

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tring Team Parish
Meeting at Tring Church 11th May 2022

The meeting opened in prayer with Revd. Sarah Marshall

Vestry Meeting

The following nominations for church wardens were received and were unanimously accepted.

All Saints – No warden (one of the others will act if needed for something official)

St Cross - No warden (one of the others will act if needed for something official)

St John^{the} Baptist –Jane Brown

St Peter & Paul – Roy Hargreaves

St Mary - Christine Rutter

AGM

Apologies- Christine Rutter, Jane Brown, Pippa Wright, Maria Lashley, Anna Le Hair, Peter Williams, Vivianne Child, Helen Reynolds, Moira Hargreaves.

Present – John Whiteman, (Chairman), Janet Goodyer (Secretary), Revd Huw Bellis, Revd Jane Banister, Revd Michelle Grace, Revd Sarah Marshall, Jon Reynolds, Ted and Margaret Oram, Carole Wells, Roy Hargreaves, Ian Munro, Beryl Poll, Mike Watkin, Elizabeth Stephenson, Barbara Anscombe, Neil Capp, Margaret and David Gittins, Celestria Bell, Gill Kinsey, Pam and Clive Russell, Betty Aston, Bea Bingham, Alison Cockerill, Paul Boddam-Whetham.

27 people in attendance

Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted unanimously.

Elections and appointments

Parish Coordinators Roy Hargreaves and Vivianne Child

Parish advisor on mission John Whiteman

PCC Members. The following were nominated to be the PCC representatives: Betty Aston (P&P) Janet Goodyer (P&P) Gill Kinsey (P&P), Beryl Poll (P&P) and Elizabeth Stephenson (P&P) Ian Munro (JtB), Celestria Bell (StM), and Vivianne Child (parish), Maria Lashley (parish), Pippa Wright (parish) were all elected for one year. There are four places for parish members and one for Aldbury and one for Wilstone still vacant. Unanimously accepted.

Following the meeting, Judith Weatherill has indicated she would like to stand for PCC to represent Long Marston.

PCC Officers The following were affirmed in their roles:

PCC Secretary Janet Goodyer,

PCC Treasurer Peter Williams assisted by the finance team.

Safeguarding Officer John Reynolds

GDPR officer – Trish Dowden

Thanks to all who served our parish and are no longer serving, in particular Anna Le Hair and Ken Martin RIP. Ken is remembered with affection.

Clergy Remarks

Huw.

He said it was disappointing that the lockdown stayed around longer than we thought it might. Then Christmas came with omicron made it a 2 year covid period.

Two years ago our parish focus was on three areas of priority; small groups, inclusive worship and pastoral care. Now those threads are still important and the way forward.

Over the last year we have created a sustainable pattern of worship and set up the finance team. We have seen changes to community and welcoming people. We have seen a team of people to take over the work of Chris Hoare.

Our churchwardens are down to three people for the five churches instead of a maximum of ten, but teams are working well to keep our churches functioning.

Three years ago Sarah arrived and now we are about to lose her. It has been fantastic to have her in the parish and it confirms the desire to have one in the future as soon as we are allowed.

Jane was installed as a Canon at St Albans and that is in the main for her 12 years as setting up the chaplaincy at Tring School and the development over the years. Jane is about to have a sabbatical in the summer; Huw and Michelle are also due to take theirs a bit later on.

Michelle

Michelle spoke about volunteering. Covid has affected all churches, ours are no exception. At the height of the pandemic we had to stop doing things. Now that things are back, we have lost many volunteers, and we don't want to force people into doing things but it is hard to fill posts and rotas. We either need to find more volunteers or stop doing things we used to do, or a bit of both. When we studied the Healthy Churches Handbook a few years ago, it said do a few things well rather than spread too thinly.

Ways we can encourage people; offer personal invitations and encourage those who lack confidence. On Maundy Thursday we had the foot/hand washing which is a profoundly moving part of the service as we are called to serve one another.

We are looking at how we reach new people; we need to welcome all who come into our towns and villages, to offer Christ's welcome.

Questions to take into the future. Enquirer's courses; they need to start for those with a spark of faith, and we can get a grant from the diocese.

Jane

Jane spoke about our work with toddlers, children and youth. The baby group is up and running at St John the Baptist. The group in Tring started in the community and is now smaller, we need to look at where we go from here. Tring School. The collective worship online connects in a different way.

Youth café has lost a lot of its continuity.

Long Marston has lost Worship for All families. The churches holding these services will be Tring and Aldbury and other families will be encouraged to go there for that style. Long Marston will have Morning Worship instead. It is clear that families want to worship together. It is important to keep children involved in the services.

Confirmation course will be starting again.

Chaplaincy at Tring School. The new building is occupied (and has a chaplain's office) and the cross in the brickwork says something about the school's valuing being a church school.

Since Covid, breaks and lunches are now staggered and shorter so lunch clubs are difficult to do. Year 7 came to visit Tring Church and chaplaincy is back on track. It has evolved in the 12 years of existence.

Sarah

Sarah spoke about small groups. Small groups are where relationships are deepened and people feel more connected in a smaller group. It is too late to find out about people at their funerals.

Lent groups were very successful as there were about 90 people involved. The common theme is that it is good to study together the bible and faith issues. Some groups have met together for meals and socially after the course.

Electoral Roll Report total of 370 against 373 last year. We added 14 new people to the roll, but 9 died and 8 have moved away or come off the roll.

Deanery Synod Report received in advance and accepted.

Fabric Report. Copies of the fabric reports were received from each District. Considering the difficulties of getting work done, we have completed all the important jobs from the QQs. Thanks to all who have actioned that.

District Churches. Reports circulated in advance.

Finance report and accounts. Circulated in advance.

John Whiteman reported that Tring team can be classed as a big business with a third of a million pounds turnover a substantial amount. We pay our Parish Share to the diocese for our ministry team, worship in 5 churches, run a school chaplaincy, run 2 halls, own 3 houses, support local and global charities. We raise money through planned

giving, gift aid from HMRC, cash collections, fund raising, renting out the halls and houses, donations and legacies. (A leaflet has recently been sent out about legacies).

Our ambition is to break even or better in 2022 and beyond. We got a bit behind as we didn't always have an annual review/appeal. But people were very generous in 2020 when the pandemic hit, and there was a very good response at the end of last year.

When the curate's house is vacated, we get around £35,000 in rent from the three houses.

Safeguarding Jon Reynolds submitted a report in advance, accepted. We are compliant.

GDPR Huw submitted a report in advance, accepted.

Health and Safety Huw gave a report in advance, accepted. Ian reminded us about the importance of risk assessments as they do save lives. This year we wore yellow jackets on the road sections during the Easter Monday walk to St Albans.

Chaplaincy Revd Jane filed a report. Accepted.

Churches Together Revd Jane filed a report. Accepted.

Review of the year. Revd Huw Bellis showed a slideshow of the past year. There were ups and downs. But it showed some of our highlights. Huw asked what were our highlights? Living in Love and Faith plenary, back to singing in church, Beer and Hymns were suggested.

AOB

John Whiteman gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the parishioners to all in the ministry team. Betty thanked them for the organisation of the meeting.

A question was asked whether there was any feedback from the Bishop's visit. Huw reported that the Bishop declined to comment. Huw added that many of the congregation had appreciated his visits.

Michelle closed with prayer.

Date of next Annual meeting 10/05/23

PCC meetings

13th July 2022, 14th September 2022, 9th November 2022, 11th January 2023, 8th March 2023

Venues to be decided.