

St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich – APCM REPORTS 2020 Group 1  
Electoral Roll, Parochial Church Council, Fabric, Synods

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Following the renewal of the Electoral Roll in April 2019, there were 135 members.

Sadly, over the year, Mollie Baker, Lilian Caudle, Linda Haywood-Smith, Angela Pantelis, Adrian Parry, Stafford Patient, Joan Peart and George Pipe passed away. The names of two former members of the electoral roll have been removed, as they have left St Mary-le-Tower (moved away).

The roll has been “revised” between 1st and 11th November and the revised roll was published online on 12th November 2020, as is now permitted. Two new church members were added to the electoral roll during the revision giving a new total of 127.

*Carolyn Heyburn, Electoral Roll Officer*

## **Report on Proceedings of the PCC**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible as trustees for the mission and life of St Mary le Tower church, in cooperation with the Incumbent. It includes both ex officio members and members elected from the St Mary-le-Tower Church Community. The membership of the PCC for 2019/20 has been as follows:

### **Officers and members:**

Revd. Canon Charles Jenkin	Vicar and Chairman (ex officio)
Mrs Jo Jones	Churchwarden (ex officio)
Mrs Rowena Harland	Hon Secretary (appointed by the PCC)

### **Serving also as Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Mrs Sue Adair, Dr Russell Hall, Mrs Cathy Moss

### **Elected PCC Members during this period:**

Mrs Mary Baldry, Mrs Sonia Docherty, Mrs Eunice Forsyth, Ms Jo Kidby, Mrs Ruth Longhurst, Mr Ian Lord, Mrs Hilary Norman, Mrs Katrina Robertson.

The PCC met 6 times this year, with the meetings comprising of a mixture of evening and Saturday daytime weekend meetings. There has been good representation at the meetings from the PCC members. During the year we have received regular reports and updates from the Finance group, the Fabric Committee, the Elders and the Christmas Tree Committee for both discussion and approval by the PCC. The Standing Committee also had e-meetings during the year.

The PCC have been without a Treasurer since Mark Hollingsworth stood down from his appointment in September 2019. Financial matters have been a dominant theme throughout the year from both an operational and a strategic perspective. An important theme through the year has been mission, with discussion on community engagement. A significant amount of work has taken place to repair and maintain the grade 2\* listed church building and the grade 2 listed Church House. The PCC have also had discussions pertaining to the Tower House project.

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Eunice Forsyth, Jo Kidby and Cathy Moss have stood down as members of the PCC during the year. The PCC would like to thank them for their contribution to the work of the PCC this year and wish Eunice all the very best in her ordination training at Cambridge.

The PCC look forward to continuing their work on behalf of the St Mary le Tower community to ensure that the church is able to serve God and be a church for the community in Ipswich.

***Rowena Harland - Nov. 2020***

### **Report on the Church Fabric and Ornaments**

In 2019 the stone cross at the Eastern end of the Chancel collapsed due to a hairline fracture in the cross caused by wear and tear. In 2017 vandals caused damage to the southern boundary wall, and in 2018 there was accidental vehicular damage to the western boundary wall. Then in 2020 and during a particularly bad storm, the Nave stone cross fell causing considerable damage to the Chancel roof.

Our insurers have agreed to cover the cost of repair of the boundary walls, replacement of the Nave Cross and the repair of the roof. Thanks to Jo Jones for getting DAC approval for this work. At the time of writing it is not known whether we will have the funds to replace the Chancel Cross as this is not covered by our insurance policy as the failure is deemed to be due to wear and tear. Work on these items started at the beginning of November and is likely to take 2-3 weeks. Whilst the scaffolding is in place the PCC is taking the opportunity to have the roof gutters and down pipes cleaned.

Also, in 2019 our architect, Ashley Courtney undertook a survey of the exterior of Church House. This revealed that some urgent repairs were needed. In November 2019 Spectrum Stone repaired and replaced the external render, windows over the flat roof of the building and replaced some roof tiles.

In September 2020, we applied for a grant to the Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage Major Works Fund, for Cathedrals and Major Churches, and we were successful in getting £33,753 towards the cost of the Chancel plaster repair, and the replacement of the Chancel Cross. The timescale for applications was very short and all the work must be complete by the end of March 2021 for us to qualify. Many thanks to Humphry Adair and Mary Baldry for their help and expertise in this process.

The PCC agreed to go ahead with the plaster repair which is due to start on the 4<sup>th</sup> January. This means that the Chancel will have scaffolding for the duration and all the 'art work' and the organ will be covered. Physical adjustments will have to be made to take account of this work, the extent of these adjustments will depend on pandemic restrictions and choir involvement during that period. Included in this work will be the professional cleaning of the two Eastern windows in the chancel. As the grant only covers a maximum of 80% of the total costs, we are investigating other smaller grants to cover another proportion of this cost.

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Last month, Ashley Courtney did our Quinquennial Inspection. The report has just been received and this has highlighted some area in need of repairs and maintenance.

In 2019, and due to the increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour in and around the church, the PCC decided to consider the installation of a CCTV system both inside and outside the church. It is believed that CCTV will deter poor behaviour and give volunteers confidence about being at church welcoming visitors during quiet times. Many thanks to Katrina for all her work in the specification and procurement of the system and in getting the DAC faculty for the work. An application for a grant was made to the All Churches Trust and we were successful in getting £2,500 towards the cost of installing the CCTV. We will continue to investigate other grants, but the PCC has agreed that the CCTV is critical to protecting the church and the churchyard and will enable us to be open during the week, and so the order has been placed.

*Sonia Docherty, Mary Baldry (Assistant Churchwardens)*

### **Report on proceedings of Deanery Synod**

There have been four meetings since our last report. Your representatives have been Sue Adair, Cathy Moss, and myself. Deanery business in 2020 has been disrupted by the pandemic. The June 2020 meeting was cancelled and the October meeting was held on ZOOM. In 2019 there were meetings in June and October.

New staff were licensed and commissioned to take forward the Inspiring Ipswich project including a project manager, chaplains, pioneer developers and a communications leader. The team of twelve is based at St Nicholas. Town wide Alpha courses are planned and in June 2019 a video was shown of a new Alpha course. There was an enthusiastic presentation by a group of young people who shared their experiences. Plans were outlined for two or three church plantings, fresh expressions of churches and sixteen learning communities.

In February 2020 we heard that a church plant was planned at St Nicholas. Revd Gardener encouraged parishioners to be involved in ministry and to consider roles as evangelists, youth, children and family ministers, lay pastors and readers. We were told that nearly 90% of the 2019 centenary share target had been reached.

In October 2020 we heard how services had developed on line with people from outside the parishes and across the world joining. The church plant at St Augustine's had adapted to the new circumstances by meeting in the open air. Bishop Martin spoke how we must adapt to the present environment to get the Christian message across.

*Russell Hall*

### **Report on Proceedings of Diocesan Synod**

#### **June 2019**

This Synod was held at the Cathedral and focused on the Growing Younger priority of our Diocesan vision of growing in God. Bishop Martin enjoyed an informative conversation with

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a group of children from a local school. There was a report from the Diocesan Board of Education, an update on Growing In Faith, and a presentation on the Emmanuel Project. This was followed by a series of nine workshops based on Churches, Schools and Homes ,with interactive sessions looking at what we do well, what we could do better, and how we can grow younger. This was followed by the DAC report, financial statements and the 2020 budget. Helen Matter and Helen Woodroffe were retiring in 2019 and warmly thanked for their work with children.

October 2019

This was hosted at Trinity Park. It began with worship and a tribute to the passing of Archdeacon Ian Morgan. The session was focused on four themes identifying Synod’s focus for the new Triennium. They were: to understand ourselves and be clear about who we are; to tell our story; to be outwardly focused, and to be political. These were based on our desire to increase confidence in raising awareness of Christian Faith as individuals through churches, and to improve our engagement with the people and communities of Suffolk. Embracing digital technology and evangelism was discussed including the benefits of the national C of E website, “A Church Near You”. There was a report on the visit to Kagera by Bishop Martin and his wife. New safeguarding team members were introduced and outlined a renewed safeguarding plan.

October 2020

This was the first to be delivered by Zoom. Bishop Martin expressed his desire for a sharpened and accelerated focus on “deepening faith and deepening service” and the development of a strong sustainable lay and ordained ministry, “ to serve the communities of our county”. He also addressed the projected £million pound diocesan deficit caused by the coronavirus virus pandemic. Synod then discussed in groups key topics relevant to today’s context for the Church. How do we identify local/focal ministers and what would you expect them to do? What is the future role of church buildings in mission? How do we strengthen congregations and deepen in faith? How do we strengthen our response to our environmental crisis? What creative ideas do we have for developing new sources of income? How do we extend our community engagement and partnerships for the benefit of the people of Suffolk? Financial matters were presented and the 2021 budget approved.

*Sue Adair*