

Electoral Roll Report

Following the renewal of the Electoral Roll in November 2020, there were 127 members.

Sadly, since November Mike Graham has passed away. Also the names of two former members of the electoral roll have been removed as they have left St Mary-le-Tower, one of whom has moved away.

We revised the roll between 23rd and 24th June 2021 and the 'revised' roll was published online on 25th June, as is now permitted. Three new church members were added to the electoral roll during the revision, giving a new total of 127 members.

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 (SMLT). The membership of the PCC for 2020/21 has been as follows:

Ex officio members:

Revd. Canon Charles Jenkin	Vicar and Chairman (ex officio)
Mrs Jo Jones	Churchwarden (ex officio)
Mrs Sonia Docherty	Churchwarden (ex officio)

PCC Secretary:

Mrs Rowena Harland	November 2020 to May 2021
Miss Rosemary Caudle	May – July 2021

Serving also as Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mrs Sue Adair and Dr Russell Hall

Elected PCC Members during this period: (19.11.2020 – 11.07.2021):

Mrs Sue Adair, Mrs Mary Baldry, Miss Rosemary Caudle, Dr Russell Hall, Mr Richard Hanley, Mrs Rowena Harland, Mrs Ruth Longhurst, Mr Ian Lord, Mrs Hilary Norman, Mrs Sarah Purbrook, Mrs Katrina Robertson, Mrs Kate Thompson.

Rowena Harland and Ruth Longhurst stood down as members of the PCC in May 2021.

The PCC has met nine times since November 19th; the meetings predominantly took place in the evenings, via Zoom, with just one in-person meeting. This was in accordance with the Covid-19 legislation. The PCC has comprised fifteen members for this period including the Vicar. There has been good representation at the meetings from the PCC members. The meetings have been supported with regular reports and updates, including regular papers from the Finance group and the Fabric Committee. There have been specific papers relating to projects, including the Tower House project and the Live-streaming project. These have enabled effective discussion and the approval of reports, as necessary, by the PCC. The

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Standing Committee has not needed to meet within this period because of the greater frequency of full PCC meetings.

The PCC have been without a Treasurer since September 2019; the finances have been managed by the Finance Committee and the PCC have employed a part-time bookkeeper. The PCC are cognisant that the absence of a treasurer has had a considerable impact on the workload of the Vicar. This is not considered to be an appropriate or sustainable long-term solution, and the PCC anticipate the employment of a part-time financial director or manager. Inevitably, financial matters have been a dominant theme again this year, from both an operational and a strategic perspective. A giving renewal and major donation campaign are both considered imperative to maintain sufficient operational funds and to achieve the missional and community engagement work envisaged by the PCC and St Mary le Tower. The PCC have agreed to propose Moore Green as the independent examiners of accounts for 2021.

Mission and community engagement have continued to be an important theme through the year, although the pandemic has limited this. A significant amount of work has taken place to repair and maintain the grade 2* listed church building. This has been supported by funding applications, where possible. The PCC have had discussions throughout the year regarding the Tower House project. A Live-streaming project has been planned and initiated: this is an important element for both the choral ministry and community engagement strategy. The general feeling of the PCC is that the implementation of the AV equipment upgrade is a visionary thing to do and will allow for a proper period of evaluation of the benefits offered by ongoing live streamed services. The SMLT safeguarding Officer is working closely with the Diocese and a SMLT working party in the preparation of a live streaming policy which will take into consideration all aspects of safeguarding –

The PCC are saddened that due to health reasons Charles will be retiring from his position as vicar at SMLT sooner than expected, and we are working with Archdeacon Rhiannon King to map out the pathways open to SMLT in the future. We keep Charles and Susan in our thoughts and prayers during this period of transition.

The PCC looks forward to continuing to work on behalf of the St Mary le Tower community in the year ahead, serving God and ensuring St Mary le Tower is a church for the community in Ipswich.

Rowena Harland - May 2021, Rosemary Caudle - July 2021

Safeguarding Report

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

As a Church we are committed to promoting a safer environment and culture, safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults, responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation, caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons, caring pastorally for those who are

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the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons and responding to those that may pose a present risk.

Many of the PCC, the church wardens, the music team, the choir and those with roles of responsibility have taken the opportunity to do on line and virtual safeguarding training recently. There is the opportunity for all congregation members to complete Basic and Foundation level training.

We have had no safeguarding concerns in the last year. We have been responding to the changes since coronavirus of livestreaming to ensure the safety of our young people and vulnerable adults. 'Promoting a Safer Church' Posters have been displayed where everyone will have access to them.

Sarah Purbrook, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Report on proceedings of Deanery Synod

Deanery business was disrupted by the pandemic and most meetings held on line. The majority of time was allocated to the Inspiring Ipswich project with the appointment of many more staff. Church plants include the Bridge Church. St Augustines are involved in two projects, Lindberg Rd. Community Church and the River Church at St. Mary Quay. In Feb.2021 there was an inspirational talk from the Liverpool Diocese describing a very successful project in Wigan which resulted in 24 church plants and 1200 new people joining the Church.

Russell Hall

Report on Proceedings of Diocesan Synod

Each Synod opened with an act of worship, and more details of the Synods can be found on the Diocesan website.

March Synod

This was the second Synod held via zoom with a very high attendance. Bishop Martin led his presidential address and reiterated the importance for churches to focus their efforts on growing younger and to grow in diversity. "...And crucially we've seen that to be the church is to be outward facing, outward focused, outward towards God in prayer and worship, outward towards our neighbours near and far, in mission and service. ."

Those involved in Synod took part in discussing the topic, 'Be Political', in which a lively debate occurred with many actively getting involved. This was introduced by the Revd Tony Redman. The motion which was agreed was: "Resolving to listen to God and discern his call, on how and when to engage to political issues and in seeking God's Kingdom; this Synod commits to improve our engagement with local issues for the common good."

There were annual reviews of Rural Mission, Inspiring Ipswich and the annual report of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of Churches (DAC).

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June Synod

Bishop Martin led his presidential address and gave us a brief outlook onto his life with "a day in the life of a Bishop" and shared about how he ate lunch with young people due to be confirmed by him later on. He spoke to the young people and asked them about why they chose to be confirmed - and received some interesting responses!

A Presentation on the Environment and Climate Emergency introduced by the Revd Richard Stainer was debated and the motion approved. There was an update on Financial Statements and the 2022 Budget and various other reports. The Diocesan Secretary, Anna Hughes reported on the ending the Triennium with a new Diocesan Synod starting in October.

Sue Adair