and Gillie Galloway (Secretary)

Apologies for Absence received from received from Lorna and Glyn Frewer and James Cockle.

The meeting opened in prayer.

Vestry Meeting

1.Election of Churchwardens.

Kenneth Wakefield was nominated by Gillie Galloway and seconded by Chris Galloway. There being no other candidates he was appointed as Churchwarden.

The meeting recorded their thanks and appreciation for all the work that Ken has done over the past year.

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2. Report on the electoral Roll. In preparation for the meeting the Church's electoral Roll has been revised. Two members have been removed and one added. The Electoral Roll now has 18 members.

3. Presentation and Receipt of the Annual Report on proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and activities of the parish. The meeting received and accepted this report which had previously been circulated including the safeguarding statement (relevant pages 1-6). It aims to give a snapshot of life in the parish in 2022. Thanks were expressed for a very comprehensive report and to all who had contributed to our common life and making Spelsbury the parish that it is. Special thanks were recorded to Rev Ilona Cheyne for all the extra work that she has done through the Rector's absence. Also thanks were given to all the PCC, the musicians- Rosy Nixon, Gillie Galloway, Jill Greer and Elsa Williams, all those who have helped out with the services in the past year especially visiting ministers, sidespeople and those who had provided refreshments, Maxine Hobill and her flower arrangers and the bell ringers. . There were no questions raised. The report was received unanimously.

4. Presentation and Receipt of the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending 31st December 2022. The written Finance Report and accounts were received by the meeting. The meeting recorded thanks to Mark and Beth for preparing them, to George Bailey for his work as Treasurer and to Alison Parker for reviewing them as our independent Examiner.

George Bailey commented on his written report , and pointed out that the cost of running the church year on year is £21,000. The cost of running and keeping up the parish share is balanced as is the giving. He felt the church's finances were in a good position. However the finances are slipping back annually and it was good to have a good cushion of £100,000 in the restricted fund. He suggested that the PCC should consider moving some this reserve into a high interest account.

Thanks were also recorded to Gillie and Chris Galloway and The Friends for their fundraising efforts and to David and Jill Edwards.

The Rector also thanked all those who gave and have given money to the church.

5. Report on the Fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church – circulated. The meeting was directed to page 4 of the report on the fabric.

Ken Wakefield said that the Quinquennial Report had been received and that the work on the tower was not so dire as had been thought. The restoration fund money can be used for the work needed. James Mackintosh, Architect, will provide a schedule of work for this. there had also been some ingress of water from the new roof. James was aware of this and knows the problem. Ken recorded his thanks to Andrew Griffiths and Chris Galloway for their time and contributions during the year. Thanks were also recorded to the church cleaners for their excellent job and to Hugh and Helen Datson for opening the shutting the church each day.

The report was received unanimously by the meeting.

6. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod – Circulated. Thanks were given to Andrew Griffiths is our Deanery Synod Representative. The Meeting received the report unanimously.

7. Elections of Deanery Synod Members. Andrew Griffiths has offered to stand. He was proposed by Chris Galloway and seconded by Elizabeth Llewelyn Smith and duly elected. The meeting thanked him for his past work on the Synod and for agreeing to stand again.

8. Election of Parochial Church Council Members

Chris Galloway and James Cockle retire by rotation and there are 2 vacancies from previous years. Chris Galloway has been nominated by Ken Wakefield and seconded by Gillie Galloway. **He was duly elected.** Thanks were recorded to all members of the PCC for all the work they do on behalf of the community.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner The meeting was asked to appoint Alison Parker as independent examiner for the coming year which was agreed unanimously. The meeting thanked Alison for her work in the past year and a gift of a garden voucher was given as a thank you.

10. Comments from the floor and suggestions for the new PCC.

Electoral roll. Elizabeth Llewelyn Smith commented that it was very sad and worrying that the electoral roll was frighteningly small. Mark said that there would be a complete revision of the Electoral roll next year and that this would be an opportunity to re register and then hope to draw in more fringe members.

Ecology in our churches Rev Ilona Cheyne said she felt we should be addressing new ecological ideas in our churches such as bio diversity in churchyards.

Heat conservation Gillie Galloway suggested that churches should be thinking about heat conservation and secondary double glazing as other churches throughout the land were doing. Mark said that there should be an energy audit. That there were grants that could be used towards the cost of this. Solar panels were a possibility and he had also seen pew heating that worked well in buildings similar to Spelsbury.

Graveyard Graham Beacham asked how much space there was left in the graveyard. Mark said that there were another 8 in the current rows and perhaps 30 more spaces if old ones could be reused. Sadly the DAC won't allow the clearing of old graves but he was still trying to make space for new graves. It was also noted that there is a right to buy a portion of the the field behind the church but that would be very expensive.

The meeting ended with The Grace at 8.30 pm